

From: Andrew McCullough
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment Letter - 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:49:07 AM



To whom it may concern,

The SWRCB is tasked with the difficult job of balancing the needs of farmers, citizens living in urban areas of southern California, and the environment of our great state. The Clean Water Act and other EPA regulations require the state to protect our waterways from pollution and require the state to protect the environment from unnecessary harm due to human activities. Accordingly, the state of California is obliged to prioritize the health of our waterways and other aspects of the environment above all other non-essential uses of water (e.g., landscape maintenance).

Scientific evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the current flow rate plans for the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers are insufficient to promote the rejuvenation of the health of those primary waterways, the tributaries of those waterways, and the vast ecosystems that depend on those waterways. Given that the San Francisco Bay Delta plan for water use and distribution has not been updated in over twenty years, it is long past time to bring those plans up to date. Accordingly, I strongly encourage the SWRCB to follow the wealth of scientific evidence on the matter. The evidence clearly shows that the flow rates of 30-50% of the natural flow of the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced rivers proposed by the SWRCB are insufficient to support the rejuvenation of those ecosystems. The evidence strongly suggests that a minimum of 50-60% of the natural flow of those rivers is required to support the rejuvenation of healthy ecosystems.

California and its citizens are in a position to lead the United States and the world in prioritizing the protection of our natural resources, such that future generations will be able to prosper within a healthy and balanced ecosystem. I strongly encourage the SWRCB to follow the scientific evidence regarding this matter, and to follow the wishes of the vast majority of citizens of California, by setting the proposed flow rates of the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers to a minimum of 50-60% of natural flow.

Respectfully yours,

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- Andrew M. McCullough
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