



**From:** Emily St John  
**To:** [commentletters](#)  
**Cc:** [Lance Powell](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Letter – 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED  
**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2017 10:34:19 AM

---

Dear State Water Resources Control Board,

My name is Emily St. John and I am an AP Environmental Science student at Menlo-Atherton High School. I have grown up in California and California's wildlife is very important to me, especially California's watershed. I have greatly enjoyed backpacking and hiking around California's watershed and enjoyed it's beautiful and diverse wildlife. Because California's watershed is so important to me and many others, I declare and urge that water levels should be increased in the Delta to protect California's unique environment.

A major species that would be greatly affected by the increase in water level in the Delta are Salmon. 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. In addition, in California, water is a public trust resource, meaning it belongs to the people of California. Water agencies have water rights, but the State can determine which beneficial uses have priority. It could be argued that food grown for Californians is a beneficial use of our water, but it's harder to make that case for exports. Agricultural exports benefit a few farmers – often corporations – at the expense of other beneficial uses.

For these reasons, it is very important that water levels are increased in the Delta; to keep Californian resident happy, to protect important species, and to benefit California's water use.

Sincerely,  
Emily St. John

This is a student email account managed by the Sequoia Union High School District. The contents of this email are governed by the laws of the State of California and the board policies of the school district.

For abuse, misuse, or objectionable content concerns, please contact [abuse@seq.org](mailto:abuse@seq.org).