

From: jessiethefeminist@gmail.com [<mailto:jessiethefeminist@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Jessie Raeder
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 2:21 PM
To: Satkowski, Rich@Waterboards
Cc: will.stelle@klgates.com; Rea, Maria@NOAA; Castleberry, Dan@fws; Dibble, Chad@Wildlife;
Ren.Lohofener@fws.gov; Bonham, Chuck@Wildlife
Subject: Imploring State Water Board members to restore environmental flows

Dear members of the State Water Board,

(please see they receive this message)

I am writing to implore you to restore the environmental flows to the San Francisco Bay-Delta that have recently been reduced due to requests from Agribusiness.

Specifically, I ask you to please:

1. Restore the freshwater flow requirements in Board order D-1641 for March. Ensure that these critical flows are actually provided.
2. Reject new petitions seeking suspension of environmental protections for freshwater flows in March and April.

Please, please, do not preside over an extinction event. My facebook and social media news feeds are full of articles about how we have one year's worth of water left, how the Delta smelt and Chinook salmon are possibly going extinct before our eyes, and still we wait for action from our government. Hard decisions need to be made, and the time is well past. The balance lies in your hands - please do well by history, not by this quarter's earnings.

Six endangered species (and many others) rely on these flows for the very existence. As a citizen of California, I rely on the State Water Board to protect the public trust and the environment at large, and I urge you to fully take on this responsibility. Agribusiness in California is important, but not to this extent. Business owners who have gotten into agriculture in California know that we have periodic droughts, and that is a business risk they knowingly took on. For them to extort our public servants into putting their personal business needs over the interests of everyone else in the state (especially when they are actually a relatively small part of the California economy) is abhorrent and shouldn't be rewarded. Everyone wants water - we understand that California has less than a year's worth left! When do hard decisions get made to cut back on the biggest users? Those decisions are years late. It is not fair, right, or defensible to kill off entire species because they are hard decisions. It's time for a change in California.

From a business sense It's also not fair or defensible to put the interests of agribusiness so far ahead of other business owners. Salmon fishing until recently has been an important part of the economy, and provided better protein and food sources than the almond orchards that are almost exclusively for export and profit.

Right now the farmers (not to mention the rest of us) are having to deal with drought. But due to our current water systems, the fish hardly ever see a wet year. It's tragic, and it's in your hands to fix it. Please, for the sake of what's right, and for the health of our environment and therefor all of us, make the hard decisions that need to be made to protect our state's resources.

Thank you,

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