

From: Rachael S Green
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 1:40:27 PM



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

Dear Jeanine Townsend,

My name is Rachael Green and I am junior at the University of California, Berkeley studying Environmental Economics and Policy in the College of Natural Resources with a minor in Environmental History. With this major, I hope to tailor my studies to learning about the management of California water resources and alternative energy in the context of both business and public policy. Additionally, I am passionate about management and learning more about the possible ways to improve our current policy. Growing up in Northern California I have a unique background and connection to the Sacramento and San Joaquin delta system. As a child I fondly remember the thrill of camping and fishing out of the San Joaquin tributaries as well as exploring the diminishing riparian habitats along the riverbanks. Once older, the devastation and environmental impacts of the system became more apparent which inspired me to comment today on the new Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Given that on average, less than 50% of the freshwater flow from the Central Valley reaches the Bay, and in some years even less than 35% I beg you, and your colleges to consider increasing flow and mandating more water reaches the end of the Bay-Delta system. By continuing to allow reduced inflows, the size and location of the ecologically-important salinity mixing zone shifts, which causes repercussions on everything from plankton to marine mammals. Furthermore, a report from 2010 released by State Water Resources Control Board, titled *Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem*, determined that approximately 60% of unimpaired flow between February and June would be fully protective of fish and wildlife in the lower San Joaquin River and its three major tributaries. It is imperative to strive to preserve the ecosystems of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta system to protect natural wildlife with the additional benefit of recreation and enjoyment for California constituents as well as visitors.

In conclusion, I advocate that the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan should require at least half of the flow of the San Joaquin and its main tributaries reach the Delta and be allowed to flow out through Carquinez Strait. I appreciate the State Water Resources Control Board's consideration of my public comment.

Sincerely,
Rachael Green