

Dear Chair Marcus and State Water Board Members

As a career environmental professional and long term environmental advocate, I was dismayed to learn that at times of the year, portions of the San Joaquin River are completely dry. It is my understanding that this is due in part to the requirement to provide water to senior water right holders and others with contracted allocations for this same water.

None the less, the impact on the entire river ecosystem from these interruptions in flow are devastating. From the macroinvertebrates that form the base of the food chain to the salmonids and their predators at the top of the ecological pyramid - this destroys their life cycle.

In California, water equals life. Not just for the farmers and urban water users who rely on this limited, highly regulated and managed resource - but those who have no voice, the fish and animals that rely on the river and riparian habitat.

As I write, I am camping on the South Fork of the American River. Literally thousands of rafters spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to share this experience. The impact to the local economy is tremendous in a positive way. Please use your Board's
over →

T. Davis W. Blendue © Getty Images



→ To Chair Felicia Maras and Bond

Authority and regulatory agencies to ensure a year-round, base flow for the San Joaquin adequate to sustain a healthy river and bring vitality to this major ecosystem.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely yours,

Drew Hehner
Drew Hehner



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