

91 Solana Dr.

Los Altos, CA 94022

Mar 1, 2013



Jeanine Townsend

Clerk of the Board

State Water Resources Control Board

Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

RE: Comment Letter – Bay Delta Plan SED

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to urge you to help restore the ecosystem of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, especially for the salmon. As you know, unimpaired flow of 60% is recommended to protect the fish and wildlife. The 35% currently being considered is just not enough.

Salmon is so important to California. For years my family has fished for salmon and enjoyed family salmon barbecues. That is only a small personal issue, however. Salmon provides many benefits and jobs to the economy of California.

Please take into consideration waste, or the converse, conservation. It is a well known fact that 80 – 85% of California's water is used by agriculture although it produces less than 2.5% of its income. As just one example, alfalfa is an especially bad crop choice to grow in water-restricted California. It is a low value crop producing but one tenth of 1% of the state's economy, but taking 20% of the state's developed water supply. "An alfalfa farm using 240 acre- feet of water generates \$60,000 in sales, while a semiconductor plant using the same amount of water generates 5,000 times that amount, or \$300 million.

(And while such a farm could function with as few as two workers, the semiconductor plant would employ 2,000.)”[\[1\]](#) Similar arguments can be made against growing rice and cotton in the dessert. Does it make sense devastate and valuable ecosystem to obtain such small returns? Please consider, also, the greater good.

Considering the water history and ownership rights in California, I know it will not be easy to steer in the direction of what makes sense on the basis of science and the greater good. I hope you can endeavor to try.

Thank you,

Cheryl Weiden

[\[1\] http://geosun.sjsu.edu/~sedlock/Uses.Users.pdf](http://geosun.sjsu.edu/~sedlock/Uses.Users.pdf)

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Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

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