

From: Shirley Wodtke
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment Letter - 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Date: Monday, November 28, 2016 9:20:22 AM



Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board

State Water Resources Control Board

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I am a resident of the Bay-Delta area. I am an avid bird-watcher and have visited most areas of the Delta on bird watching expeditions. For decades I have been interested in the ecology of our area--the ability of the Delta to support fish, birds, and all of its native plants and animals.

I am writing to ask you to support the criteria of 40% unimpaired flow from the Tuolumne River which is in the 2016 Bay-Delta-Plan Amendment. We are now looking at the option of giving the fish more water and it is imperative that we should do so to keep the fish populations healthy. This Bay Delta Plan Amendment is an opportunity that must be seized. Please support this plan.

For decades, what has most troubled me is that our priorities are out of balance. In our water allocations, we have not done enough to maintain healthy populations of our fish. Most of our fish are clearly going extinct. With no corrections, it is just a matter of time until they are gone forever. We have a chance to fix this situation, but we must act NOW before it is too late. The salmon that we are about to destroy are a true "gift" to us. They grow up in the ocean. The ocean fishing industry provides a large source of protein for us at little cost to us, except to keep the fish nurseries, the spawning streams and rivers, healthy and with enough water for the fish to reach their spawning grounds. If we deplete the fishing stock then the large fishing industry disappears and so does our large food source taken from our ocean.

The water that can now be assigned to our fish has been freed up by water conservation initiatives taken during the drought. We have learned that we can exist comfortably with less water and so it is time to allocate that saved water to the fish. Much of our water conservation is a permanent saving.

Homeowners in my neighborhood have replaced their lawns with water-saving gardens. My lawn has been replaced by native plants and now requires no water. So I would like to dedicate my water savings to the fish. You can do this for me by supporting the 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

Sincerely,

Shirley Wodtke

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