

From: Elaine Gorman
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment letter -- 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment and SED
Date: Sunday, January 08, 2017 9:37:47 PM



Hello, my name is Elaine Gorman, I am a retired teacher with Modesto City Schools.

In the 1980s, I was trained in the MID program “Every Drop Counts”. My students learned about water conservation, historic and current uses of the Tuolumne River, and basic science facts such as the water cycle, riparian chemistry, and the dynamics of a watershed. I have also taken hundreds of students and their parents on field trips to LaGrange, where they had the opportunity to learn from TID and Cal. Fish & Wildlife biologists about the life cycle of Chinook salmon. The kids were always amazed as they watched the salmon as they swam under the LaGrange bridge, they couldn’t believe that a fish could be so large. We would often see bald eagles, and we would learn about the importance of salmon in the entire riparian ecosystem. Volunteers with Stan. Wildlife Care Center would bring local wildlife and share information about the animals that rely on the Tuolumne River. A visit to the LaGrange Museum would inform students about the cultural uses of the river — from local native Americans, to the gold miners, and more recently, our system of dams, irrigation canals, reservoirs, and drinking water facilities. These educational activities are some of the highlights of my teaching career, and I hope that they helped my students to become good stewards of the environment.

On Oct. 9, the Modesto Bee ran an article titled “Alarming findings on SF Bay Health”. Scientists from the Bay Institute and UC Davis explained how the SF Bay and Estuary have been damaged and “is being choked by a lack of fresh water” due to water diversions and recent drought. The effects of this are not just felt by salmon, but by all organisms in the ecosystem, and these effects are far-reaching.

I have hiked, canoed, swam, inner tubed, and backpacked along most of the Tuolumne River. I have drank water fresh from Lyell Glacier. I have marveled at Water Wheel Falls in the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne. I have watered my garden and fruit trees with water from the Tuolumne. In most places in Modesto I can open a tap and drink water from the Tuolumne. The Tuolumne River is very precious to me. The health of the river and the downstream estuary is important to the entire State of California. I hope that all of us living in this part of California can find some common ground, to include an increase in the flows and health of our local rivers.

Elaine Gorman
1521 Crawford Rd.
Modesto CA 95357
209-577-1480