

March 6, 2013



Jeanine Townsend

Clerk of the Board

State Water Resources Control Board

PO Box 100

Sacramento, CA. 95814-0100

Re: Comment letter, Bay Delta Plan SED

Dear Board Members:

As I drive down I-5 during hot summer days, I see sprinklers irrigating alfalfa and cotton in the middle of the day. Are we to lose our salmon to maintain such inefficient crop irrigation?

Please ensure adequate flows through our Bay Delta to restore fish populations for sport and commercial finshing and other values on the Lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries.

Far too much water is now diverted away from the Delta. Salmon and other fish have plummeted in population, as they cannot migrate when flows are insufficient. Insufficient river water concentrate pollutants, increase water temperatures, impede fish passage and decreases oxygen.

Most of the water should flow through the Delta, and not be diverted to large farming operations which are exempt from water conservation mandates required for those of us in urban areas. **The Legislature even exempted these farms from groundwater monitoring!**

The largest estuary on the West Coast, the San Francisco Bay Delta is habitat for some 500 species of wildlife. A keystone species, salmon feeds more than 100 other species. Yet the salmon are at risk, as is the sport and commercial salmon fishery.

That we would lose the salmon so large scale farm operations in the San Joaquin Valley can maintain inefficient uses of water would be a shame. Drive on Highway 5 during a hot summer day and see the sprinklers irrigating alfalfa and cotton.

I urge you to establish water flows of not less than 60% for the first six months of each year, more in accord with natural flows.

Bill Collins

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