



Dear State Board

I'm writing as a California salmon fisherman to urge you to adopt the 60 percent of unimpaired springtime San Joaquin River flows previously found necessary to restore viable salmon populations. Your 60 percent finding came after hearing extensive and well-documented testimony from the California Dept. of Fish and Game, The Bay Institute and other credible witnesses.

In recent years the unimpaired flows have been closer to an average of 31 percent meaning that two thirds of the river's flow is intercepted, diverted, and never reaches the delta. No wonder salmon and other wildlife in the river and delta are dying. The San Joaquin River once support an estimated 800,000 spring run salmon before construction of the Friant Dam which cut off access to spawning grounds. You now have the opportunity to take a step towards rectifying that historic wrong. Other users of San Joaquin water have to be considered as you make your decision, but the basic issue is that too much water from the river and its tributaries has been promised to too many people. There are more efficient ways for agriculture, cities and towns to use water so that water can be made available for salmon recovery while still accommodating other users. No matter what, it is critical to Californians that our rivers and wildlife are NOT killed by withdrawal and diversion of too much of the water.

A restored San Joaquin River will provide a very powerful economic shot in the arm to the salmon industry in California. This economic effect would be felt in boat dealerships, marinas, bait and tackle stores, boat repair shops and even hotels and restaurants that service fishermen who come from far and wide to fish salmon. I urge you to adopt your findings from 2010 and require that 60 percent of the river's springtime flow reach the Delta, in order to support restoration of a sustainable salmon population, and to improve the health of the entire delta ecosystem. Thanks for your consideration, please do the right thing for the river, the salmon, and for California.

Thanks for your consideration, Dan Wolford, Science Director, Coastside Fishing Club.