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Assembly California Legislature



KRISTIN OLSEN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWELFTH DISTRICT

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ACCOUNTABILITY & ADMINISTRATIVE
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March 18, 2013

Mr. Charles R. Hoppin, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812



RE: Proposed 35 Percent Unimpaired Flow

Dear Chair Hoppin,

I urge the State Water Resource Control Board to reconsider its proposal to dedicate 35 percent unimpaired flow for fish and wildlife because it will devastate the communities that I represent.

My district has some of the highest unemployment in the state where San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties have over 14 percent unemployment. Reduction in water deliveries could force farmers to fallow 128,000 acres, costing over 1,200 jobs.

The Board's proposal would also adversely impact hydropower production by taking water from reservoirs during the Spring which would leave less water available in the Summer when it's critically needed to irrigate crops and take pressure off the State's power grid. As a result, electricity rates would increase for thousands of struggling families in the Central Valley.

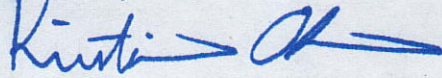
Probably the greatest concern, though, is that the plan that is not supported by any evidence or sound science that show it will help restore the Delta's native fisheries. Please rethink the approach you have advocated and develop a plan that works to the mutual benefit of the region rather than one based on faulty science.

Finally, the proposal conflicts with the Delta Stewardship Council's coequal goals of establishing a more reliable water supply and restoring the Delta ecosystem.

I urge you to thoroughly analyze the multiple non-flow alternatives that exist before adopting a requirement for 35 percent unimpaired flows. I can be reached at 916-319-2012 if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristin Olsen", followed by a stylized flourish.

Kristin Olsen
Assemblymember, 12th District