

**From:** Jodea Foster  
**To:** [commentletters](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Letter - 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED  
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Water Board:

Certain facts are undeniable. The Delta smelt and Chinook salmon populations are sensitive to water issues. Too little water in the rivers and streams that feed the Delta means drastic population reductions for those fish, as well as damage to the ecosystem of which they are a part. As an avid hiker in our wilderness and an avid rafter of our rivers, I have personally watched the salmon populations decline over the last 15 years. My understanding is that they have become extinct or near extinct in some rivers and streams, and are in danger just about everywhere else.

We cannot continue to ignore those facts while the Central Valley continues to attempt to farm areas without adequate water supply and Southern California continues to draw water to support its expanding population. Only when water becomes scarce or limited in those areas will their inhabitants adjust their style of living and farming to be more compatible with their available amount of water. Only then will their local governments adopt policies that are compatible with their available amount of water. Only then will private enterprise become profitable enough to help solve their water issues.

I was born and raised in Northern California. I lived through the adjustment that the logging industry was required to make when environmentalists sounded the alarm about over-logging. The industry screamed bloody murder and talked of dire predictions should environmentalists save our forests. Well, the environmentalists made great strides to protect our forests and the sky didn't fall; people adjusted.

We don't have sufficient water to meet the needs of Southern California and the Central Valley and the needs of the ecosystem of Northern California. That is another undeniable fact. If we keep supplying them water and damaging the Northern California ecosystem in the process, we will (they will) never make progress on water issues and we will be left with irreparable damage.

For those reasons I pray that you will listen to the science and set flow levels for the project at no more than 50%.

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