



CITY OF PETALUMA

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David Glass
Mayor

February 9, 2017

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

RE: Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay /
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and Supporting Draft Revised Substitute
Environmental Document

Dear Ms. Townsend:

This is to provide comments on the proposed amendment. Petaluma is located astride the Petaluma River, which is a tidal slough connected to San Pablo Bay. The river and bay have been vital assets to Petaluma from its earliest days, when sailing ships transported local produce to Gold Rush San Francisco.

The proposed Substitute Environmental Document (SED) would require increased flows from three salmon-bearing tributaries to the San Joaquin River: the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced Rivers. We strongly support these increased flow objectives, for the following reasons:

- The mixing of freshwaters from the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers along with our local rivers and streams has historically created a place of rich biological abundance in San Francisco Bay.
- The state's complex system of water movement and use has left the San Francisco Bay a depleted estuary – with nearly 50% of the freshwater it would otherwise receive taken out of the system. Numerous scientific reports have confirmed that critical fresh water flows into San Francisco Bay have been drastically reduced, threatening the survival of fish and wildlife, degrading water quality, and shrinking our beaches and marshlands.
- A healthy San Francisco Bay is vital to the economy of the region. The San Francisco Bay is at the heart of this economic engine, providing great physical beauty while sustaining the resources and lifestyle which have made the region such a desired place to live.

We urge the State Water Board to approve the proposed flow objectives and to move ahead with Phase II and III of the Water Quality Control Plan update in order to increase the annual freshwater contribution from the San Joaquin River and improve conditions in our fresh water-depleted estuary.

Sincerely,

David Glass
Mayor

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