

Michael Frost
2223 Carmelita Drive
San Carlos, CA 94070

March 16, 2017



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

RE: 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED

Dear Board,

I live with my family in San Carlos, CA and regularly fish the Pacific Ocean, SF Bay, Delta, and all the rivers in California. The health and numbers of the native fish are very important to my family. We love eating fresh, wild fish and exploring California's world class biodiversity. My kids are growing up in the Anthropocene... the age of human induced extinction. COLLECTIVELY, we can mitigate the damage caused by erroneous 20th century assumptions; specifically over pumping the rivers and estuary.

Rivers are ribbons of life. 2017 is a time for renewal and restoration of California's natural heritage, the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and all the rivers that feed it fresh water. The San Joaquin, Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus rivers are CRUCIAL to the health of the region.

In 2010 the State Water Board issued a report titled Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem that determined that approximately 60% of unimpaired flow between February and June would be fully protective of fish and wildlife in the lower San Joaquin River and its three major tributaries. Please protect at least 60% of these unimpaired flows into the estuary (all the way to the ocean).

A Bay-Delta that cannot support Smelt, Sturgeon, Salmon, Splittail, or Steelhead cannot supply clean drinking water, ground water, or irrigation water.

We are stuck in a "Progress Trap, innovations that create new problems that society is unable or unable to solve, or inadvertently create conditions that are worse than what existed before the innovation (as described in Ronald Wright's 2004 book, A Short History of Progress*). The following quotes from this book are quite analogous to our current situation.

Many of the great ruins that grace the deserts and jungles of the earth are monuments to progress traps, the headstones of civilizations which fell victim to their own success. In the fates of such societies – once mighty, complex, and brilliant – lie the most instructive lessons...they are fallen airliners whose black boxes can tell us what went wrong.

—A Short History of Progress, p 8

The lesson I read in the past is this: that the health of land and water – and of woods, which are the keepers of water – can be the only lasting basis for any civilization's survival and success.

—A Short History of Progress, p 105

Please protect the freshwater flows that improve water quality and support keystone species like Chinook salmon. Shared sacrifice in the urban and rural regions of California are needed to solve this problem collectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MF" with a stylized flourish.

Michael Frost

* <http://ronaldwright.com/books/a-short-history-of-progress/>