



## **It's Been Another Tough Year in the Trenches in the Fight for Our Fishes and Clean Water. We've had notable successes, but we need your support now to keep up the Fight.**

In 2019, CSPA was a leader on multiple fronts in the fight for California's fisheries, habitat and water quality. It's been an especially tough year in the fight with the increased attacks on California's environmental laws from the Trump Administration. We are concerned about Governor Newsom's mild response to protect our waters and fish. Here are a few of our successes and the things we've worked hard to achieve in 2019.

- 1. CSPA won a major decision in a 2011 lawsuit against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority.** Selenium, salts, sulfates, mercury and other pollutants from California's Central Valley farmland were being discharged the San Joaquin River, the Bay-Delta Estuary, and ultimately San Francisco Bay. A Clean Water Act discharge permit is now required for the Project.
- 2. WaterFix Version 1 - the "Twin Tunnels" - officially died this year. CSPA's staff, volunteers, and attorneys spent over a hundred days of water rights hearings before the State Water Board, spread over more than two years, and also spent thousands of hours of work on the litigation.** Our outnumbered, outspent and outgunned team beat back a much stronger adversary - for the moment. CSPA fully expects that it will be back at the State Water Board fighting a Tunnel Lite soon.
- 3. CSPA continued its public trust, pattern and practice lawsuit against the State Water Board for not balancing the public trust and for failing to enforce water quality, flow, and temperature standards during the 2014-2015 drought.** Trial begins in May 2020.
- 4. A key section of the federal Clean Water Act is under attack. CSPA is working hard to defend Section 401 of the Clean Water Act as it applies to licensing hydropower projects.** As a member of the California Hydropower Reform Coalition, CSPA submitted extensive comments in opposition to the release by Trump's Environmental Protection Agency of a new Proposed Rule that would roll back key protections for water quality as required in state law and as affirmed in numerous Supreme Court decisions.
- 5. CSPA submitted joint comments on the Bureau of Reclamation's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project.** CSPA is now preparing comments on the Department of Water Resources' Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Long-Term Operation of the State Water Project. Both documents propose to weaken fishery and environmental protections so that the Reclamation and DWR can increase water exports out of an already severely degraded Delta ecosystem.

6. **CSPA perseveres as a lead advocate to fight for much needed higher flows and habitat restoration for the Tuolumne River.** CSPA was the primary author on the Conservation Groups' comments on the inadequate Draft EIS for the Don Pedro and La Grange Dam licensings on the Tuolumne River. We also participated in meetings with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to seek innovative solutions for increased flows to benefit native salmon and steelhead.
7. **CSPA and allies filed a lawsuit to challenge the California State Water Resources Control Board's adoption of Bay-Delta Plan Amendments that set flow and salinity objectives for the lower San Joaquin River and the southern Delta, as well as the associated environmental document.** The complaint states that these actions by the State Water Board violate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Clean Water Act, the Porter Cologne Act and the Public Trust Doctrine.
8. **During 2019, our California Fisheries Blog published nearly 50 articles covering a broad range of critically important topics concerning the current state of California's pelagic and anadromous fish and their habitats.** These timely and technical articles are often referenced by others as they provide an alert to serious problems within the state's fishery and water management operations.

But there is so much more to do.

**Help CSPA protect California's fish. Help CSPA defend California's environmental laws against the Trump Administration's attacks. Help CSPA continue its leading work on regulatory processes, legal action and technical analyses.**

**Please make a generous tax-deductible [donation](#) to CSPA today.**

Yours in the trenches,



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