

PO Box 20489
Oakland, CA 94620-0489

July 27, 2018

State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: Comment Letter – Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments

Dear Board Members Marcus, Moore, Doduc, D'Adamo, and Esquivel,

I am a California native who loves spending time in nature with other California native species. I'm a biologist by training, I have worked as a naturalist, and I'm now a volunteer with the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Beach Watch program as well as the California Native Plant Society. I love exploring California's natural habitats, quietly enjoying native plants, birds, and other wildlife. I also love spending time on the water, especially in a kayak or river raft. Observing thousands of tundra swans and sandhill cranes in their natural winter habitats in the Delta is my idea of a wonderful day.

I urge you to choose Alternative 4 of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan, with 50-60 percent of unimpaired flow, starting at 60 percent. California Fish and Game Code 5937 requires that "the owner of any dam shall allow sufficient water at all times to pass through a fishway, or in the absence of a fishway, allow sufficient water to pass over, around or through the dam, to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam." Your 2010 flow criteria report determined that 60 percent of unimpaired flow between February and June would be protective of native fish in the San Joaquin River basin, so Alternative 3, with 40 percent of unimpaired flow, is already a significant compromise. For that reason, Alternative 4 is the only viable option.

The Bay-Delta forms the West Coast's largest estuary, 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 traveling to and from their home streams to the Pacific Ocean. We can preserve this critical habitat by implementing Alternative 4 of the Bay Delta plan and growing more food with less water by better managing snowmelt, instituting more water-efficient irrigation practices, and replacing lower-value, water-intensive crops with higher-value, water-efficient crops. As an example of water conservation improvement on a large scale, in the Hetch Hetchy service area, users decreased water use by 30 percent between 2006 and 2016 through water conservation measures. In the South San Joaquin Water District, a pressurized irrigation system reduced water use by 30 percent while increasing crop yields by 30 percent.

Please make your decision based on the best available science, not political pressure. If you approach the decision from an unbiased scientific perspective, you will know that Alternative 4

is the only viable choice. Please help California become a world leader in water conservation and protect important habitat for hundreds of non-human native species.

Sincerely,
Susan Rosenthal
sr0433@yahoo.com

From: S Rosenthal <sr0433@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 11:42 AM
To: LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov; WQCP1Comments
Subject: Re: Comment Letter--Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments--WITH ATTACHMENT
Attachments: 2018-0727 Comments on revisions to proposed Bay Delta Plan amendments.docx
Categories: Yellow Category

With the attachment this time...

On Friday, July 27, 2018, 11:40:36 AM PDT, S Rosenthal <sr0433@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Clerk to the Board Townsend,

Please find my comments on the revisions to proposed Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan amendments below and also attached as a PDF.

Sincerely,
Susan Rosenthal

Dear Board Members Marcus, Moore, Doduc, D'Adamo, and Esquivel,

I am a California native who loves spending time in nature with other California native species. I'm a biologist by training, I have worked as a naturalist, and I'm now a volunteer with the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Beach Watch program as well as the California Native Plant Society. I love exploring California's natural habitats, quietly enjoying native plants, birds, and other wildlife. I also love spending time on the water, especially in a kayak or river raft. Observing thousands of tundra swans and sandhill cranes in their natural winter habitats in the Delta is my idea of a great day.

I urge you to choose Alternative 4 of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan, with 50-60 percent of unimpaired flow, starting at 60 percent. California Fish and Game Code 5937 requires that "the owner of any dam shall allow sufficient water at all times to pass through a fishway, or in the absence of a fishway, allow sufficient water to pass over, around or through the dam, to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam." Your 2010 flow criteria report determined that 60 percent of unimpaired flow between February and June would be protective of native fish in the San Joaquin River basin, so Alternative 3, with 40 percent of unimpaired flow, is already a significant compromise. For that reason, Alternative 4 is the only viable option.

The Bay-Delta forms the West Coast's largest estuary, 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 traveling to and from their home streams to the Pacific Ocean. We can preserve this critical habitat by implementing Alternative 4 of the Bay Delta plan and growing more food with less water by better managing snowmelt, instituting more water-efficient irrigation practices, and replacing lower-value, water-intensive crops with higher-value, water-efficient crops. As an example of water conservation improvement on a large scale, in the Hetch Hetchy service area, users decreased water use by 30 percent between 2006 and 2016 through water conservation measures. In the South San Joaquin Water District, a pressurized irrigation system reduced water use by 30 percent while increasing crop yields by 30 percent.

Please make your decision based on the best available science, not political pressure. If you approach the decision from an unbiased scientific perspective, you will know that Alternative 4 is the only viable choice. Please help California become a world leader in water conservation and protect important habitat for hundreds of non-human native species.

Sincerely,

Susan Rosenthal
PO Box 20489
Oakland, CA 94620-0489
sr0433@yahoo.com