

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA



Dear Ms. Townsend,

As a Coastside Fishing Club member, I was just informed of the mere 1 to 2% increase in water flow back into the San Joaquin River. This is nuts. Your own studies show it should be 60% during the springtime. Working in the environmental consulting business here in California, I see the hoops, the pain and the costs that your department places on private individuals to larger land owners and businesses everyday, but for the San Joaquin River and those that have destroyed large sections of it, your Department does practically nothing. Consider the massive ecosystems destroyed by the drying of this River but yet if someone destroys a one red-legged frog, watch out! And now, the State wants to divert precious water from the Sacramento River and send it south to improve(?) the Delta. Oh sure, maybe splitting the water take from both rivers instead of just one might be better, the problem is that your Department, the Feds and the Operators have no credibility in doing what the law says. Once those massive tunnels are in, the amount of water taken from the Delta would be doubled, no matter what laws or requirements are put upon the operators of those horrific water diverters. Let them in the Central and Southern parts of California get by with the water that Nature has provided them without these massive diversions and by installing smart irrigation systems.

Regarding this 1 to 2% increase in water flow back into the San Joaquin River, you know what I think of that and as a California salmon fisherman can only 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.

I understand that 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.

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 hope this means something to you regulators as this State is in a downward spiral due to its over-regulation and taxes. I am losing a good client who is leaving California because of the new high taxes and the burdens placed upon his business from this over-regulating State. Anyway, 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.

Joseph J. Ambrosino

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