
From: Shari Schweigler <shari.schweigler@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Water in the Sierra Foothills
To: Tom.Howard@waterboards.ca.gov
Cc: fbigelow@netptc.net, kristin@kristinolsen.org, tcberryhill@yahoo.com, tomlorimcc@comcast.net
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 2:22 PM State Water Resources Board Tom Howard, Director
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Howard,

I am appealing to you to consider the petition for changing the water releases from New Melones reservoir, planned for this summer. I understand that one occurred about a week ago. My home is in Copperopolis, and my water source is Spicer Lake. However, the water in Spicer is transported to me via a system that includes Melones and Tulloch reservoirs. Lowering the water in Tulloch especially threatens my ability to have any water reach my house, due to the depth needed for pumps to operate.

My household has been conserving water over the last two years we have lived in the Foothills, and now there is going to be more mandatory control that will require we use even less. We pay over \$100 a month just for the right to have an allotment of water, whether we use it or not.

It is hard not to resent the release of water from our reservoirs during severe drought when that water is simply flowing into the ocean with no human use, except perhaps catching fish to eat.

Of course, I am in favor of having a balanced environment, with wildlife enjoying an optimal habitat. However, the positive effect of these pulse flows is debatable relative to fish behavior and population. Admittedly, human life has encroached on nature's bounty, and humans should try to mitigate the damage caused by their building of roads and dams and homes, etc. I am wondering why the State Water Resources agency allowed humans to populate this area if its intent was to sacrifice human life for animal life. This board should have acted long ago to prevent the conflict we now have between people and wildlife, but since it did not, you are now in the position of needing to consider the people affected by your actions.

I understand this petition for change of procedure this summer will not solve this conflict, not to mention not solving our need for rain and snow. However, it is literally the LEAST YOU CAN DO to address a problem many years in the making with a brief respite while we work on a longer term solution.

Sincerely,
Sharon Schweigler
1776 Oak Creek Drive
Copperopolis, CA 95228
209-785-5694