



Debbie Mytels

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December 31, 2016

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

RE: Comment Letter — 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment and SED

Dear Members of the SWRCB,

As a long-time California resident, I've come to love this state and all the wonderful resources its natural environment provides us. From the Pacific Salmon that spawn in our Sierra streams, to the rushing rivers that have provided my children and myself with wonderful river rafting trips, to the amazing birds one can see in the Delta and here in the San Francisco Baylands, to the clean and delicious water we drink from the Tuolumne River via the Hetch Hetchy system — I feel so blessed to live in this beautiful state!

I am also proud to be one of the millions of Californians who appreciate our magnificent environment and have, time and again, rallied to protect our resources by meeting and even exceeding calls to conserve water resources when a drought requires it. For example, over the past decade people who use Hetch Hetchy water have decreased their water usage by 30%. As Californians, we understand the importance of living in balance with the other species that share our natural world, and our state leaders are wise when they aim high and create policies that reflect this balance among competing uses.

Unfortunately, the proposed 2016 update to the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan does not aim high enough. Scientists with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife have determined that it's necessary for 50 to 60% of the waters flowing through the Delta, the San Joaquin, and its tributaries (the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus) to flow freely during the spring (February through June) in order to protect the fish and wildlife that depend upon this water for their survival. The proposed Plan only calls for a 40% flow rate during this crucial time each year, and this could drop to 30% under certain conditions. This is not acceptable. Reducing the water flow blocks fish passage, increases water temperatures, and concentrates toxic pollutants – all of which will negatively impact the commercial salmon fishery that provides thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions in annual revenue.

While the proposed rules would send more water to agricultural users in the Central Valley, there are other ways to maintain a vibrant farm economy in California. More efficient irrigation practices, replacing water intensive crops such as alfalfa with higher-value, less thirsty crops, and better management of snowmelt are among the options that would maintain an adequate Delta flow rate.

Californians have demonstrated that we are willing to do our part to protect the balance among various beneficial uses of our precious water. It's time for the policy makers to step up and give us a set of rules that we ALL can live with. Please set the Bay Delta spring flow rate for the 50%-60% that's needed to maintain a healthy California ecosystem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Mytels".

(Mrs.) Debbie Mytels