
From: Carol Fields <carolmafields@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2018 2:17 PM
To: LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov; WQCP1Comments
Subject: Revised Plan for the Delta (Tributaries---Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers

In gratitude for the SWRBC's efforts to balance conservation, ecosystem and human use of Delta Water, I would like to cast my vote in favor of the flexible increase of unimpeded flows in these tributaries from February through June, (40% or so) with fish survival in mind. I live in Berkeley, have been in the Sierra Club for 50 years, and have an M.S. in Biology, with emphasis on Aquatic Ecology and Animal Behavior. I have rafted the Tuolumne River and have a home at Lake Tahoe. At this point, with the fact of global warming and prospect of drought, as well as the ever-increasing world population (not to mention California's) I am somewhat distraught.

Given the complexity of the Delta ecosystem, and its species, flows, and salt water/fresh water functions, not to mention its uniqueness in the world, we do have the difficult assignment of restoring it and preserving it. Given also an over-development of large-scale agriculture in the state and distribution of water by local "water companies," as well as over-commitment of water rights, the management of this essential resource is greatly complicated.

As is obvious from the SFPUC's avoidance of these issues, apparently having plans for considerable population expansion, and its commitment to past agreements with agricultural regions, there is a severe conflict with ecosystem considerations, or even conservation considerations in our area and in the state as a whole.

It is not too soon at all to plan for the worst case scenario (see Cape Town) through controlling population growth by location, and also agricultural extent (given the concentration of available water in agriculture in California), and utilizing every possible strategy to keep and restore a viable landscape and seascape. This requires critical re-management of a vital resource—utilizing skillful distribution, recycling, conservation, groundwater restoration, AND locating entirely new sources of water (I highly recommend off-shore floating wind platforms, ships for desalination, and temperature-gradient energy production coupled with desalination offshore.)

The elephants in our room are population growth and agricultural extension, plus the terrible wild cards of warming and drought. Planning must not separate increases in development and water management—they are completely intertwined, and the vision has to be statewide and managed statewide.

Thank you for your commitment to utilizing verifiable data ongoing in decision-making. The Bay Delta Plan is key.

Carol Fields
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