



3101 Deakin St.
Berkeley, CA 94705

January 4, 2017

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Dear Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

I am writing to request that you require increased flow of fresh water in the tributaries of the San Joaquin River, beyond the 40% of unimpaired flow suggested in your draft Substitute Environmental Document.

I have lived most of my life in coastal California, including 23 years in the Bay Area. One of the things I value the most about California are the state's natural resources, including its rivers, San Francisco Bay, and their native fish and wildlife populations. In recent years, I have enjoyed rafting on the Stanislaus River, hiking and camping along the Tuolumne River, and birdwatching and kayaking in and around San Francisco Bay. All of these activities rely on the natural flow of fresh water from the mountains, to the Bay and, eventually to the Pacific Ocean.

I have been shocked to learn about the unsustainable diversion of fresh water from Central Valley Rivers and the negative impact this has on the resources that I enjoy and rely on. In most years, more than half of the river flow in the Central Valley is diverted for human use and, on average, 80% of that water goes to irrigated agriculture. I am also aware that more than two-thirds of the water from the San Joaquin Valley is diverted in an average year; still more water is taken from the area's aquifers, which are so over-drafted that they are collapsing. As a result of this unsustainable water use, rivers in the San Joaquin Valley no longer sustain wild salmon populations, toxic cyanobacteria bloom in the Delta, and fish and bird populations in the Bay, and whale pods outside of the Golden Gate, are collapsing.

I am not opposed to irrigated agriculture. I enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables grown here in California and have been a member of one farm's community supported agriculture program for 15 years. I have visited and even camped on the Central Valley farm that grows my food. But, I know that much of the Central Valley's water is diverted not for fruits and vegetables, but to irrigate nuts, pasture, and cattle feeds. Regardless the crop, there is simply no justification for extracting so much water from our rivers and underground aquifers that our rivers, Bay, and marine ecosystems can't support native fish and wildlife.

I know that you need to strike a balance among many uses of the public's water. But "balance" cannot mean abandoning protection of fish and wildlife or clean water. The Board has already determined that 60% of the flow of the San Joaquin Valley must remain in the river to fully support public trust values. This conclusion is supported by state and federal fisheries agencies and academic and non-profit scientists.

I urge you to implement solutions that are supported by science and I don't understand how you can follow any other course. Please adopt flow standards that protect California's rivers, fisheries and the San Francisco Bay; require that 60% of the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers' flow reaches the Delta.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Shaw". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nancy Shaw