



Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve

PO Box 991833 Redding, CA 96099-1833

Public Comment
2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Deadline: 3/17/17 12:00 noon

March 13, 2017

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



We would like to comment on the proposed updates to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Our organization is a 501 (c) 3 which began developing a mission statement, recruiting support from other local groups, and partnering with the Bureau of Land Management and Western Shasta Resource Conservation District over 25 years ago. One of our objectives was the restoration and protection of the anadromous fishery in Clear Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River that was negatively impacted by the 1849 Gold Rush and subsequent gravel mining.

Restoration efforts in lower Clear Creek included the removal of the small gold rush era Saeltzer Dam in 2000, channel and floodplain restoration, flow augmentations from Whiskeytown Dam and gravel augmentation. For several years salmon and steelhead populations in this stream grew significantly. Recently their numbers are greatly reduced. Science now indicates multiple hazards are preventing juvenile fish from passing through the Bay-Delta to the Pacific Ocean in numbers needed to sustain themselves.

We are glad you are concerned with the continuing decline of the Bay-Delta ecosystem's health. We like your proposal to increase water and critical flows to provide habitat upstream and migratory signals for threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead. We agree those flows provide healthy water temperatures and habitat that will decrease disease and predation and improve reproductive success, growth and migration. We would like to see enhancement of habitat beneficial to native species and suppression of habitat beneficial to non-native predatory fish.

We believe the salmon play an important role in our environment, providing heart healthy food for us and many animals, birds and insects; and providing the best fertilizer to trees and plants in and near the riparian zone. We believe the recreational salmon fishing in our part of the state and the commercial salmon fishery are an important part of our economy.

We support your proposal to improve the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem with improved flows and habitat.

Thank you,

Cathy Scott, President
Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve