

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100



Dear Ms. Townsend:

As the State Water Resource Control Board makes its decision regarding the flow levels for the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta ecosystem, I'd like to encourage the board to heed the recommendations of the 2010 report that 60% of the unimpaired flow is needed to protect the fish and wildlife during the February to June season.

While I will not be able to attend the March 20th meeting in person, I appreciate this opportunity to provide input:

- \* Low water flows concentrate the level of pollutants and salinity
  
- \* The impact on the salmon industry has been crippling (canceled seasons) to say nothing of the role that salmon play in the natural food chain
  
- \* Migratory birds also rely on adequate water in the delta region
  
- \* Robert Glennon's book *Unquenchable* <http://www.amazon.com/Unquenchable-Americas-Water-Crisis-About/dp/159726816X/> and Peter Gleick's Pacific Institute have identified rational approaches to water management that will allow urban needs to be met while preserving our environment. Agricultural use and practice needs to change. We lose too much to inefficient watering practices and crop selection, especially alfalfa.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input, and I hope that you will decide based not purely on who is speaking the loudest (with the available dollars from commercial interest) but also on how you can be a steward of our environment and safeguard this ecosystem for the future.

-Steven Ketchpel, Ph.D.  
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