



**SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY**

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April 1, 2014

*Via Email:* [will.stelle@noaa.gov](mailto:will.stelle@noaa.gov)

Mr. Will Stelle

National Marine Fisheries Service

Regional Office

Seattle, Washington

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Mr. Ren Lohofener

United State Fish and Wildlife Service

Sacramento Office

*Via Email:* [Chuck.Bonham@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Chuck.Bonham@wildlife.ca.gov)

Mr. Charles Bonham, Director

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

*Via Email:* [Tom.Howard@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tom.Howard@waterboards.ca.gov)

Mr. Tom Howard, Executive Director

State Water Resources Control Board

Gentlemen:

We understand that your respective agencies will very shortly be making decisions regarding what is required to ensure compliance with the federal and State Endangered Species Acts and the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan during this unprecedented drought disaster. As we noted during our calls with you last week, the best available current scientific data show the lack of any appreciable take due to Delta export pumping operations. We are hopeful that your agencies will be taking this data into account and will allow additional pumping based on the finding that the data show the current

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restrictions are not necessary or appropriate to avoid take of any protected species. As you know, the water users who are dependent on this water supply will suffer catastrophic losses, particularly to their permanent plantings, if they are deprived of the ability to put this water to beneficial use.

We are concerned because, to date, no one has provided us with or articulated any solid scientific link between significant impacts to protected fish and the 2014 pumping operations. In our call last Friday, Mr. Lohofener indicated that notwithstanding the lack of any appreciable "take" by the pumping operations, NMFS and FWS believe there could be indirect or cumulative impacts to protected fish resulting from pumping operations. We also know that efforts to provide real time monitoring in regard to salmon, Delta smelt and steelhead have been ongoing and conducted on an emergency basis since February 1, but when we asked to be provided access to that data, Mr. Stelle informed us (most recently in a phone conference call on Friday March 28, 2014) that the results of those efforts are not currently available for public review and will not be provided to us until after the agencies have determined their course of action and implemented their decision.

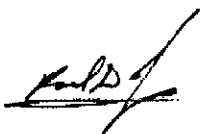
Because the monitoring information may be important in your consideration of these issues, may we request that you include in your administrative record as a basis for your consideration and respective decisions and actions all of the test results, sampling results, observations and calculations in regard to these species and any other species that may have been detected in the course of these efforts, along with a copy of this letter?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,



Steve Chedester, Executive Director  
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority



Ronald D. Jacobsma, General Manager  
Friant Water Authority