



**Tuolumne River Conservancy, Inc.**

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Emailed March 15, 2017

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

Dear Board:

We request that as you review the Settlement Offer for the Tuolumne River, you require floodplain inundation. Studies show inundation must be a minimum of 10 consecutive days during the months January through June each year. Extended inundation periods are necessary to produce useful nutrient inputs for the fishery. Without substantial floodplain inundation, the potential to restore the fishery is hugely diminished. Although the dam operations frequently require flood releases, the releases are not managed to allow the floodplain to generate food and provide habitat for smolts.

There are two potential floodplain restoration projects that will provide excellent habitat benefits in the spawning reach. Each area requires

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repair from the damages left 50 years ago during the building of New Don Pedro Dam. These two areas total about 65 acres in an important area of the river's floodplain. The Districts should be required to repair the floodplain and river channel damage done during their construction of the dam.

Summer river flows are necessary for the restoration of the steelhead/trout fishery. O. mykiss require good habitat for at least two years before any anadromous behavior manifests. The rivers must have between 400 and 500 cfs for consecutive summers if we expect the fishery to survive into the future. The flows should be managed to keep the river and fishery healthy during the summer months, as well as during the Fall Chinook spawning months.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

David and Allison Boucher  
Project Managers