

# SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY



September 14, 2015

FESSRO  
Floodway Ecosystem Sustainability Branch  
P. O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: CVFPP Conservation Strategy Comments

Dear Ms. Ceppello:

The Solano County Water Agency thanks the Department of Water Resources for the opportunity to comment on the CVFPP Draft Conservation Strategy. While the Agency understands the intent, goals and objectives of the process, we support the comments provided by the Lower Sacramento-Delta North Region Project Delivery Team. The Inundation Floodplain objective is of particular concern to the Agency and its water users.

The Solano County Water Agency is a contractor of the State Water Project. We rely on the North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) as an integral portion of our total regional drinking water supply for the Solano Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, Vacaville, and Vallejo. The NBA also serves Napa Cities too. The intake to the NBA, the Barker Slough Pumping Plant (BSPP), is located in the Cache Slough Complex. Reclamation District 2068 also has water intakes throughout the Complex. Flow down the Yolo Bypass makes its way past the Cache Slough Complex and portions of which finds its way up into the Complex and Barker Slough. Increased presence of endangered species such as juvenile salmonids through the Yolo Bypass increases the risk of their attraction to BSPP.

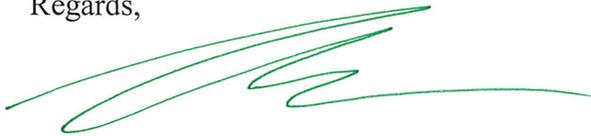
The Inundated Floodplain objective is defined as: Sustaining inundation for 14 days or longer between late November and late April (May?) to benefit anadromous fish. The largest numbers of juvenile salmon (regardless of run) enter the Yolo Bypass in December-March, with numbers dropping through March, depending on the interactions among flow and salmon numbers. The benefits to juvenile salmon associated with inundating floodplains in April and May are substantially reduced when compared to the December-March time period due to the relatively low number of juveniles in the Sacramento River during these months and the higher water temperatures within the floodplain areas. Also, the floodplain inundation impacts on the agricultural economy are greatest in April and May when farmers are preparing fields for planting.



Coincidentally, diversions at the BSPP are currently lowest from January through March due to reduced demands and poor water quality in Barker Slough during wet conditions. Farmers in Cache Slough also typically begin ramping up their water diversions by April 1. Establishing a core floodplain inundation window from December through March would balance the co-equal objectives between water supply reliability and species enhancement. If the need for the “shoulder” months of November and April is supported by scientific justification, then an adaptive implementation process based on real-time conditions and consideration of and collaboration with local water supply needs could provide a compromise.

As a State Water Contractor to the Department, we hope that you will give these comments serious consideration in achieving a multi-beneficial outcome in balancing the Department’s competing missions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a cursive representation of the name Thomas L. Pate.

Thomas L. Pate, PE  
District Engineer

Cc:

- 1- LSDN PDT
- 2- Mike Mierzwa