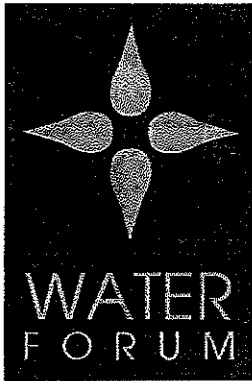
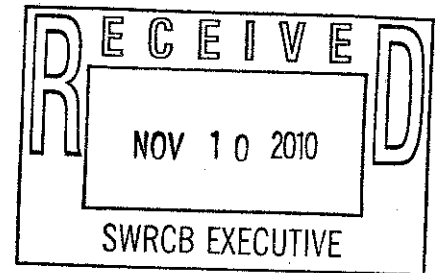


November 9, 2010



Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Prioritized Schedule and Estimated Costs to Complete Instream Flow Studies Pursuant to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009

660 J STREET, SUITE 260
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814

Dear Ms. Townsend:

PHONE 916/808-1999
FAX 916/808-5286
www.waterforum.org

This letter is written on behalf of the Sacramento Water Forum with regard to the Prioritized Schedule and Estimated Costs to Complete Instream Flow Studies. The Sacramento Water Forum is a diverse group of over 40 businesses, agricultural leaders, citizen groups, environmentalists, water managers and local governments in the Sacramento Region that forged a consensus in 2000 on how to manage the resources of the lower American River for the coequal goals of a safe and reliable water supply and the preservation of the fishery, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic values of the lower American River. The execution of the Water Forum Agreement marked a true milestone ending years of conflict over management of the lower American River.

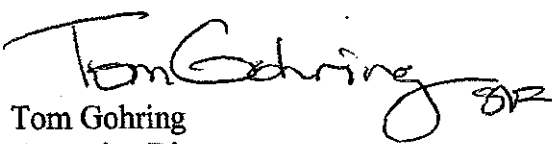
In the public notice issued, the State Water Resources Control Board specifically asked whether there are existing and adequate stream flow studies for streams that are on the list. The American River is listed as a second priority stream in Schedule 1, High Priority Rivers and Streams Tributary to the Sacramento River and Delta. As acknowledged in the Instream Flow Report, the Water Forum has invested substantial resources on developing the lower American River Flow Management Standard (FMS).

Signatories to the Water Forum Agreement, including the City and County of Sacramento, have invested approximately \$4 million in technical studies and related work in development of an FMS. At this time the Water Forum and its consulting team are completing work that will result in a draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the lower American River FMS. We anticipate this DEIR to be released in summer 2011.

In consideration of this work and the unique regional support for this effort, and given the limited resources available to the State Water Resources Control Board, the Water Forum respectfully requests that the State Water Resources Control Board defer to the efforts of the Water Forum and avoid any independent instream flow studies that might undermine the substantial work already done.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,


Tom Gohring
Executive Director

