



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLIX

Number 5

May 2024

Randall Baxter, Editor

Stockton, California

Calendar

May 8, DFF General meeting, John R. Williams School. No speaker info yet. 6:30pm

May 10-12, Women's outreach weekend and summer events. Pg 1-2

May 11, One fly contest, White Pines Res. Pg 4

May 15, Board of Directors Meeting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr, 6:30.

May 22, Open fly tying and casting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr. Pg 8



Wulffies' upcoming events

By Amy Terra

2024 has been a fun year so far for the Wulffies. We have roped in large bass, honed our casting skills, tied knots and leaders, cleaned and prepped our gear, organized our flies. I dare say, this has been our best spring yet and it is due to the amazing fish-meistering of Nancy, Mary M., Brenda and Dena. The plans for the rest of the year provide more opportunities for fun, fellowship and fishing- Check out the activities scheduled for the next few months for our women;s group!

May 10-12- One Fly Weekend hosted by Dena

Spend the weekend relaxing in Dena's cabin and exploring local waters including the One Fly Contest location at White Pines. Stay in Dena's cabin and enjoy community style meals and local restaurants. Friday evening fishing is always an option or just hang out at Dena's and enjoy the view from the deck or sit by the fire.

Saturday we will all participate in the One Fly Contest so bring a flotation device and a PFD and gear to fish the local White Pines Lake. Lunch is included with your entry fee. After the contest awards are handed out, there is usually a little shopping in downtown Arnold.

If time and energy allow, Sunday morning can bring more local fishing opportunities. Contact Amy for more information at 209-329-4801. Lodging open to club members and previous Wulffie participants. 2024 waiver required. 2024 fishing license required. There is a fee for the One Fly Contest with proceeds going to a local fundraiser. PFD's are required. Let Amy know if you need any gear.

Find DFF online at

<https://www.deltaflyfishers.com>

And on Face Book at

<https://www.facebook.com/Delta-Fly-Fishers-Inc-265097290192284/>

Continued Pg 2

June 24th- Watercraft Safety hosted by Nancy and Brenda

This is an opportunity to become familiar with your float tube, pontoon, kayak or boat or try out a few on hand to decide what you want to buy for yourself. Dena will add safety lines to vessels and go through getting in and out of flotation devices as well as fishing tips once in your float tube, pontoon or kayak. We will fish for local bluegill and bass and have lunch too! PFD's required. 2024 fishing license required and Dff waiver. There is an entry fee to enter Rancho Seco Park.

July 10th- Smallmouth Bass outing with Bryce

This is a perfect outing for a newer angler. Short casts and topwater blowups on the Delta with Captain Bryce Tedford. There will be room for 4 anglers. Two get breakfast and a half day outing and two will get lunch and the second half of the day. This is a fun and relaxed day where you will have lots of opportunities to hook some fish! Call Amy at 209-329-4801 to sign up. The fee is \$100 per angler for either a morning or afternoon mini session with Captain Bryce. Breakfast will be provided to the morning anglers and lunch for the afternoon anglers. This outing is highly recommended for anglers of all skill levels and is very beginner angler/caster friendly! Ca fishing license required.

Late July/Early August- Tenkara on Clark's Fork hosted by Dena

Our own queen of Tenkara will lead us on an outing to Clark's Fork where Dena will lay out her collection of Tenkara style rods for everyone to try. More info to come!

August 22-25- Yosemite hosted by Mary M.

Let's repeat the fun we had last year with Bryant from Eco Adventures. This outing will involve a guide fee of \$200 for a full day of guiding on Saturday, August 24th including personalized lunch, gear as needed and transportation. This is one of our most popular women's outings and we have space for 8 participants with 3 spots already filled. **Contact Mary at 209-598-4856 for more information or to sign up.** There is also a lodging option for an additional fee- just ask Mary about it. The non-guided days we will explore local waterways we have fished in the past by traveling in pairs or small groups. 2024 DFF waiver and current fishing license required. Open to any interested female angler regardless of club affiliation or experience. Remember that all Wulffie activities are open to any interested female angler regardless of club affiliation or angling experience. Don't hesitate if you don't have gear. We have lots of loaner items. Signing a DFF waiver is a requirement.

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Staying Connected to DFF

By Bob Fujimura

Our club is undergoing transition due to a few key officers leaving their positions and the temporary loss of our normal activities or communications. These changes are inevitable for any institution. But in the short term, these changes will be challenging for old and new members to stay in touch with our membership and its activities. We offer these tips to keep informed about upcoming club outings and events.

The Newsletter – Our monthly newsletter is a good resource for detailed information on upcoming outings and events within 30 to 60 days of publication. Contact our Editor Randy Baxter about getting on the club’s newsletter circulation list. The newsletter is usually sent by email to our club’s membership and interested parties within a few days after the first of the month. You can also download the latest issue of the newsletter from the club’s website.

The Club’s Website - <https://deltaflyfishers.com/>
Our website is a wealth of information on our club and its functions and activities. Its home page contains a quick description of upcoming events, recent communications such as the newsletter and email announcements, membership resources, and other information. For those interested in the women’s group, the Women on the Water page has a complete listing of Wufflies events and their descriptions.

Email Announcements – Although only a slight majority of our membership actively monitors their email accounts, direct email announcements are an important way to keep informed on recent events, activities, and updates. Typically, your email address is one of the contact pieces of information required to be registered as a club member. However, you can update your active email address online through the newsletter page on our website or contacting Bob Fujimura (email: deltaflyfishers@gmail.com). If you don’t

monitor your email, you can read the most recent announcement by viewing the above page online.

Our Facebook Page – Although our Facebook provides daily postings of a wide range of articles or news related to the sport of fly fishing, its Events Section has a good listing of upcoming club events. Often, it can post recent photos or brief reports of some club outings.

Our Monthly General and Board Meetings – Lastly, our monthly meetings can be another way to learn about the upcoming events and outings. Often, you can get more relevant information by questioning the event organizers or outing host. You can learn more about past club outings and personal fishing reports at these meetings. These meetings also allow you to network with other members and socialize with your friends.



One Fly Contest, May 11

By Bob Fujimura

Last call to RSVP for one of the biggest fishing outings of the year. Join 17 DFF members and guests in this annual fishing competition with the Calaveras Fly Fishers (CFF) on the morning of Saturday May 11. If you are coming, please contact Bob Fujimura (deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) by May 7 so CFF can order enough food for the best tri-tip sandwich lunch.

Attendees will try to win the two annual prizes: the most trout caught, or the biggest fish caught with a single fly. Your entry fee of \$25 helps a local scholarship fund. If you are an advanced fisher, you can help retain one of the awards for our club. Most of the details of this event can be found reading the official announcement and rule by clicking this link: [https://](https://mcusercon-)
mcusercon-



[tent.com/110dbe1f46cf9ff647fd6ffc1/files/edd7ad1c-1038-47cd-83cd-fd03a8faad6d/2024_One_Fly_Contest_Rules.pdf](https://mcusercon-tent.com/110dbe1f46cf9ff647fd6ffc1/files/edd7ad1c-1038-47cd-83cd-fd03a8faad6d/2024_One_Fly_Contest_Rules.pdf).

In summary, the registration and contest fee are paid prior to the start of the contest between 7:30 and 8:30 am. The contest starts at 9:00 and ends at 1:00 pm. Afterwards, CFF will host their famous BBQ tri-tip sandwich lunch. During the lunch, the winners of the biggest fish and most trout caught award will be announced and recognized.

DFF participants must have a 2023-2024 liability waiver on file with the club's Secretary and use a personal floatation device if they fish from a personal watercraft. Bob can also provide infor-

mation on directions and suggested fly fishing gear and flies on request.

White Pines Lake is near the town of Arnold just off Hwy 4 and is a small and beautiful lake. No power boats are allowed, there is free public access, and the park is well maintained by local volunteers. The lake is relatively safe to learn how to fly fish from a personal watercraft. Typically, CFF arranges a special delivery of hatchery trout prior to this event. As of this week (April 28) CDFW has scheduled a routine trout stocking. In addition, the lake has a nice population of wild trout and warmwater species of bass and sunfish.

The entry fee also includes coffee and donuts in the morning as well as lunch. Lunch for non-competing attendees is \$10 per person. If you are a new fly fisher, watching the best stillwater fishers is a quick lesson on how to fish for hatchery trout in lakes. Contact Bob if you are a beginner to stillwater fly fishing and lack essential gear. Members of the Women's Fly-Fishing Weekend during May 10-12 are encouraged to participate in this event. For members who have extra time, this area has some excellent small and large rivers and other reservoirs nearby to fish.

Women's April 2024 Outing with Ryan Williams at Oroville Lake

By Mary Midgett

How could I have such JOY when it's 40 degrees outside and I'm tucked in my two down jackets with 2 pairs of gloves zooming across the lake getting ready to spend all day fly-fishing for bass. Down here, in Pine Grove, they were getting 2 inches of snow, while at Lake Oroville we never got rained on and it warmed up to almost 60 degree weather.

My friend, Lonny Noyes, and I spent all day with Ryan Williams, our guide on his beautiful blue bass boat. After being shown an example of what we were going to be doing with one cast toward the edge of the lake and reeling in a spotted bass, Ryan took us around to all his special spots, encouraging us all the way until we almost couldn't cast anymore. Towards the end of the day both of us were feeling the burn in our biceps and forearms from roping in so many big bass.

We caught over 12 fish a piece with 2 double hookups!

Ryan said that this time of year is when he sees these larger bass. In another few months they will hide themselves in the deeper parts of the lake. Ryan Williams lives 5 minutes from the lake and is willing to take two people anytime. We learned how to utilize a special indicator called Float N' Fly which was very effective.

Ryan is a fulltime guide and fly tier and is featured on Reel Anglers Fly Shop and North Valley Fly Fishing. He is getting ready to participate in a Fly Fishing tournament at Lake Berryessa towards the end of the month. He has tutorials on YouTube on how to tie his killer flies and instructions on the Float N' Fly indicator.

Sympathy to those who missed this great outing.



Fishmeister Mary with one of her many bass fishing Float N Fly with Ryan! Thanks for organizing such a great outing!



Mary and Lonny with a couple nice bass.



Dena with a beautiful Lake Oroville bass!

Kistler Ranch Outing Report

By Bob Fujimura

A total of nine fly fishers met and fished at the Kistler Ranch ponds on Saturday April 21st. Eight DFF members and one guest from the Stanislaus Fly Fishers tried their hand at enticing largemouth bass and sunfish out of the ranch's three fishing ponds. Most of these fishers fished in the eastern most pond which produced larger bass during the Spring of 2021 and 2022 using personal watercraft or wading from shore. Unlike last spring, most fishers caught several to many small bluegill and bass this year. One of the top producing fishers, John Rodges said he caught a large bucket load of bluegill and several small bass from that pond. Larger bass were observed but they were difficult to catch. Later, we met under a couple of shade pop ups and enjoyed a nice lunch hosted by Jean Fujimura.

Sam Yee, Charlie Reames, and Barry Newlin fished the other two larger ponds on the west side of the ranch road. Bob Fujimura offered some shore fishing tips to Dena Mason and Marie Studebaker and was happy to see them catching fish from the nearest of these two ponds after lunch. Many thanks to Jean Fujimura who provided the generous lunch, and Dena for bringing her pop up and helping to drive Leo Guterres. Leo brought some yummy Chinese fried chicken to share and helped mentor some novice fishers. Sam shared some delicious oranges and offered his hand-tied bass flies to interested attendees.



One of the larger bass that Sam Yee caught at Kistler Ranch from his pontoon boat



Bob Fujimura caught many bluegill and small bass striping a soft-hackle nymph from the shoreline.

Wounded Warriors, Casting for Recovery and a movie

By Jerry Neuburger

I watched a movie on Netflix, "Mending the Line" that, while not mentioning either Wounded Warriors or Casting for Recovery, deals with the issue of combat veterans and fly fishing as a therapy. The movie starred some very recognizable people including Patricia Heaton (Raymond), Wes Studi, and Brian Cox., While the camera work is less than inspiring, the movie did raise some personal questions with me as to whether I would be able to work with individuals such as portrayed in the film.

My answer, I don't know. I was never in the service and never experienced what I imagine those facing combat endure. While I know that some of the members of the club have worked to have our club take on the responsibilities of providing help, I now understand the reluctance on the

part of the administrators of the program to add us without further screening. All I can say is that those contemplating participation in either Wounded Warriors or Casting for Recovery should watch this film before final commitment. While the movie, "Mending the Line" will probably never win any awards, if you have access to Netflix, watch it. It will make you think.



Our second annual casting day is in the books

By Amy Terra

April 27th brought a beautiful sunny day for our second annual fly casting day at Panella Park in Stockton. Dena arrived early to set up and she had everything ready to go in time to welcome the women casters. We had a wonderfully supportive group of 7 women. Certified casting instructor Sarah Trenschel worked the casters through most of the bronze level Fly Casting Skills Development tasks with some exploration of loop dynamics and casting efficiency. The anglers explored fishing applications for their new skills addressing loop size control, slipping and shooting line, horizontal and off side casting. The onsite pond provided the perfect setting to fine tune our roll casts until lunch arrived.



We had a delicious lunch including Brenda's cabbage salad, pancit, lumpia and cookies for dessert. This was followed by an afternoon of casting supported by CI Sarah Trenschel, CI Rick Radoff, our very own Randy Baxter, Tim Costello and Dena Mason. We had several new casters including a young volleyball player and her mom who came over from the community center and a young man and his dad who spent the afternoon with us. The enthusiasm of the young casters was contagious and it was clear everyone had a really good time. We had about 18 participants throughout the day. Raffle prizes, donated by Tim Costello were handed to lucky winners as the day wound down. A special thanks to Norm, Randy and Dena for serving as clean up crew!

We are planning on holding a Casting Day again next spring. And, like last summer, "casting day" also means our monthly 4th Friday night casting sessions at Hutchins Street Square, southeast corner lawn. The next Friday Night Casting will be May 24th followed in June on the 28th and July 26th, August 23rd, September 27th and ending in October 25th. We will start May 24th and cast from 5 until 7ish depending upon light. We generally have to adjust the time to avoid heat during the summer and dark as fall days shorten so look for updates on the club website

and newsletter as we move through the casting season.

There will be casting support for beginning casters who have never touched a fly rod as well as casters who want to move through the Fly Casting Skills Development program (FCSD). We are targeting our instruction to support casters moving through the FCSD program because this program was designed to support not only basic casting skills but to develop fishing casts that will help you fish more effectively on the water.

There will be eye protection and loaner rods available. This is open to the public so bring family and friends. All participants have to sign a liability waiver and wear eye protection. A special thanks to everyone who has volunteered to support our casting activities. Any questions? Call Amy at 209-329-4801.



Afternoon casting fun at Panella Park!

Enjoy Fly Tying and Casting at Oak Grove Park, May 22

By Bob Fujimura

Let's continue the gathering of fly tyers and casters who meet at the Nature Center, Oak Grove Regional Park, Eight-Mile Road, Stockton. We had a great turnout last month for the kickoff for practicing fly casting during our monthly fly tying sessions in the Nature Center's Classroom. The weather and outdoor lighting were perfect for people to practice their casting. When done casting, you can watch or participate in fly tying. With the start of fly fishing season, expect to hear even more tall fishing stories and reports from your friends or colleagues at this event.



Our next open session will be on Wednesday May 22 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. If you are new to this venue, tell the entrance booth attendant that you are taking part of the Delta Fly Fishers monthly session, and they will waive the usual entrance fee. Contact Tim Costello (209-484-7424) or Bob Fujimura (email: deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) for more information on these sessions. Speak to Tim if you are interested in learning more about fish tying or taking basic tying classes in August. Bob will be on vacation, but Nancy Baker will be opening and closing the Nature Center. Dena Mason will be bringing Bob's practice casting course if you are interested in practicing casting for the FFI's Fly Casting Skills Development awards. Let's enjoy the spring weather and join other members at this fun gathering.



Contribute to the club's welfare

I was asked to put this box in the newsletter so that those club members that live at unreasonable travel times to the club's monthly meetings might have a way to contribute to the club's welfare. At their request, I've set up a group of alternative contribution amounts. Those who participate will receive a tax deductible receipt via email.

\$5 \$10 \$25 \$50

Or send a check to:
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Make checks payable to DFF, Salmon in the Classroom. Please include your email address. You will receive a receipt online, when the check is received.

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This Month's Fly Box

FLY TYING

"Zebra midge"



Depending on the season, location, and productivity, larger and more elaborate patterns in #10-16 are often used in still waters such as Nevada's Pyramid Lake. Effective body colors are black, red, brown, and olive with contrasting bead and wire ribbing commonly silver, copper, gold, or black. My favorite tying pattern is the copper tiger midge with a copper and silver wire ribbing. A good and simpler version is demonstrated by the Caddis Fly Angling Shop video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XECgtXF1QrA>

– Bob Fujimura for the River Mouth

The Zebra midge and its variations is a must-have pattern for trout fly fishers. The classic pattern shown above imitates the ubiquitous Chironomid larva and pupa found in most flowing and stillwater environments. Smaller sizes are commonly used on tailwaters and flowing waters year round. Larger sizes can be suspended near the bottom of lake or reservoir.

The classic Zebra midge tied with black thread, silver bead, and silver wire ribbing on a #16-20 curved hook is a good beginner's pattern to learn. Tim Flagler's video is a good primer to tie this simple midge – here is the link: <https://vimeo.com/28936661>.

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Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400 or in-kind goods and services, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

Permission to post specials and other advertising on the [club's Face book page](#), 2 per month.

For additional information please phone or

Saturday June 8 – Rancho Seco Park Clinic

By Bob Fujimura

Mark your calendars - Larry Schmidt will hold a clinic on watercraft safety during a fishing outing at Rancho Seco Lake, 14960 Twin Cities Road, Herald, CA. This clinic and outing are suitable for members of all experience levels and the location a great venue for fly fishing from a personal watercraft for bass and sunfish. All participants need to read and sign a 2023-2024 DFF liability waiver to participate.



All members are required to wear a personal floatation device when operating a personal watercraft. We will meet in the southeast parking lot after the RV camp site after 7:00 am. After a watercraft safety session, we will fly fish until we meet again for lunch. Please bring your own lunch and drinks. This is a free outing but there are Park parking, fishing, and watercraft fees. Please RSVP Bob Fujimura (email: deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) if you are interested in coming.

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CONSERVATION

By Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair

There are lots of ways to catch a trout. Maybe that's why there are so many experts.

— Bud Lilly

THE STATE WATER BOARD HAS CONSISTENTLY FAILED ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT. FINALLY LEGAL ACTION IS BEING TAKEN

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has continued to violate California laws and codes. Consequently they now face a major lawsuit. Currently they are allowing the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to apply for a water rights extension for Gov. Newsom's Delta tunnel project. Over 10 years ago Bill Jennings gave a presentation on how to stop various state and federal agencies from initiating dangerous, poorly planned programs. His last slide had the audience laughing. It was a picture of a nuclear explosion and was termed "litigation." While it is still important for groups disagreeing with state and federal policy to attend events and publicly disagree with proposed initiatives it has become obvious the state will listen to politically powerful groups and ignore what best serves the public.

In 2009 water agencies and water rights groups protested that the SWRCB had given preferential treatment to the DWR using outdated water rights claims. The groups claimed the SWRCB failed to follow state law requiring "reasonable and equitable development of water diversions and the protection of water resources within the state." The plaintiffs recently initiated their suit noting the DWR has used water rights permits issued by former governors. Voters overwhelmingly rejected Brown's peripheral canal project in 1955 and 1972. Those opposing the DRW's current actions are also angry the DWR ignores the massive population changes in California that have occurred since 1955 and 1972 in their current plans. They are also angry

that the DRW has continued to ignore changes in the state hydrological cycle that climate change has caused. Their legal complaint also emphasizes the DWR has chosen to ignore our state's water rights laws requiring safeguarding the public interest.

Those bringing action against the SWRCB are: the Central Delta Water Agency (CDWA), the California Water Impact Network (CWIN), AquAlliance (AA), and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA). The plaintiffs address four key methods of operation that DRW and the SWRCB have illegally used.

First: The Petitions of Extension for Time have been and continue to be extensively delayed currently and in the past. Gov. Jerry Brown's two canal projects initiated in 1955 and 1972 were to be completed by 1980 and 1990. However, the times of the projects were extended by the SWRCB until 2000 and 2009.

Second: The DRW is trying to continue to use these "expired" rights for Newsom's Single Tunnel Project despite not having brought the project up to standards within the SWRCB's mandated development schedule time restrictions.

Third: The SWRCB has given the DWR special and privileged treatment over other organizations who oppose DWR's water conveyance project. Those of us, including the Delta Fly Fishers, CSPA, and Restore the Delta (RTD), are held to strict compliance to deadlines for permits. The DWR is continually allowed to "flaunt" deadlines for their permits.

And finally: The DWR wants to divert millions of acre feet of water, it claims it had the right to divert, into a tunnel project. This alleged "right" ignores the state's concept of "full beneficial use". The state's ability to actually produce this diverted water is non-existent. In last month's article we discussed the SWRCB's admission that they falsified data on the amount of water that exists within the state. DRW uses "paper water" to fill Gov. Newsom's proposed tunnel. Once again the DRW is trying to use non-existent water to

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(Continued from page 11)

divert water needed for our fisheries and the Delta.

Those who have filed the suit are concerned that the SWRCB seems to have no concern they consistently cancel the water rights of applicants that don't use water for beneficial use or don't use their water at all. However, they don't apply this "due diligence" concept to the DWR. The plaintiffs noted in their suit that by continuing these actions the SWRCB will have "massive social and environmental impacts of the Sacramento River and the Delta, and the existing legal use and users of water".

I started my fly fishing career when I was 10 years old. At that time many fishermen were upset when the state would allow you to keep only 15 trout down from the old limit of 25 fish. At the time only 8 million people lived in California. During the middle of my high school years, in 1955, the state had grown to 13 million people. By 1972 the state's population had grown to 20.5 million. Now just over 39 million people call California home. Our population has increased by almost 5 times since I began fly fishing. In my near 75 years of backpacking and fishing I have seen radical negative changes in the Delta, our environment, and within our fisheries. The state requires the SWRCB and the DWR to maintain an "orderly development of water supplies" for the state. The changes within California have been massive. Neither the SWRCB nor the DWR have fulfilled their legally required responsibilities.

Despite the obvious realities we face with climate change the DRW still follows the antiquated water policies of the last century proposing to divert even more water from the Sacramento River. Not only do they want to divert water for Gov. Newsom's tunnel project but also build a large dam and even more water into the proposed Stiles Dam project near Courtland.[I think this might be Sites Reservoir near Colusa; Ed.] Gov. Newsom recently proposed a project to save our salmon. However, his pushing to build a massive dam and fill a tunnel with diverted water make his saving salmon project nothing more than a "smoke and mirrors" project. Using common sense Gov. Newsom, the SWRBC, and the DWR need to accept the reality that worked more than

50 years ago will not work today.

The Central Valley Water Agency is represented by attorney Osha Meserve. Regarding the action he commented, "With recreational and commercial salmon season canceled for a second year in a row, the State Board needs to implement a due diligence requirement evenhandedly. Here, the State Board has given DRW preferential treatment and is letting DRW cut in line ahead of thousands of other water rights holders as well as water users necessary to keep California, its communities, and its fisheries healthy.

Roger Moore, attorney for The California Water Impact Network expressed his clients concerns ``that during the 14 years these protests have unlawfully been allowed to languish, authoritative reports, including the State Water Board's own, have confirmed the Delta's watershed is heavily oversubscribed. Enabling DRW's addition to "paper water" is a bet against our future that will shortchange California's fisheries, economy, and environment.``

This lawsuit is long overdue. For those who have taken the time and effort to protest actions by the DWR and the SWRCB, hopefully their efforts will finally bear fruit. For those of us who have opposed actions or proposals of DRW and the SWRCB now perhaps our concerns and input will have an impact. In the past those representing groups opposing state and federal departments were first given 5 minutes to make their statements. Now the time has been cut to 3 minutes. Those making presentations understand their comments or concerns have little or no impact on the agencies listening. Despite the inattentive behavior of those heading the hearings it is important we attend these meetings to verify the opposition policy or projects. As Chris Shutes, Executive Director of CSPA, remarked, "The State Water Board has let the DWR slide for over a decade. We hope the court will agree that it is past time for the State Water Board to make the DWR play by the same rules as everyone else."

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WHAT IS KILLING OUR SALMON ?

Recently the Sacramento Bee wrote an article critical of California's agencies' malfeasances contributing to the devastating loss of our salmon population. Ari Plachta's article was entitled, "California water agencies broke their own rules, possibly killing thousands of endangered fish." Plachta's article dealt with the severe damage caused by the pumping plants in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. This year the pumping plants killed or harmed nearly double the legal amount of Chinook salmon and steelhead allowed. The number of fish that are allowed to be killed or harmed annually is referred to as "take" by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) limits only 1,776 chinook salmon and 1,571 steelhead trout can be harmed or destroyed annually. However, between December and March of this year federal and state agencies estimate that at least 3,030 chinook and 2,919 steelhead were lost.

San Francisco Bay Keeper's Science Director, Jon Rosenfield, rightly observed, "I continued to be shocked by the lawlessness and neglect of the state and federal management agencies with regard to species that are on the brink of extinction. You expect regulators to follow their own regulations." Immediately after negative numbers are released, state and federal regulating agencies respond with misleading comments and assure us of their commitment to protect our environment. However, they continue their current course of action, and our fisheries and environment continue the downward spiral toward extinction.

Of course, the Sacramento Bee article highlights just one of a multiplicity of severe extinction-enhancing situations we are facing. California's continuing attempts to build unneeded dams and a tunnel we cannot afford is never ending. We continue ongoing attempts to divert water away from America's finest agricultural area. Gov. Newsom's current plan to save our salmon may

have some merit in the long term. Yes, dam removals of the Elwah and Klamath Rivers, and other antiquated dams are helping, but Gov. Newsom's plan, by design, does not address the major issue of illegal water diversions that kill our fish

In reality, salmon and steelhead are not California's only fish that face extinction. Data, especially from the Delta, show our native fish populations also are spiraling downward toward extinction. It's frustrating to watch both state and local agencies continually follow the worst possible paths that take us on a possible non-reversible downslope. A recent article from a university professor of political science observed that despite the overwhelming evidence of the destructive path climate change has taken us, we are refusing to take action since it is deemed not cost effective.

How "cost effective" is extinction?