

From: John Sikora
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Flow Standards for Central Valley Salmon & Steelhead
Date: Sunday, December 18, 2016 5:45:32 PM



Dear Ms. Townsend;

I am submitting comments to the SWRCBs Proposed Flow Standards for the Central Valley rivers and streams. The waterways include some of the most important rivers which sustain the dwindling salmon and steelhead populations south of the Sacramento River. The low flows released in the past have in part allowed these species of salmonids to decline to very near extinction. I join a large number of learned scientists, many from state agencies, to suggest that a minimum of 60% flows of unimpaired water, especially during the sure to come, drought years and months ahead, is necessary to sustain these species.

This consideration will likely be compared to the so called economic cost of delivering less water to the central and southern portions of California. These economic costs in reality mean not depriving the agricultural families of hard earned income but balancing their ever increasing demand for more, unfettered income, (not their status quo), to sell their product not only outside California but outside this country. The billboards and signs along Interstate 5 through the Central Valley suggest that sharing what water is available with other California interests, whether those be recreation or another industry, is robbing the citizens of California of their supply of food. This is absolutely false as the recipients of the majority of food produced in the Central Valley is sent to foreign countries. So, I deduce that this additional income the farmers are receiving has nothing to do with depriving Californians nor citizens of our USA of food; it has everything to do with lining their pockets at the expense of our fellow Californians. The rest of the citizens in California need to have their voices heard and considered when you make this decision on the flows necessary not to just maintain the fisheries, but also to help them regain some of the recent losses they have suffered. By way of extension, those losses the fisheries sustained have a direct correlation to the losses the citizens of California (and other visitors to the state) have sustained.

The science regarding sustaining the fisheries has been developed by your agency scientists and by a number of Non-Profit groups as well, including Trout

Unlimited. So on my behalf, and on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of like-minded anglers (which include ~10,000 members of Trout Unlimited in California), we request that the flows be established at 60% unimpaired flow.

Hopefully there will be sufficient rainfall this year to supply as much water through the Central Valley rivers as the fisheries and the agricultural community need. Thank you for considering these comments,

John Sikora

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