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January 8th, 2017

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

Subject: Comment Letter - 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED

Dear Chair Marcus and Board Members,

I am writing to urge you to heed the findings of the Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem report and require that 60% flow be maintained in the San Joaquin River. I grew up in the Midwest but have lived in various parts of California for many years now, and one of the things I love the most about this state are its natural places. So much beauty and variety exist here, so many different ecosystems, so many amazing lakes, streams, and rivers (and, of course, that wild ocean). I spent some years in my twenties as a raft guide on the Kern River, living, working, and playing on and in that river. The river below Lake Isabella was our bread and butter since it flowed all summer, but it was the Upper Kern, fed by snowmelt and running usually only a short spring/early summer season, that held the guides' hearts. What broke my heart was the Kern once it left the canyon and became suddenly bottled up in long silver tubes going Somewhere Else - the Mighty Kern tamed, killed, and taken away. Of course, before these irrigation canals were built, the Kern spread out into a huge seasonal wetlands that supported a rich array of wildlife in the area that now contains Bakersfield. Some of the Kern's water made its way via sloughs and seasonal lakes to the San Joaquin River.

However heartbreaking I think tamed rivers are, I understand that we are not going remove all of our infrastructure and let rivers go back to flooding and changing course willy-nilly (at least, not in my lifetime). However, it is obvious to everyone that we humans are having a devastating impact on many aspects of the environment, including the salmon population. We must do what we can to offer this species a chance to rebound. Besides being an iconic species and a symbol of a wild, untamed America that many hold dear (at least as an idea), these fish also are an important food source for many of us carnivores and help transport nutrients upriver from the

ocean. I am so proud of my adopted state for leading the way on so many environmental protections and initiatives, and for vowing to stand firm in these protections regardless of the direction taken by the federal government. California has been, and will continue to be, an environmental leader. Let's take the lead now on giving the salmon a chance of survival and keeping the San Joaquin River Delta healthy.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Justine Schneider