

From: clara johnson
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment Letter-2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED
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159 Lake Street
Brisbane, CA 94005

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Dear Water Board Members

I grew up in Broderick, down I Street and across the I Street Bridge from where your offices are located. The Sacramento River was close enough for me and my friends to walk to. We went there to explore and have adventures. The river was deep, powerful and fast. Congresswoman Doris Matsui has written that if the twin tunnels are built. the flow could be reduced to less than 10% of its average volume. It seems impossible but we've done something like this before in California on the San Joaquin. The actions we take now and in the future are critical to the survival of Salmon and other fish and all of the other species that depend on them. We need the river and riparian and marsh habitats that are in such great peril. We need them and the water for all the benefits that their species and the water provide for us. We need them for their beauty and their calming, cooling and flood preventing attributes. Nature, like music, soothes the savage beast.

The history of our actions impacting the Bay and Delta is a history of savagery. It began with dredging for Gold and continued through misguided and ill fated efforts to correct the first problem. I attended a workshop more than a decade ago that was sponsored by the USGS and others. It was attended by scientists and local water regulators and was centered on sediment in San Francisco Bay. One of the scientists said that it was not possible to restore the Delta because no one even knew what it was like in the mid 19th century. All that can be done is to do our best to make the water and shoreline the best environment we can to sustain the life that exists now. It is what I am fighting for and what you are working toward.

Governor Brown has said that a million hours of meetings were held to come up with this Plan. If the underlying assumptions of the plans discussed in those meetings are no longer valid then the number of hours spent discussing them is irrelevant to a successful outcome of the Plan. I believe that the combined impact of the: drought, climate change and its sea level rise, 39 million people in California, the pressure of what is being called the 6th great extinction as well as increased understanding of how little we know about the dynamics of these interlocking systems of life means that some of the underlying assumptions are not useful in predicting the future or in

basing drastic infrastructure decisions on. It would be a grave error to build these two tunnels south of Sacramento. There is a tendency to look to the past and grand projects to solve problems, and often, though one problem was solved, many others were created.

You issued a report in 2010 called *Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem*. It stated that 60% of unimpaired flow from mid-winter through Spring would be required to fully protect fish and wildlife in the Delta. It was written before the drought. You intend to call for 40% unimpaired flow. It seems that you should raise your requirement higher, perhaps to 50% to account for the long drought and the vagaries of climate change.

I have two suggestions for extending the water supply. First, every water agency in the state should examine and repair or replace their piping to stop the tremendous amount of water lost through leakage. It would be expensive but worth it. Second, the canals of the Central Valley Water Project should find ways to cover their canals and thereby reduce water evaporation. We all must persevere to use less water.

I live by the Bay in Brisbane and I am grateful to you and all those who have worked so hard to improve the Delta and Bay waters and the environment.

Sincerely

Clara A. Johnson