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January 11, 2008

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
1001 I Street, 14<sup>th</sup> floor  
Sacramento, CA 94814

**RE: Comments -- Pelagic Organism Decline Workshop on January 22, 2008**

Dear State Water Resources Control Board,

PCL appreciates the chance to hear the latest science update on the Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) at the upcoming workshop, and is glad that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is providing a forum for a review of this serious problem. While it is important to periodically review emerging science, we urge the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to not only continue the process of information gathering, but also to take aggressive action *now* to address the severe declines in Bay-Delta fisheries.

The Board's recent resolution (Resolution NO. 2007-0079) commits the SWRCB to develop a strategic workplan of activities the SWRCB will undertake in the Bay-Delta. Because many of the water quality (and associated fisheries) problems in the Delta arise from the high demand on water resources in the Bay-Delta, we believe that one of the SWRCB's boards highest priorities should be to consider what is needed to protect the public trust resources of the Bay-Delta, and take appropriate and diverse actions within the Board's authority to provide that protection.

The SWRCB has unique authority in the State to take decisive action in the Delta. At the confirmation hearing for Board Members Ms. Spivy-Weber and Mr. Baggett, Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata indicated both his desire to see the SWRCB acting more aggressively and his willingness to aggressively help the Board get the resources it needs to carry out its mission. PCL looks forward to a busy year of working with the SWRCB in support of its mission to "preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations."

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Byrne  
Water Policy Assistant

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