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

Dear Members of the State Water Resources Control Board;

I am writing to commend highly your efforts, through the updated Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan, to provide desperately needed freshwater inflow to the San Francisco Bay Delta, and to ask, in the strongest terms I can (without using profanity), that you stand absolutely firm in those efforts to ensure the Plan is enacted without compromise.

I was raised in upstate New York, Rochester, where the abundance of lakes, rivers, streams, summer baseball-game rainouts and winter blizzards made it easy to take water for granted. I came to the Bay Area in 1981 to attend graduate school and, while doing so, start doing research at the NASA Ames Research Center, where I still work today. Living in California and working in the Space Program have made me acutely aware of the following: but for the hydrogen gas in stars, no substance is as fundamental to life, *anywhere*, as is water. It, more than anything else, is what we search for in exploring other worlds.

Coming back to Earth . . . It is, or should be, well known that no species – from simple plants to complex mammals – can survive, let alone thrive, on its own. All species are interconnected, and they all must have water. But humans, who like to fashion themselves to be the most advanced among earthly life-forms, have been uniquely responsible over the past century, or so, for wasting and fouling – in unthinkable volumes – this most basic and essential life resource. And there are few ecosystems that show the devastating legacy of this perversity to any greater degree than the Bay Delta. You, yourselves have collected and reported many of the sickening data.

It must stop. And, it must stop *now!!* For, if it doesn't, the rich biodiversity that graced and characterized this region for millennia might be lost forever. Economic arguments to weaken the Control Plan are easily debunked. But even if they weren't, they should have no bearing. There are many ways to mitigate and remedy losses in jobs and tax revenues. There are *no* ways to remedy the permanent loss of habitats, the extinction of species, and gaping holes in the food chain.

Please, please, *please!* Know that you are not only in a position of serious responsibility, but one of profound, if not sacred duty: to preserve and start to heal one of Mother Earth's great vital organs - the San Francisco Bay Delta watershed.

I thank you, and I stand with you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Brown