



NEWS RELEASE: Counties Applaud State Water Board Actions

Revision of Sacramento River Temperature Plan is Vital for Delta/Bay Area Interests

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County officials throughout the bay area are applauding the State Water Resources Control Board's decision to suspend a temperature management plan for the Sacramento River. The Bureau of Reclamation's plan to relax Delta outflow standards was causing further stress to threatened and endangered species already in additional jeopardy because of the drought.

Supervisors from Contra Costa, San Francisco and San Mateo had urged the Board two weeks ago to reconsider its approval of the plan and act with utmost caution to avoid the catastrophic losses to endangered salmon that occurred in 2014.

Contra Costa County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho acknowledged the Board is in a difficult spot with many competing interests. "We are grateful for the State Water Resources Control Board's decision to provide a greater margin of safety in the temperature management plan for endangered salmon on the Sacramento River," noted Piepho. "It is gratifying that bay area voices were heard, despite significant pressure from other stakeholders with their own community needs."

San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine agreed that the dangers of the proposed temperature plan were too risky. "We must avoid high Sacramento River temperatures this summer and fail to protect endangered Chinook salmon," said Pine. "The State Water Resources Control Board's decision to suspend the Bureau of Reclamation's temperature management plan is an important step towards achieving this goal."

San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener commended the Board for the quick response. "I applaud the State Water Resources Control Board for recognizing the need for immediate action in regard to protecting endangered salmon at this critical juncture," said Wiener. "All sectors of California's economy are impacted by this historic drought, but with the loss of last year's salmon runs, the threat to the viability of our fishing industry is imminent."

Friends of the San Francisco Estuary has been closely watching the developments, and Board of Directors President Barbara Salzman was equally pleased with the quick decision made to suspend the plan pending further analysis. "These salmon runs, and the other species that will benefit from revisions to this plan, are integral to the economic and ecological fabric of the Bay-Delta Estuary," added Salzman. "We cannot afford a second year of catastrophic losses to this valuable resource."

The State Board will be working with the Bureau of Reclamation and other agencies to update the temperature management plan in light of the shift in direction. The suspension of the plan was announced Friday; the Board met Tuesday to hear reports from the Bureau of Reclamation and impacted parties, and will continue efforts to develop a better plan with a greater margin of safety to protect endangered salmon and other species.