



From: Jason Scott
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Date: Monday, January 02, 2017 7:22:58 PM
Attachments: [Phase1PubLtr.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Townsend,

I am attaching my public comment letter regarding the Phase 1 Bay Delta SED. Please let me know if you have any trouble opening it as a PDF.

Best,
Jason Scott

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January 02, 2017

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED

Dear Chair Marcus and Board Members:

As a Californian, I spend a lot of time outdoors: exploring, traveling and recreating in our great state. I care deeply about protecting our environment and believe that we have an important ethical obligation to protect our natural resources for the benefit of future generations. To this end, I support creating instream flow requirements that ensure that salmon recover in the tributaries of the San Joaquin River.

I know there are many competing interests at stake in the debate about flow requirements along the San Joaquin and its tributaries. Here are reasons why I value increased flow requirements:

1. I value hiking and camping in areas where I can observe, study and enjoy thriving ecosystems. I love the stories that nature constantly tells, and it gives me great pleasure watching ecological interactions happen in the wild. Restoring river flows would revitalize ecosystems along the San Joaquin and its tributaries, creating increased access to hiking and camping in these areas.
2. I value fishing with my young son. I want to be able to take him on fishing trips to these rivers and show him the beauty and abundance of salmon, who are now dwindling toward extinction. I believe we have an obligation to protect these fish to secure their existence for future generations. The consensus of scientists is that the most important factor affecting the recovery of salmon populations is the amount and timing of instream flows in these rivers.
3. I value increasing biodiversity in human-impacted ecosystems in order to create resilience for these ecosystems. Climate change is already forcing significant changes in the dynamics of these rivers' ecosystems. By bringing back salmon, a keystone species, we can increase the biodiversity and health of entire ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems

are more able to safely absorb the impact of changes in climate than are weaker, less diverse ecosystems. The benefit to salmon from increased flow rates will better help the entire San Joaquin basin better adapt to changing climate.

4. I value the existence of salmon for their own sake. I believe that no organism needs to be pushed to extinction by humans, especially when we have alternatives that would allow us to not overuse resources to the point of causing organism extinctions.

Increased flow requirements will require all Californians, not just agricultural communities, to do more with less water. I sincerely believe this is a challenge that we all need to take on, rather than avoid or postpone. My family is doing all we can personally to reduce our household water consumption. Agricultural producers have taken good steps in recent years to become more water efficient, too. But they have taken these steps not out of a sense of stewardship, but because of economic drivers, such as increased water scarcity and costs. I have no problem with this being their motivation. What matters to me is the fact that they have been able to successfully meet these challenges. This shows that they have the ability to continue meeting increased scarcity. Raising flow requirements will increase water scarcity, and agricultural producers will do what many other industries in our state are already accomplishing: do more with less water. We are a smart, well-resourced state. Furthering the water efficiency of California's agricultural community is one of the easier problems that our state can tackle.

I hope the Water Board takes seriously what the community of scientists has already unequivocally said: average instream flow requirements must be higher than 40% for salmon populations to be protected. I hope you will make the right call of raising the instream flow requirements to the scientifically-supported level of 60%. Making this decision will ensure that we give the ecosystems of these rivers the best chance to recover and thrive.

Sincerely,



Jason Scott