



To: State Water Resources Control Board

I strongly agree with many others that your proposal requiring the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus rivers to dedicate 35 percent of unimpaired flow to fish and wildlife would devastate San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties.

Groundwater overdraft will accelerate, and ground water quality will decline. Farm production will not change, instead will make a rapid shift towards pumped water, and compete with cities domestic supply needs. Over time the aquifers will produce less water and lower quality. It will be a progressive decline, and only the wealthy will be able to make adjustments during a time of rapid change.

It is my understanding that no credible evidence has been presented to show how it will help restore the Delta fisheries. I have to assume that political forces have aligned to claim the plan is for fish. Is this water heading south? Does the water need to flow toward the people with money in Sacramento that come from large corporate farms in the south state? Is the water flowing to developers in southern California? What is happening for a plan like this to come out of nowhere?

This regions long history is embedded in the land, water, and people who live here. Food for the world begins here. Many small family farms in the past, present, and hopefully the future, will respectfully use the water resources, uniquely available here, to its highest and best use.

There is no doubt that important fish are in low numbers compared to the past. Let's agree to an honest dialog. Then let us discuss how we can continue our help, doing our part to restore Delta fisheries.

Sincerely,
Rhett Calkins
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