



November 11, 2016

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

Dear Jeanine,

It is important that the SWRCB is addressing the water quality issues of the Tuolumne, Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced rivers. For too many years the quality of the water in the rivers has taken a backseat to the needs of agricultural and industrial users. The long history of abuse started with the gold rush and continues to the present. The rivers cannot continue to accept abuse forever. If the quantity and temperature of the water is wrong the quality of the river will decline. This will cause the fish and animals living in and around the river to suffer.

A related consequence is the unsatisfactory recreation for folks like me who like to canoe and picnic on the river. I used to paddle among the salmon during the fall run and see more salmon. Now if I go it is exciting to see one or two. Humans have caused these rivers to suffer for decades and it will take humans to begin to restore them to a more natural condition.

Your own report calls for 60% flows to help create a more natural flow. To have this flow from February to June may start to restore the river for the fish, critters and people. Listen to the scientists and their report instead of agriculture and industry who have a terrible history of exploitation of the river.

The rivers need you to speak for them as they silently flow to the sea

Sincerely,

Jon M Sturtevant
18127 Apple Colony Rd
Tuolumne, CA 95379