



# MEMORANDUM



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16 March, 2013

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Dear Ms. Townsend:

Competition for our precious California water can only intensify in the coming decade(s), thus identifying "keystone" species is critical. If such species also represent as conspicuous an economic asset as do the **salmon**, all the better. (Or ought we say "so much worse?") Still, for maintaining and restoring the San Joaquin River (and the Bay-Delta Estuary it has sustained), economic arguments will weigh heavier in the Legislature than other appeals to environmental quality and long-term sustainability. Growing **cotton** by diverting annual Valley river-flow (and draining ancient aquifers) is an fine example of sapping California's natural assets for short-term gain.

Allow me to close my simplistic bi-partition/opposition of *salmon—cotton*, by warning that our fluvial assets are precious over the long term in ways we cannot yet fully foretell.

*Luisa Del Giudice*

