



March 17, 2017

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Re: Comment Letter - 2016 Bay Delta Amendment & SED

The John Muir Chapter of Trout Unlimited represents over 800 members in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Our Mission is to protect, conserve, and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Our members are active in grass roots volunteer efforts to improve stream habitat, educate our young people regarding the importance of environmental stewardship, and enjoying fishing in California's clean cold streams, rivers and lakes.

I realize that there are major social and economic issues associated with increasing flows in the tributaries to the San Joaquin River. Areas in the Central Valley are experiencing high unemployment because of the lack of agricultural jobs caused by fallowing fields in response to reduced water allotments. And there is a loss of fishing jobs as well with the closure of commercial salmon fishing.

This is not just a fish matter, the Bay-Delta includes extensive wetlands that help support many species of birds along the Pacific Flyway, and support many of our citizens which enjoy the thrill of bird watching and hunting. There are over 500 species of fish and wildlife that depend on this critical resource. Flows must be sufficient to reconnect with and replenish the wetlands and other floodplains, especially the freshwater wetlands that are threatened with rising sea levels.

But efforts to date to balance the interests of water users and the environment have failed to sustain and protect the Bay Delta System, one of the most spectacular and beautiful estuaries in the world. One in which many Californians take pride, and one which historically supported magnificent runs of salmon



and steelhead. So we are encouraged by the State Water Resources Control Board's facing this challenge and evaluating the need to increase flows and improve water quality in this system.

We further encourage the Board, stakeholders and environmental and conservation groups to support a science based adaptive management plan in each watershed that: incorporates measures to increase unimpaired flows along with synergistic non-flow restoration measures, monitors and evaluates programs to evaluate effectiveness of implementation measures and progress towards the goals, and adjusts the plan over time in response to what we learn and to ensure that the goal of restoring healthy and sustainable runs of salmonids is achieved.

We must and can succeed in this. There is ample evidence that we all can do more in conserving and better utilizing this scarce resource. Urban water users have shown their willingness to conserve water, and farmers have shown that, with proper incentives, they can improve agricultural water efficiency. Please help California restore the Bay Delta System for the sake of our future citizens and for these majestic fish species.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the above comments.

Sincerely,

Peter Mangarella
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