



**From:** Roger Thibault  
**To:** [commentletters](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Letter 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED  
**Date:** Sunday, January 08, 2017 1:36:42 PM

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To Whom it May Concern; I am submitting this letter in defense of a healthy Bay/Delta which will require enough water to flush out the ecosystem as nature has designed it. A 60% flow of the San Joaquin at Chipps Island is essential to the health of the south Delta. I am not a hydrologist but I grew up around the Delta in the late 50's and early 60's and it doesn't take a scientist to note the difference in the health of this ecosystem

. Pumping from the Delta started in the early 60's and the degradation of the area was evident immediately. There was a cardboard plant in Antioch that had to be closed due to salt water intrusion. The fishing started a slow but steady decline. It was nothing for us kids to catch twenty strippers in three or four hours fishing. Catfish were plentiful as were carp, sturgeon, bass, bluegill etc. We had two strong salmon runs and you could fill a rowboat to the gunnels with shad when they ran. There was a thriving shrimping business in San Pablo bay. None of that exist today. You can literally fish for a whole day and not get a bite. The fish population in 1960 was estimated at 17 million fish. The last number I heard for the Delta the population was down to 4 million fish. We never saw algae blooms like you see in Stockton now. Sloughs we would take a boat with a three foot draft into now you can only access by pontoon or canoe due to silting. The major cause of all this decimation of the ecosystem is not enough water flushing out the Delta/Bay.

I have no qualms of sharing resources UNLESS it bankrupts one ecosystem in order for individuals to simply make money. Your not saving the world from hunger by growing pistachios and almonds in the desert of the southwestern San Joaquin valley. Its a poor trade to ruin naturally rich farmland that is the Delta in order to give more water to a silicate ridden area simply so corporate agriculture can increase its profits. What about all the towns on the coast that rely on salmon for their living, are we telling them the destruction of the second largest salmon stream on the west coast will be accomplished so people can buy \$5.00 bags of nuts?

We need adequate flows of water to keep the Delta/Bay from becoming a salt water estuary. We may never see the healthy ecosystem that was the past but we must preserve adequate water quality to insure a semblance of our traditional ecosystem and our historic fisheries. Please do your job to maintain adequate water flow for the Delta/Bay so we don't lose this wonderful natural area to greed and profiteers.