



To: State Water Resources Control Board

I strenuously object to the Water Board's SED that would require 35% of our irrigation water to flow down the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus rivers each spring. There is absolutely no evidence that such an action would help salmon and smelt. There is only supposition and wishful thinking. What is known to an absolute, scientific certainty is that the presence of 25-some non-native fish species in the delta and its tributaries is a primary effector in reducing the population of endangered fish. No amount of flushing water is going to make predators like striped bass go away. Their population needs to be reduced. The board needs to instruct the Department of Fish and Game to remove all size and bag limits of all species of fish in our rivers and delta that are known predators of salmon and smelt.

What is also know beyond any reasonable doubt is that such a drastic taking of water will have huge adverse effects on our agriculture and our ability to generate hydropower when it is most needed. This will raise unemployment rates in an area that is still suffering from the great recession. Reduction of irrigated acreage will have a ripple effect through our whole economy. Electricity customers will see their rates jump. Ground water pumping will accelerate.

So in the end, we have numerous known negatives resulting from implementation of this proposal but only one supposition, with no basis in fact, that it may help fish. The board must not "experiment" with the lives of the people of this area on the basis of suppositions.

I strongly urge the Board to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jim Peck

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