Letter to State Water Resources Control Board Regarding
California's Failure to Update Bay-Delta Water Quality Standards

Acterra Action for a Healthy Planet
Alameda Creek Alliance
American Cetacean Society San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
American Rivers Thriving By Nature
American Whitewater
AquAlliance Defending Northern California Waters
ARTA river trips
APSARA Asian Pacific Self-development And Residential Association
Battle Creek Alliance
Bay Nature
The Bay Institute
Buena Vista Audubon A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
Butte Environmental Council
California Canoe & Kayak
California Delta Chambers & Visitors Bureau
CA Save Our Streams Council
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance CSPA Since 1983
Calif. Striped Bass Assoc.
California Student Sustainability Coalition
california water impact network
Californians for Alternatives to Toxics
CPR Californians For Pesticide Reform
Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton Help for Today...Hope for Tomorrow
Center for Biological Diversity Because life is good.
Central Coast Salmon Enhancement Healthy Fish Healthy Watersheds Healthy Communities
Central Sierra Audubon Society
CSERC
Central Valley Bird Club
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
Clavey Paddlesports
Clean Water Action
Coast Action Group An affiliate of the Redwood Coast Watersheds Alliance
Concerned Citizens Coalition of Stockton CCCoS
Courage Campaign
Current Adventures Kayak School and Trips
Defenders of Wildlife
Delta Boat Works
Delta Fly Fishers, Inc Stockton, Ca
Desal Response Group
The Downtown Comeback Club of Stockton
earth Law Center Fighting for Nature's Rights
EarthJustice
East County Student Anglers High School Fishing Club
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch A Forest & Watershed Coalition
EcoRights
EHL
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment Now Action. Results. Change.
Environmental Justice Coalition For Water
epic
Environmental Water Caucus
Fish Revolution 2012
The Fish Sniffer Newspaper
Fishery Foundation of California
Fly Fishers of Davis www.flyfishersofdavis.org
Flycasters San Jose, CA
food&waterwatch
Foothill Conservancy 25 years www.foothillconservancy.org 1990-2015

Friends of the North Fork American River

Local Agencies of the North Delta

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Wishtoyo

WORTH A DAM
MARTINEZBEAVERS.ORG

April 5, 2016

Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RE: ADOPT NEW BAY-DELTA STANDARDS IN NEXT 12-21 MONTHS

Dear Chairwoman Marcus:

Our organizations are writing to urge the State Water Resources Control Board to complete its update of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and adopt new water quality standards in the next twelve to twenty-one months.

There is no dispute in the scientific or resource management communities that the current water quality standards are failing to protect fish and wildlife and other beneficial uses of the estuary's water. The record is strong and clear that insufficient freshwater flows and inadequate water quality are primary drivers of the long-term degradation of ecological conditions for the public trust resources of the Bay-Delta estuary, and this state of affairs is only growing worse. The decline of pelagic organisms that was first detected in the early 2000s has accelerated, with many native fish species at record or near-record low population levels in recent surveys.

Yet the Board has not substantively or comprehensively updated the current water quality standards for the Bay-Delta estuary since 1995. The Board initiated its current review of the standards in 2009, but six years later has yet to adopt any amendments to the WQCP. Instead of adopting new protections, in fact, the Board relaxed standards over the last two years, completely devastating several year classes of multiple Chinook salmon runs, risking extinction of some native fish species, and causing significant injury to other fish and wildlife beneficial uses. Recently, the Board again revised its schedule for completing the WQCP update, this latest delay to mid-2018.

The Board is required under federal and state law to review the WQCP every three years. The latest delay would in essence start the 3-year clock ticking again, after six years of work. Water quality conditions in the estuary are simply too urgent to allow for such a delay. There is more than enough information available for the Board to adopt scientifically justified, more protective new standards in the next twelve to twenty-one months. We are united in urging you to take the information before you and make a decision as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

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