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October 13, 2016

Jeanine Toconsant, Club of the Bd,  
State Water Resources Control Bd.  
1001 I St. 24<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

San Joaquin tributary flows should be 60% of  
unimpaired flows.

Dear Bd Members,

As a <sup>human and</sup> resident of the S.F. Bay area who  
greatly values California's wonderful  
natural environment, I urge you to  
set flow objectives for the San Joaquin  
tributaries at 60% of the unimpaired flows.

Your 2010 flow criteria report concluded  
that that level was needed to restore  
the health of the riparian, Delta + SF  
Bay habitats. Obviously healthy rivers  
need adequate flows:

- low river flows restrict fish passage,  
concentrate pollutants, increase water  
temperatures, decreased dissolved O<sub>2</sub>, +  
eliminate migratory signals for fish  
returning to spawn.
- Flows should be enough to inundate floodplains  
which serve as critical habitat for juvenile salmon etc.

- through better management of snowmelt, water-efficient irrigation technologies & practices, and replacing lower-value, water-intensive crops with higher-value, water-efficient crops we could grow more food with less water.

It's my belief that flows at lower levels will not reverse the substantial damage done to our aquatic environments with many years of excessive diversions.

The Board's draft proposal is a step in the right direction. I strongly recommend that you hold to a minimum of 70% of the unimpaired flows.

Sincerely,

Helen K Benke