

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL



May 23, 2020

SFPUC
525 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Encouraging the SFPUC to request the State Water Quality Control Board re-start the up-date to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International, and our 21 member fly fishing clubs, and more than 7,000 members. All of our members recreate in and throughout the Bay-Delta watershed and its tributary river systems. Approximately 40% of our membership live in the areas served by member agencies of the SFPUC, and fully 100% recreate in your watersheds. We are concerned about the continuing declines in populations of fish species, as well as declines in the healthful conditions for both wildlife and people in the Bay-Delta Watershed, including San Francisco Bay.

As you know the State Water Quality Control Board has been working to up-date the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control plan to improve both the health of the Bay-Delta as well as provide improved conditions to recover both ESA and CESA listed fish species. This effort has been on hold for the past 18 months awaiting progress in the Voluntary Agreement effort to improve water flows and health of the watershed. To date, there has been little progress. It's time to get back to a science-based effort to improve water quality and our fisheries.

We are requesting that the SFPUC send a letter to the State Water Board, with copy to the Governor, requesting the Board to re-start its work on Phase II of the Bay-Delta Water Plan Up-Date. It is critical that the State develop water flow requirements for the Sacramento River watershed and resultant Delta outflows to improve the health of the Bay-Delta. It is Delta outflows that partially determine the health of San Francisco Bay, as these flows create circulation within San Francisco Bay that keeps the Bay healthy. Without these flows the San Francisco aquatic environment will continue to struggle and negatively impact the lives of families living within the SFPUC region.

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FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL
Conserving - Restoring - Educating Through Fly Fishing

We recognize there are challenges based upon the likelihood of less availability of water from the Tuolumne River, but we also know your constituency is fully open to added conservation efforts to allow recovery of our environmental assets. In a survey done in 2018 by the Social Science Research Center, It was overwhelmingly clear the people of San Francisco supported water conservation to help the environment (71% of respondents). Here's a link to that report: <https://www.tuolumne.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/1805-SFV-Final-Report-PDF-06-29-18.pdf>

The people of the Bay Area are fully desire a balance between water for people and a healthy environment. Many of them recreate annually in the system, be it boating, fishing, camping or a second home in one of the watersheds of the system. We believe your constituents would be very happy to know that the SFPUC is taking a holistic approach to managing their water. Your actions can send a signal to everyone that you understand a healthy society means caring for and protecting the watershed you use to service your communities.

Thanks you in advance for the letter.

Sincerely,



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