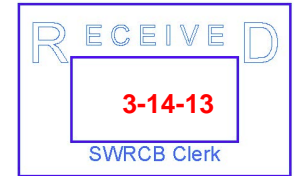


MUZZIN
P.O. Box 370761
Montara, CA 94037



March, 2013

State Water Resources Control Board Members
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Establishing flow criteria in the San Joaquin River system

Dear Board Members:

I'm writing to urge the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to use its authority to set strong flow standards on the Lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries, in order to restore fisheries and recreational uses. The river system has endured ongoing degradation for years. But healthy rivers and abundant salmon and steelhead are integral to our quality of life and the California economy. By improving flows on the Lower San Joaquin River, the SWRCB can help protect and restore jobs, livelihoods, and a vibrant tourism industry. All of these depend on healthy rivers and a healthy Bay-Delta. Bay-Delta health is directly dependent on the health of its tributary river systems, including the San Joaquin.

Now, the SWRCB has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reverse decades of declining fisheries, water quality conditions, and fresh water flow rates.

Unfortunately, the SWRCB's recent draft standards for freshwater flows will do little to change the unacceptable status quo. The 25% - 45% unimpaired flow range neither adequately supports the much-needed restoration of the San Joaquin River, its tributaries, and the Bay-Delta, nor fairly weighs the needs of fisheries and recreational beneficial uses. The draft standards do not adequately consider the benefits that California receives from a functioning river ecosystem, including related economic benefits.

Therefore, the SWRCB should require that:

- At least half (and as close to 60% as possible) of the San Joaquin River's natural flow reach the Delta during the first six months of each year.
- To the maximum extent possible, winter-spring flows track natural patterns (magnitude, duration, timing, and frequency) of freshwater flow.
- Adaptive management of flows and other non-flow restoration measures focus on attainment of specific and measureable biological and physical outcomes (such as the CVPIA/AFRP anadromous fish doubling targets).
- Flows in summer and fall be sufficient to maintain fish/wildlife, water quality, and recreational benefits in the Bay-Delta, lower San Joaquin, and San Joaquin tributaries.

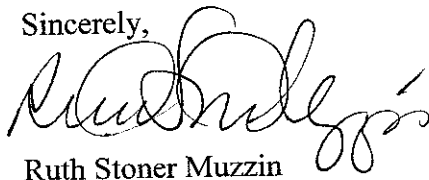
I am deeply concerned that the draft flow standards currently proposed will detrimentally enshrine the status quo of disappearing fisheries, deteriorating water quality, and declining opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the Delta, the San Joaquin River, and the San Joaquin's tributaries. Requiring adequate flows in the lower San Joaquin River will support a number of highly desirable critical outcomes for California's future, such as:

- Restoration of up to 100,000 Chinook salmon every year.
- Restoration of steelhead and sturgeon, sought-after sport fish that are now listed as state and federal endangered species.
- Improved water quality in the lower San Joaquin River and southern Delta for agricultural, municipal, and recreational use.
- Improved river conditions in the San Joaquin and its tributaries that encourage and support fishing, boating, and other non-consumptive uses of the river.

All Californians have suffered from the diversion of too much water from the Central Valley Rivers, without a reasonable effort at conservation and identification of alternative strategies. From 2008-2009, California's salmon fishery was completely closed for the first time in our great state's history, with devastating impacts to thousands of men and women whose livelihood depends on the salmon fishery. Similarly, tourism is California's biggest industry and it is hampered when rivers have too little water and too few fish. I hope that the SWRCB will restore a long-lost balance between those who extract water from the River and Delta, and the needs of the River and Delta itself for the benefit of all Californians.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ruth Stoner Muzzin