

Dear Staff,

The Delta food chain is severely broken, and increasing water exports should not occur until the habitat's conditions are better understood, and the fish counts have returned to sufficient levels. Delta populations of important plankton and shrimp that help fuel the food web and drive the system's ecology have disappeared, as have many other important species including Delta smelt, longfin smelt, threadfin shad, and young-of-the-year striped bass. Recently the Dept of Fish and Game has sounded the alarm over a dramatic drop in the sturgeon population. Several factors may possibly be at play here, but everyone agrees and understands that increased water export rates at this time will cause additional and possibly irreversible damage to this great Estuary.

Even the DWR's own recently released Bulletin 160 clearly demonstrates that the state's water needs will be met for at least the next decade with the existing water infrastructure. There is no water crisis to justify the destruction of the Delta. The health of our Delta and fisheries is truly at stake here, and we should not increase water exports and risk irreversible damage to an already broken habitat.

Sincerely,
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