



January 9, 2017

From:
Suzannah Sosman
1399 Delaware Street
Berkeley, CA
94702

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

Dear Ms. Townsend and fellow members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

My name is Suzannah Sosman and I live in Berkeley, CA. I moved to California eight years ago after taking a road trip through California's many national and state parks. I was enchanted with the landscape and fell in love with the state's mountains and rivers. I settled in Nevada City, CA to work on an Organic CSA farm, and spent most of the farming season enjoying long days at the Yuba river when I wasn't working hard on the farm. The sense of wildness and majesty that the Yuba still holds after so many decades of human disturbance and destruction touched me to my core and had a huge influence on my next career move.

I moved to Berkeley in 2009 and became heavily involved in the urban edible landscaping movement in the San Francisco Bay Area. I spent 4 years working as an Assistant Arborist to the Urban Forester for the City of Albany during which time I learned all of the local native plant species. I eventually became the main Restoration Ecologist maintaining the restoration work done on Codornices Creek on the border of Berkeley and Albany. Codornices is one of the few remaining day lit waterways running in the East Bay and with the recent restoration efforts the local native Trout population has a chance at re-spawning.

While I've seen some environmental improvements in my local neighborhood since moving to Berkeley, I know there is still so much to be done regarding the overall protection and quality of California's natural waterways.

I am writing to you today with an impassioned plea to please improve protections for the San Joaquin River. As the State Water Resources Control Board you have the power to update flow standards in the state's 2nd largest river and one that has been declared the most endangered river in America.

Historically, populations of spawning salmon may have exceeded 400,000 fish in the San Joaquin River Basin, but in many recent years that figure has plummeted to just a few thousand. Salmon are a keystone species, providing food for other animals and

transporting nutrients from the ocean to upland habitats. More than 100 species depend on salmon, so it's not just about salmon, it's about restoring our salmon-based ecosystem.

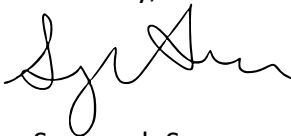
The best available science shows that at least half of the natural flow from the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced and lower San Joaquin Rivers should make it to the Delta. There is no evidence that that Board's current plan (an average of 40% of this "unimpaired flow") will be sufficiently protective of the rivers or their salmon.

I am an avid backpacker, rock climber, and boater in California. Being able to take a weekend trip out of the city and into the diverse and healthy ecosystems of California's wilderness makes all the difference to my own sense of wellbeing. Walking along a creek filled with native fish populations and full flow I can imagine a living landscape that my children might be able to enjoy one day, and this puts my mind and heart at ease.

But this is only possible if we continue to improve the current environmental situation in California. The Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve protections for the San Francisco Bay, the Delta, the rivers that feed them, and our salmon (among other wildlife populations).

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzannah', written in a cursive style.

Suzannah Sosman