



July 27, 2018

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
 State Water Resources Control Board
 1001 I Street 14th Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Marcus and Board Members:

Those signing this letter want to thank you, your fellow Board members and the Board's staff for

years of hard work to update the Bay-Delta Plan and to increase river flows for the environment and to help recover Central Valley salmon and other listed and non listed species. Although progress is years overdue, it's nonetheless much needed and appreciated.. Salmon, smelt, sturgeon, steelhead, Southern orca and many other native species are all fighting a losing battle under the current flow regime, which was adopted more than 20 years ago. We urge you to take prompt action to adopt and implement improved flow requirements on the Lower San Joaquin River. Urgent action and continued focus on these issues is needed to stem this unfolding environmental disaster.

We represent the stakeholder businesses and organizations of the California salmon industry, including wholesalers, tackle retailers, commercial fishermen, charter boat captains, river guides, fishing and boating equipment manufacturers, fish processors, trade associations like GGSA, GGFA, ASA and PCFFA, fishing clubs, seafood restaurants, seafood retail markets, ports and marinas and many more who form this industry's infrastructure. When it is operating, the California salmon industry supports 23,000 jobs and \$1.4 billion in economic benefits to the state. It also supports comparable numbers in Oregon and Washington.

We strongly support your prompt adoption of scientifically and legally adequate flow standards for the lower San Joaquin River and tributaries. Given the extremely perilous state of salmon runs and other species, it is imperative that the Board issue robust flow standards that will restore salmon and adopt them as soon as possible.

We also urge you to move forward ASAP with the Phase 2 flow improvements announced in your July 2018 Framework for the Sacramento/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan.

The four Central Valley Chinook salmon populations have all exhibited serious population declines over the past four decades. The only improvements have come when there were wet winters and strong river flows. In 2002, 793,036 Wild Chinook salmon returned to spawn in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries. By 2017, that count was only 49,500 wild spawners. Two of these runs are already listed under the ESA.

In 2017, all four of the Central Valley Chinook runs hit dangerous lows in returning wild adult spawners. Each of these wild Chinook salmon runs in the Central Valley were at or near record lows. The following table shows 2017 wild spawning counts, the recorded high wild spawning count for each run since 1974 and the percent decline from this high point:

Run	Status	2017	High Since 1974 (Year)	% Decline
Winter-run	ESA Listed	975 fish	35,596 (1975-76)	97%
Spring-Run	ESA listed	1,105 fish	25,980 (1982)	96%
Fall-Run	Not listed	44,242 fish	766,668 (2002)	94%
Late-Fall-Run	Not listed	3,178 fish	39,340 (1997-98)	92%

This ongoing decline, with each of these runs having declined by 92% or more, clearly shows that current requirements have failed to protect this public trust and beneficial use.

In 1992, Congress passed the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. \$50 million in annual funding was provided for salmon and waterfowl improvements and a target was set to double the wild spawning Chinook salmon population to 996,000 annual returns by 2002. The State Board has adopted an identical salmon doubling requirement for the Bay-Delta.

The table below summarizes wild spawning totals ten, twenty and twenty five years after the passage of the CVPIA, in comparison with the doubling goal. Rather than a trend toward a rebuilt population, the trend has been toward collapse. This represents a complete failure in meeting the doubling objective.

<u>Wild spawner doubling target set by Congress</u>	<u>996,000</u>	<u>Returns</u>
Returns in 2002 ten years after legislation	795,036	19% below the target
Returns in 2012 twenty years after legislation	224,141	77% below the target
Returns in 2017 twenty five years after legislation	49,500	95% below the target

Business as usual is not working. All of the science to date, and the Board's own findings, show that impaired flows are the #1 cause of this decline, by a wide margin. (Rebounding populations on other West Coast rivers also show that this decline is not the result of drought or ocean conditions.) In most years, as a result of excessive diversions, Central Valley rivers and streams do not support healthy native salmon runs. This problem is particularly acute on the San Joaquin River and its tributaries. Dramatic improvements are needed. Increased flows would make immediate and lasting positive changes.

Other factors, such as loss of floodplain rearing habitat and predation also affect salmon populations, however, losses from these factors are dramatically worsened by impaired flows.

The fate of the Central Valley Chinook salmon is in your hands. We urge you to adopt, as soon as possible, improved flow standards for the San Joaquin River and its tributaries. We also urge you to promptly move forward with flow improvements for the Sacramento River and the Delta, as described in your July 6 Phase 2 Framework.

Yours Truly,

Representatives and Supporters of the California Salmon Industry:

- cc. Fish agency managers
- California legislative leaders

	A	B	C	D	E
1	FIRST	LAST	BUSINESS	CITY	STATE
2	Tony	Amato	Salmon Trout Steelheader	Portland	OR
3	Mike	Augney	USA Fishing	Petaluma	CA
4	Dan	Bacher	The Fish Sniffer	Sacramento	CA
5	Rich	Basch	Ollie Damon's Rod & Reel Rep	Portland	OR
6	Rob	Bignail	Its All Good Guide Svc	Sherwood	OR
7	Dave	Bitts	PCFFA & F/V Elmarue	Mckinleyville	CA
8	Mike	Bogue	Mike Bogue's Guide Service	Oak Run	CA
9	Joe	Brennan	O'loughlin Trade Shows	Portland	OR
10	Harry	Bresnahan	Harry Bresnahan's Guide Svc	Woodland	WA
11	Kyle	Buchanan	Beau Mac Enterprises	Sumner	WA
12	Michael	Coats	Coats Public Relations	Sonoma	CA
13	Gary	Coe	Kokanee Power	Folsom	CA
14	Hunt	Conrad	Wells Fargo	Healdsburg	CA
15	Tom	Creedon	Scomas Seafood	San Francisco	CA
16	Joe	Donatini	Johnson Hicks Marine	Santa Cruz	CA
17	Kurt	Englund	Englund Marine & Industrial	Astoria	OR
18	Dick	Figgins	Dick Nite Spoons	Lake Stevens	WA
19	Dean	Fleck	Englund Marine & Industrial	Newport	OR
20	Lalo	Flores	Applied Technologies	Fairfield	CA
21	Tom	Fote	Jersey Coast Anglers Assn	Toms River	NJ
22	Todd	Fraser	Bayside Marine	Santa Cruz	CA
23	Frank	Gee	F/V Ocean Gale	San Francisco	CA
24	Marc	Gorelnik	Coastside Fishing Club	San Francisco	CA
25	Roy	Gray	Roy Gray & Associates	Auburn	CA
26	Jeremy	Grimes	Fisherman's Friend	Lodi	CA
27	Steve	Grutbo	Smokehouse Products	Hood River	OR
28	Scott	Gudes	American Sportfishing Assn.	Fairfax	VA
29	Bart	Hall	The Fred Hall Shows	Camarillo	CA
30	Liz	Hamilton	Northwest Sportfishing Indust.	Oregon City	OR
31	Tom	Hester	Poulsen Cascade Tackle	Portland ?	OR
32	Ron	Hiller	Active Outdoors	Tigard	OR
33	Chuck	Hose	Chuck Hose and Assoc.	Vancouver	WA
34	David	Hurley	USA Fishing	Stockton	CA
35	Paul	Johnson	Monterey Fish Market	San Francisco	CA
36	Cat	Kaiser	Golden Gate Salmon Assoc.	Santa Rosa	CA
37	Bill	Karr	Western Outdoor News	Galt	CA
38	John	Kirk	International Sports Expos	Vancouver	WA
39	John	Koeppen	F/V Lulu	Cupertino	CA
40	George	Krumm	Fish Alaska Magazine	Oregon City	OR
41	Sunny	Lampre	Sunny's Electric Marine	Sacramento	CA
42	Doug	Lasko	Okuma Fishing Tackle	Ontario	CA
43	Brian	Layng	International Sports Expos	Vancouver	WA

	A	B	C	D	E
44	Jonah	Li	Hi's Tackle Box	S San Francisco	CA
45	Robert	Maharry	F/V Maureen	Los Osos	CA
46	Jim	Martin	Ret Chief Oregon Fish Wildlife	Mulino	OR
47	Tom	Mattusch	Huli Cat Charters	Half Moon Bay	CA
48	Dan	Mcdonald	Yakima Bait	Granger	WA
49	Adam	Messner	Yard Zen	San Rafael	CA
50	Gabe	Miller	Sportco & Outdoor Emporium	Fife And Seattle	WS
51	Phil	Morlock	Shimano North America	Whitney	ON
52	Barry	Nelson	Western Water Strategies	Berkley	CA
53	Don	Newman	Pline	Millbrae	CA
54	Bill	O'loughlin	O'loughlin Trade Shows	Portland	OR
55	Noah	Oppenheim	PCFFA	San Francisco	CA
56	Dan	Parnel	Leisure Sales	Auburn	WA
57	Jim	Pepper	F/V Westerly	Half Moon Bay	CA
58	Randy	Repass	Founder - West Marine	Wilsonville	CA
59	Victor	Rosasco	Water4fish	Stockton	CA
60	Jim	Salter	F/V Westerly	Half Moon Bay	CA
61	Zach	Schoonover	Maxima Fishing Line	Hillsboro	OR
62	Bill	Shedd	Aftco Mfg. Co. Inc.	Irvine	CA
63	Caleen	Sisk	Chief - Winneman Wintu Tribe	Redding	CA
64	Brad	Staples	Western Fishing Adventures	West Linn	OR
65	Jim	Stewart	Ironwood Pacific Outdoors	Tigard	OR
66	Bill	Wells	California Delta Chamber	Rio Vista	CA
67	Ted	Wilson	Fine and Rare Restaurant	San Fransco	CA
68	Chad	Woods	Norcal Fish Reports	Reno	NV
69	David	Zeff	Zefflaw Attorneys	San Francisco	CA
70	Gary	Zurn	Big Rock Sports	Morehead City	NC