

**From:** christopher kroll  
**To:** [commentletters](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Letter -- 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED  
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Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

Comment Letter — 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED

As a long-time hiker and backpacker in many different parts of California, I am very concerned about protection of our rivers and streams. The health of these water bodies and the flora and fauna that depend on them are very important to me as a Californian. I understand that the State Water Board is updating the Bay Delta Plan and Phase 1 will adjust flow objectives for the San Joaquin River and its major tributaries to protect fish and wildlife. It is also my understanding that a 2010 report recommended that 60% of flow be maintained in the river in the important spring months but the draft EIR for Phase 1 only recommends 40% of unimpaired flow.

I disagree with this recommendation and strongly urge the State Board to increase the percentage of water that will be retained in the river system during this crucial time to at least 50-60%. The state needs to protect the fisheries and other habitat that these rivers and streams provide. These systems are integral to the health of the state's environment which is already under attack from climate change which will only be getting worse in the future. Now is the time to resist the pressure of Big Ag and do the right thing to protect our rivers in this time of swift climatic change. Big Ag needs to adopt more water-conserving practices and crops (80% of state water going to agriculture is too much!) The present system is not sustainable in this new day and age. Similarly urban users must reform our water use as well as there will generally be less water available for all in the future.

The Bay-Delta needs to be protected and increasing the amount of freshwater flowing into the system is essential to protecting and improving its health especially with sea level rise. This is one of the most important estuaries on the West Coast and needs stronger protection now!

The science has told you already that the rivers need at least 50-60% flows through the spring. I strongly urge you to support science and doing what is best for California's long-term health and well-being by implementing this recommendation.

Sincerely

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