

From: [Marshack, Jon@Waterboards](mailto:Marshack_Jon@Waterboards)
To: commentletters
Cc: tschwertscharf@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Water flow increases in California Rivers
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 1:09:06 PM



Jeanine,

This message was sent to the mailbox for the My Water Quality web portals. I am forwarding it to you to include with other comments regarding the January 3 Board Meeting.

Jon



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-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Schwertscharf [<mailto:tschwertscharf@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 4:38 PM
To: WB-DWQ-SB1070Coordinator
Subject: Re: Water flow increases in California Rivers

I attended the public meeting in Sacramento On January 3 and would like to comment on some of what I heard at the meeting.

Board member D'amato repeatedly complained that she wasn't sure if increasing the flows to 40% would yield more salmon. Well of course she doesn't know because she does not have a background in the sciences. She is a lawyer obviously aligned with the agricultural community. Actually one thing that is known for sure is that when you dewater salmonid habitats there is a decrease in population numbers and we have the figures to prove it. Furthermore she is not aware of the vast stores of knowledge that have been developed in California in the states' own agencies, Federal agencies, the University system, and public and private environmental labs that shows the biological effects on the entire ecosystem not just on salmon. Decreased sources of fresh water for aquatic species cause death across the board. Please listen to the science community even when it doesn't serve the politically powerful.

Secondly I would like to mention that one of the pro AG speakers said that his region had poverty levels in 1 in 4 persons range. What he failed to mention was that lots of poverty in farming regions

is caused by the growers themselves because they fail to pay workers a living wage. Average wages are low and many work long hours at minimum wage or lower. It is no wonder they live in substandard conditions. They do not want to pay overtime wages. It is the same exploitation of the masses that has always existed in California agriculture. They like to drag these poor unfortunate workers out for display if it helps them get some political leverage and immediately abandon them once they have served their greedy purposes. There are many times that I feel that maybe the excessive water use by Ag could be better used in industries that would allow the disenfranchised permanent employment with health benefits and housing. I would implore the board to look into the way that farm workers are exploited and whether water use could be curbed for better uses. Despite what is frequently expounded we are not really an Ag state. We are a technology state for example one company Apple has \$200 billion dollars in sales in a fiscal year dwarfing agricultural sales. Perhaps that is what we should be concentrating on when we start distributing water. Where is the most bang for the buck? I have seen figures that farms only account for 2-5% of the economy but receive 80% of the developed water. There needs to be a balance established for reasonable uses of water and not just for the enrichment of billionaire farmers. Family farmers should be protected. Thank you for your consideration. Tom Schwertscharf

Sent from my iPad

> On Nov 26, 2016, at 9:09 AM, Tom Schwertscharf <tschwertscharf@gmail.com> wrote:

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> <Water flow increases in California Rivers.docx>

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> Sent from my iPad