

Notice of Temporary Urgency Change Petition DWR/BOR filed march 18, 2022 -R. Morat comments

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EXTERNAL:

Notice of Temporary Urgency Change Petition filed by the California Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation Regarding Permits and a License of the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project - Filed March 18, 2022

I simply want to make a statement that the State Water Board has for years been allowing, and if approved here, will continue to make offstream fisheries a reality for most native fisheries and especially salmonids. Instream fisheries for many native species are all but gone. Instream fisheries may persist for some non-native species. This reality is being denied by state and federal fishery agencies.

What can't be denied: Delta smelt are being propagated and released experimentally, while the instream population is gone. Years ago offstream propagation of striped bass, a non-native but then hugely beneficial species, were being grown out to yearling size below Thermalito Afterbay. Winter run salmon have a race-specific hatchery. Other races of salmon have been managed largely by hatcheries and juvenile trucking for decades. Even the Tehama Colusa Fish Facility at Red Bluff, not quite offstream but largely artificial, proved to be a total failure. The future is now here.

Any order on this petition needs to acknowledge this fishery situation co-equal with the desperate water supply shortage.

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