From: kristincarr7@gmail.com
To: commentletters
Subject: Comment Letter - 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 8:37:17 PM
Attachments: 5E9BAED0D2FE455EAF34F6D76ED532FE.png

Currently, more than 60-70% of the unimpaired flow from the lower San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced Rivers is diverted half of the time from February-June. Much of the time, NO fresh water from the upper San Joaquin River flows into Delta. This is due to massive dams on each river that divert flows for agricultural and urban use. Under the Board's preliminary recommendation, freshwater flows could range from 30-50% depending on the success of non-flow measures (such as habitat restoration), with a starting point of 40% of the unimpaired flow from February-June. A science-based flow criteria report released by the Board in 2010 determined that approximately 60% of natural flow between February and June would be fully protective of fish and wildlife in the San Joaquin Basin. In 2013, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife also determined that 50-60% of natural flow should remain instream to protect and restore salmon and the health of our rivers.

Higher flows will improve the ability of salmon and other fish to migrate to and from their natal streams to the ocean, reduce the concentration of river pollutants, and lower water temperatures. Flows also should be adequate to inundate floodplains, which serve as critical rearing habitat for juvenile fish. Historically, populations of spawning salmon exceeded 400,000 fish in these rivers, but in many recent years that figure has plummeted to just a few thousand. California's salmon population was so low in 2008 and 2009 that the commercial fishing season had to be cancelled, resulting in the loss of more than 2,200 jobs and $255 million in annual revenue.

The Bay-Delta forms the largest estuary on the West Coast, providing habitat for more than 500 species of wildlife. It serves as a major stopover on the Pacific Flyway and as a migration pathway for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon. Once a Garden of Eden, the estuary is now in desperate need of help. Due to upstream dams and diversions, the Delta no longer meets water quality standards and a host of fish species, including salmon, steelhead, and the tiny Delta smelt, have declined towards extinction. The Bay Delta Plan is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to correct decades of mismanagement.

The improved flows recommended by the Water Board will also enhance recreational values in three state parks (Caswell, Hatfield, and McConnell) along the lower Stanislaus and Merced Rivers, as well as in the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge along the lower San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers.

Through better management of snowmelt, implementation of water efficient technologies and irrigation practices, replacing water-intensive crops with water-efficient crops, and retirement of polluted and drainage impaired agricultural lands that should have never been put under irrigation, we could grow more food with less water. California's urban communities have already demonstrated during the drought that they can reduce water use by 20-30%. By using our precious water more efficiently, we can continue to enjoy a thriving economy while restoring the rivers and waterways that make California such a special place to live and visit.

You need to adopt strong water quality standards that restore 50-60% of natural flow to the Bay Delta!!

Sincerely:

Dr. Kristin A. Carr

1201 Sidonia St.

Encinitas, CA 92024

(760) 436-7836

Please submit a comment email or letter to the State Water Board urging that it adopt water quality standards that restore 50

Comments are due by noon on January 17, 2017.

List of Submitters: Friends of the River-Letter Writing Campaign

The following people submitted the same form letter or a letter of similar text. The State Water Board received a total of approximately 2 copies of this letter.

Commenters	Submitted by:
General Public	Kristin Carr
General Public	Sherman Lewis