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February 26, 2013

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Ms. Townsend:

As someone who loves fishing and spending time on California's great rivers, I urge you to improve river flows in the San Joaquin, Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus rivers into the San Francisco Bay-Delta. For too long, the people who depend on these rivers have been short-changed and California's once proud heritage of steelhead and salmon fishing has suffered. If we don't change course, further fishing closures like we had in 2008 and 2009 will surely come again-and next time they could be permanent.

Since current policy clearly isn't working, I'm disappointed that your agency's draft Flow Objectives for these rivers more closely resembles the status quo than the recommendations made by the state's best scientists.

Please ensure that river flows into the Bay-Delta more closely track your fisheries scientists' recommendations for 60 percent of runoff, not the 33 percent that exists in a typical year. I understand that upstream communities need water for their purposes, but the rivers also require more water downstream for those of us that rely on it. A fifty-fifty split between upstream and downstream demands would be fairer than what we have today.

There is enough water in California to go around, if we use it efficiently. I'll do my part. I ask the Board to do theirs too. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Jason Cauwels