



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLVI

Number XIII

October 2022

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, Califor-

Calendar

October GM meeting, John R. Williams School

October 15-16, NCCFFI Yuba Fest

Oct 19, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Nature Center

October 22, Lower Sac Outing

October 26, Open Tying, Oak Grove Nature Center

November Heenan Lake open for the extra month, seven days a week, due to COVID 19

November 9, GM meeting, John R. Williams School

November 16, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Nature Center

November 24, Thanksgiving

The October newsletter, the second half

By Jerry Neuburger, editor

Yes, we have enough content for two editions this month, this edition basically comprised of articles written by our own Amy Terra. At one time I must have had the passion for the sport that Amy exhibits. When I was first, "hooked" I fished the Mokelumne at Van Assen Park almost every week day and read every book I could find on fly fishing in the Lodi Library, sometimes asking them to order books from Stockton as well.

I was even more fortunate when three veteran fly fishers took me under their wing, Al Smatsky, Gene Takeuchi and Leo Gutterres, Between the three I learned there was more to fly fishing than catching trout. Large mouth bass, American Shad and striped bass being a few of the species I was introduced to. I even reached out to Bill Kiene and took a trip down to Loreto in Baja California, a trip which started a long love affair of fly fishing salt water.

I've since become a "veteran" fly fisher, and as it implies, have tens of years of experience in the sport. I've gone through what has been described as the four phases of the sport,

Phase one. Catch a fish on a fly rod.

Phase two. Catch as many fish as you can on a fly rod.

Phase three. Catch the biggest fish on a fly

rod.

Phase four. Go fishing, using a fly rod.

In passing through those phases, I've written my share of articles for Rx Fly Fishing! and had considered myself to be an above average writer, able to grab and hold a reader's interest.

Then I read some of Amy's writing and know what true writing skill reads like. I've never been much on reading fishing "adventure" writing such as Zane Grey or Ted Williams but have enjoyed the wry sense of humor added to the sport by writers such as John Gierach. Amy does not write with that humor but a sense of reverence that reminds me of the opening lines of, A River Runs Through It.

"In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing. We lived at the junction of great trout rivers in western Montana, and our father was a Presbyterian minister and a fly fisherman who tied his own flies and taught others. He told us about Christ's disciples being fishermen, and we were left to assume, as my brother and I did, that all first-class fishermen on the Sea of Galilee were fly fishermen and that John, the favorite, was a dry-fly fisherman."

This edition contains five articles by Amy, some informative, some wistful and some pure painting with words. Enjoy.

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Improving your casting skills

By Amy Terra

I have been working diligently on improving my casting skills. I go to the park several times each week to cast. Every time, I warm up by going through the FFI fly casting skills development bronze, silver and gold tasks as my warm up. Then I concentrate on specific areas of instruction or improvement. If you haven't had a chance to check out the skills development program, it has a combi-

nation of short and long casts, all with fishing application. This routine has become a habit and I had not really thought much about its impact upon my fishing success until I recently went on a multiple day trip to Yosemite and the Eastern Sierras. On this trip, my warmup routine proved to be far more impactful than I could have imagined- particularly for the short cast accuracy tasks.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

While it seems every casting workshop evolves (or devolves) into a long distance casting focus, long distance casts are often not needed on a day of fishing streams and good sized rivers. Most casts are short amongst tight quarters. Going through all of the skills development tasks allowed me to work on all of my casting skills including these short distance casts consistently. This diversified practice clearly aided my fishing success on this 5 day trip. With the exception of one morning of lake fishing, 95% of my casting was 25 feet or shorter. Successful fishing was very dependent upon accurate short casts into brush openings and under foliage. The bask cast area was limited so roll cast accuracy and control were the name of the game. I could feel the impact of the short game practice as I spent more and more time with my fly drifting exactly where I wanted it to be and less time untangling flies from bushes and tying on replacement flies for those lost to a bush or a backcast. It felt really good to fish really well!

Here are the shorter cast accuracy tasks from the FFI skills development program. I encourage all of you to head to the local park, tie some yarn on your leader and practice your casting when you have a few moments. It will make your days on the water better and more productive- Cast better=fish better!

Bronze Level Tasks 35 feet or less:

B1. 35 ft. Pick Up and Lay Down (PULD) Cast, Dominant Side Starting with the fly at 35 ft. the angler will do a PULD cast in a nearly vertical plane (no false casting or hauling) returning the fly to within 2 ft. of the center of the 35 ft. target.

B2. 35 ft. PULD Cast, Non-Dominant Side Starting with the fly at 35 ft. the angler will do a PULD cast with the rod tip and line traveling over the non-dominant shoulder, (no false casting or hauling) returning the fly to within 2 ft. of the center of the 35 ft. target.

B3. 35 ft. Horizontal PULD Cast Starting with the fly at 35 ft. the angler will perform a PULD in a nearly horizontal plane (no higher than 2 o'clock) with the fly landing within 4 ft. of either side of the tape. The leader must not pile but may be curved. (No false casting or hauling)

B6. Minimum 35 ft. Roll Cast, Dominant Side Starting with the fly at 35 ft. or more, the angler will perform a roll cast with line/leader landing relatively straight and within 2 ft. of either side of the tape. The D

loop (back loop) should be formed by slowly dragging the line into position such that the fly and leader do not leave the water surface or grass. A roll cast tool is suggested if performed on grass or indoors. No hauling.

Silver Level Tasks 35 feet or less:

S4. Minimum 35 ft. Roll Cast, Non-Dominant Side Starting with the fly at 35 ft. or more the angler will perform a non-dominant side roll cast with line/ leader landing relatively straight and within 2 ft. of either side of the tape. The D loop (back loop) should be formed by slowly dragging the line into position such that the fly and leader do not leave the water surface or grass. A roll cast tool is suggested if performed on grass or indoors. No hauling.

S5. Accuracy to 20, 30, and 40 ft. Targets Starting with the fly at 45 ft. the angler strips line in to get the fly to 20 ft. The angler must now achieve an offset target at 20 ft., 10 ft. to the left of the tape, at 30 ft., 10 ft. to the right of the tape, and 40 ft. on the tape. The line will be lengthened during false casting between targets. The fly must land within 2 feet of the center of the target. If a target is missed the angler picks up where the fly has landed and tries again but has only 3 tries for each target. Angler must achieve all three targets. No hauling.

Gold Task 35 feet or less:

G7. Non-Dominant Side Accuracy to 20, 30, and 40 ft. Targets Starting with the fly at 45 ft. the angler strips the fly to 20 ft. While casting off the non-dominant side the angler will achieve target at 20 ft., 10 ft. to the left of the tape, at 30 ft., 10 ft. to the right of the tape, and 40 ft. on the tape. The line will be lengthened during false casting between targets. The fly must land within 2 feet of the center of the target. If a target is missed the angler picks up where the fly has landed and tries again but has only 3 tries for each target. Angler must achieve all three targets. No hauling.



The importance of casting into a tight space.

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**FLY FISHERS
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What could be better than a fall Wulffies outing in Yosemite?

By Amy Terra

Fall in Yosemite is filled with cool weather and hungry fish. This makes for fun dry fly fishing in one of the most beautiful settings we have in California. Because these small streams, visual fishing and dry fly fun are such a blast, the

women's group headed back one more time to Yosemite and the surrounding area for some fishing fun. We met at the Tangled Hearts Outpost at 8 am for breakfast on Saturday. This restaurant did not disappoint! If you are ever near Greeley Hill, check this place out. It has made from scratch delicious food and it is a great way to start any day. For us, it was the perfect start to our fishing adventure.

We headed into the park and explored the Tuolumne Meadows area doing some hiking and scouting of new fishing spots. As the women settled into fishing spots and rhythms, fish were caught. While the fish are not giants, all anglers caught fish from 5 to 12

inches in these small waters including the Yosemite trifacta- browns, brookies and rainbows. We fished until 5 and headed to Groveland for a Mexican food dinner. We had found a great AirBNB in Coulterville that is a converted train car. The lodging was great and we spent the

closer-to-home fishing adventure, Rainbow Pools lived up to its name and provided us with plenty of wild rainbows eager to take our small dry-dropper set ups.

This was another fun outing in the books as we begin to wrap up our year of women's outreach. October



Crystal clear waters of Yosemite holding a beautiful Brookie. Photo by Amy

29th will have a local outing to Micke Grove Park to check out the float and fly setup from our very own Pultz fly tying and fishing crew. Lunch will be provided and all are welcome.

We are looking at a weekend getaway in November to Arnold for a weekend of fly tying and local fishing and shopping fun if we can coordinate a few calendars. Be on the lookout for more information.

evening watching YouTube videos about fishing in Yosemite until we were too tired to stay awake any longer.

Day two started back at Tangled Hearts for another delicious breakfast and we headed to Rainbow Pools just outside of the park for a

December activity has been shifted to the DFF fly tying day with the amazing Scott Sugimoto on December 10th. Thanks to all of the female anglers who came out to our activities this past year!

Casting for Recovery is about healing

By Amy Terra

Several years ago, I got really ill. During my recovery, fly fishing brought me joy, peace and motivation to get better. I know the power of healing fly fishing can bring. But, when I heard of a fly fishing program just for women recovering from breast cancer, I thought, what are the odds that so many women would find the same healing that I found in fly fishing?

When I recently spent time at a Casting for Recovery retreat, I was surprised to hear of the origins of the program. Casting for Recovery was started when two female anglers, one a cancer surgeon and the other an oncologist- both specializing in breast cancer treatment, were out fly fishing. They commented on the similarities between the casting motion of the arm and the therapeutic exercises recom-

mended for women post mastectomy. From that observation, the program was born.

The impacts of the program move far beyond a solitary physical therapy movement. The women at the retreat often shared that being a breast cancer survivor is the worst club to join but the best club to be a member of. This was absolutely supported by the camaraderie that

(Continued on page 4)



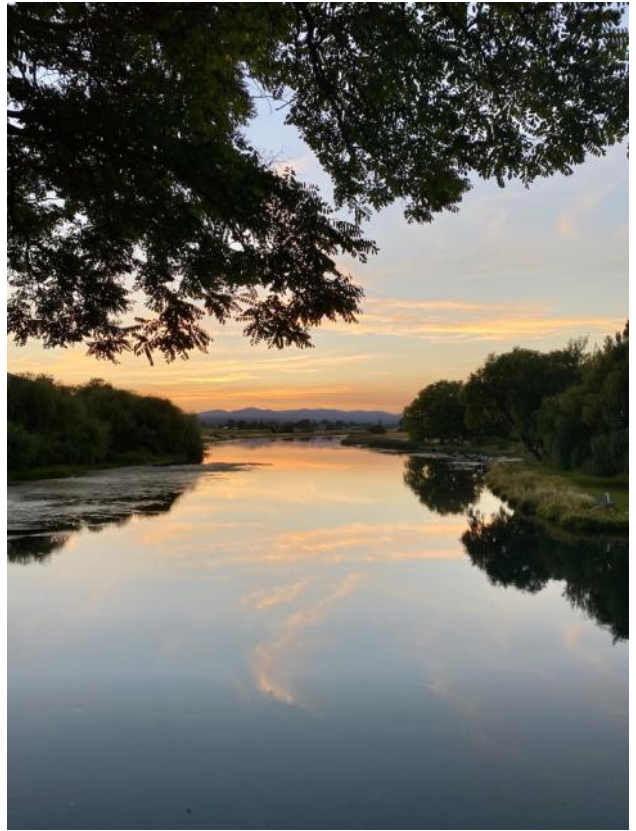
14 survivors learning to cast. Photo by unknown.

(Continued from page 3)

was witnessed during every activity. Tears were shed, laughter boomed, hugs and knowing looks were exchanged as the women shared their experiences, speaking the dialect of oncology, mastectomy, radiation and chemotherapy. My observational presence was an immersive experience in types of breast cancer and treatments. Survivorship measured in years and moments of life experience. And all of them had put in to spend some of those survivor moments on a fly fishing retreat. They were excited to be there and excited to learn all things fly fishing. My friend Sara and I were respon-

sible for teaching all aspects of fly fishing and preparing the participants to fish on the last day of the retreat. We went through the curriculum of equipment, casting, entomology, knots and fly tying in a long steady Saturday of teaching and learning.

Sara and I shared the awe we felt at the strength and joyful learning each woman displayed. To say that we had 14 eager students was an understatement. The women were sponges. They were so excited to be there and learn all that they could this weekend. Sunday, after a sunrise ceremony, we watched as the pairs of women set off to fish the beautiful Fall River. We each said a silent prayer that they would find fun, beauty and appreciation of the river and, God willing, a few fish. Our prayers were answered on all



Morning sunrise on the Fall River. Photo by unknown

accounts. Several hours later, the boats returned with laughing, smiling women. All of whom had found healing in fly fishing this weekend. I found it highly likely that the healing and the fishing would continue well after they left for home too.

Walking the Walker with Andrew

By Amy Terra

Fly fishing has brought so many amazing people into my life. I so enjoy spending time on the water with these amazing friends and always look forward to fishing adventures with them. Recently, a dear fishing friend invited me to split a guide on the Walker as a part of a four day Eastern Sierra adventure. He had fished with the guide Andrew Sears from Walker River Outfitters on the Walker as well as other rivers south of Bridgeport in the Mammoth area and had always learned a ton about the waterways he was fishing and had caught lots

of fish- some of them big trophy trout. I was really excited to fish with Andrew and my friend- especially on the Walker River. I have fished the Walker River a few times. I have caught some smaller fish including Browns, rainbow and the Lahontan redbside. But, I have never hooked or landed one of the beautiful large fish that are the draw of the Walker River. These fish were something of a legend to me- partly because I had never seen one in person and partly because they could be elusive and hard to catch. That was

true until I walked along the Walker River with Andrew. While Andrew connected me to some big Walker River browns and rainbows when we fished together, he gave me something longer lasting than the experience of landing fish. He knows the Walker. He has fished it for 25 years. He has seen her high and low flows in all seasons. He tells stories of shoulder to shoulder anglers roping in fish after fish along the miracle mile years ago. He talks of the impact of the ongoing drought now. Whatever

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

time he is speaking of, his affection for this river and its inhabitants is clear to all who are listening. We started our fishing on the California side of the East Walker. Flows were low and we targeted water accordingly. Andrew had us fish each section in three phases. We started with a dry-dropper. This was followed by an indicator nymph rig. Then we threw a streamer

to get great drifts in the feeding zone. We caught large numbers of fish with this three-pronged approach. It was fun and diverse fishing. Then, we came upon "the hole" of the trip. We started fishing this spot and my fishing buddy hooked and landed a beautiful 19 inch brown. Then on my next cast I hooked something large. I didn't know how large until the fish came to the surface as he rushed right at

disappearing back to the darkness below the surface. It took me a moment to process what had happened and when it finally sank in, Andrew and my fishing buddy commiserated about the outcome of the interaction with me. I quickly dusted the disappointment off and resumed fishing.

I was grateful for that opportunity to interact with that big ol fish but I was more appreciative of the

amount I learned and the level of confidence I walked away from the river with. It wasn't a confidence that comes from not landing a fish. Rather, it is the confidence that I can go back, spend time on this amazing river and have strategies in my pocket to catch fish on my own. It may not be the monster I lost but, after walking with Andrew, I am confident I will get another chance in the future!

If you want to have an amazing Walker River or Mammoth area experience fishing with Andrew, just reach out to him at PO Box 9035, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546/ 760-937-1665/ walker-guide@hotmail.com. You are sure to walk away with an appreciation of the waterway , improved angling skills and, quite possibly having spent some time with some trophy trout!



The amazing East Walker River downstream from the miracle mile. Photo by unknown

through the water before moving on to the next fishing space. Flies and depth were changed and adjusted

me with a violent headshake. He spit the fly and rolled, showing me his sizable length and girth before

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When should you listen to CJ... Always!

By Amy Terra

Anytime I am near Virginia Lakes, I stop by the Virginia Lakes Resort and order the best french toast I have ever had and talk to CJ Webb about the goings ons at Virginia Lakes area. On my last trip to Bridgeport over my school's fall break, I did just this on my last day of the trip. In addition to making time for my delicious breakfast and conversation with CJ, I had time to fish before heading home too. So, of course, one of my questions to CJ was what I should tie on when I went fishing after breakfast. CJ offered me a dry fly- a caddis emerger in a small plastic container. With my belly satisfied and eager to get on the water, I walked to my truck and set the container on my tailgate and started getting ready to fish.

After pumping up my float tube and donning my waders, I threw a bunch of fly boxes in my tube's pockets, grabbed my rod and headed to the water. Fins on, I started fishing a streamer. As I kicked to the middle of Little Virginia Lake, the fish immediately turned on. They were rising all around me. Not one was touching my streamer and I thought about the flies that CJ had given me. And

at that moment I realized I had left them in my truck. I sat there, watching the fish rise and rise realizing that I had been given the opportunity to catch fish on dries and, in my eagerness to get on the water, I had failed to heed CJ's recommendations and my angling lack of success was showing the results of that forgetfulness! I kicked to shore, took my flippers off and headed to the truck. As I tucked the flies from CJ in my wader pocket, headed back to the water and put my flippers back on and rigged my rod to fish dries, I was ready to **catch fish!** And, if you know CJ at



At least part of a nice fat rainbow caught at Little Virginia Lake. (Gimme a break on this one will ya?) Photo by Amy

all, you know her recommendation was spot on. Thanks CJ!

Mettler

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Early Fall CSPA Newsletter, September 2022

From the Desk of Chris Shutes Changes at CSPA

Bill Jennings has temporarily stepped aside from his role as CSPA's Executive Director in the wake of cascading health problems. These problems began when another driver ran a stop sign and broadsided Bill's car in Stockton in July 2021. Bill's wounds seemed manageable at first, but he has been unable to recover.



CSPA looks forward to Bill's complete recovery and his return to diverse projects and a busy schedule. In the meantime, Bill remains as Chairman of CSPA's Board of Directors.

I have taken on the role of Acting Executive Director on an indefinite basis.

No one can take the place of Bill Jennings, who for a hundred good reasons is a legend in California water and fisheries advocacy. The best I can do is continue the projects and initiatives that Bill undertook and administered, even as CSPA looks for new actions consistent with our mission of protecting fisheries, habitat, and water quality.

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The Tyranny of the Deal

CSPA is hearing loud rumblings that the Newsom administration is about to roll out new chapters of its never-ending tragic melodrama, the "Voluntary Agreement." The Voluntary Agreement would substitute for a State Water Board update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The Voluntary Agreement is the centerpiece of the Newsom administration's war on regulation and enforceable protections for our waterways.

The Voluntary Agreements:

- Provide the water equivalent of 33 cents on the dollar, and in some cases far less, for needed flow into and through the Delta.
- Promote more destructive new water developments like Siles Reservoir and the proposed Delta tunnel by becoming the basis of analysis for water available to those projects.
- Leave in place the existing fish-killing framework for operation of the Delta, Water Rights Decision 1641 (with "temporary urgency changes" in dry years).
- Pay water users for water that should be left in rivers to protect fish in the first place, privatizing the public trust.
- Perpetuate the overallocation of water for agricultural use.

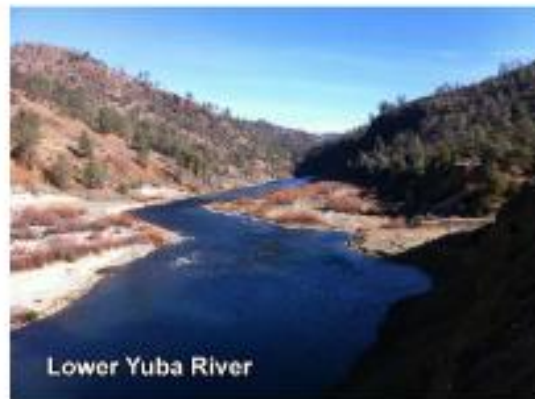
Voluntary solutions alone are always too little too late. That is why CSPA is in the trenches of regulatory process for the long haul. CSPA supports the authority of regulatory agencies even though the agencies often don't use their authorities to protect the public's resources. And when politicians or regulatory agencies directed by politicians enable destruction of public resources, CSPA goes to court, as we did last [October](#) and [November](#).

Hey VA's: Wild California Fish Need More Water, Not Less.....



Defending Section 401 of the Clean Water Act: We Whipped 'Em Once, We Whipped 'Em Twice

As reported on CSPA's main webpage on [June 20](#) and [July 7](#), court victories by CSPA and others beat back efforts by 4 California irrigation districts and a water agency to avoid regulation of their hydropower projects by the State Water Board. These victories vindicated 3½ years of CSPA's concerted work and strategy to rein in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC). One court rejected FERC's reliance on "such thin evidence as a simple courtesy email reminding an applicant of an impending deadline" to eliminate water quality protections for 50 years. The other court stated quite simply: "What the Districts propose could lead to 'gamesmanship.'" In our view, the gaming was already well underway when all these districts and the water agency tried to skate from the Clean Water Act. They utterly failed to produce (or even begin) required documents under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which the State Water Board required by law. Then they blamed the State because they hadn't done their homework.





Lower Merced River



Dan Pedro Dam on the Tuolumne River

CSPA Told You So

Systemic change in water policy is a pillar of CSPA's strategy to restore California's fisheries. Such change often takes years to achieve and often does not hit the headlines when it happens. Here are three important changes that have surfaced in the last year. Did CSPA cause them, or push them, or did CSPA just call them years before someone else figured out they had to happen? You decide.

What CSPA Said

In the water rights hearing for "California WaterFix" (aka twin tunnels under the Delta), [CSPA called](#) in 2018 for a numeric end-of-September carryover storage requirement of 1.6 million acre-feet in the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Oroville Reservoir. (See link, p. 19)

What Agencies Did

In the DWR's [State Water Project Delivery Capability Report for 2019](#), DWR explains on pages 3, 24, 25, and 30 how it is now operating to an end-of-September carryover storage target of 1.6 million acre-feet in Oroville Reservoir.

Comments

After vehement argument in the WaterFix tunnels hearing that a 1.6 million-acre-foot carryover requirement would destroy operational flexibility, DWR did an about-face 2 years later. The target is not, however, enforceable, and it is not subject to environmental review or public process to change.

What CSPA Said

In 2021, CSPA presented an [Alternative Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan \(TMP\)](#) that [Proposed Operations](#) of summer releases from Shasta Reservoir of no more than 5000 cubic feet per second (cfs), to be achieved in large part by limiting deliveries to Sacramento River Settlement Contractors north of the Delta.

What Agencies Did

In 2021, the Bureau of Reclamation [dismissed](#) CSPA's recommendations, saying, "Reclamation has taken all reasonable actions within its authority to maximize the water available for temperature management."

In 2022, Reclamation's [Final Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan](#) limited summer releases from Shasta to 4500 cfs and reduced deliveries to Settlement Contractors to 18% of contract amounts. To date in 2022, this has kept water cold in part of the Sacramento River and helped preserve Shasta Reservoir's storage and cold water pool.

Comments

The State Water Board caved in to Reclamation in 2021. Reclamation saved the Board in 2022 by voluntarily limiting deliveries and instead, in part, paying Settlement Contractors with public funds. Regrettably, the State Water Board did not set a regulatory precedent by ordering the outcome; the precedent is paying agricultural water users to not over-divert.

What CSPA Said

In 2010, CSPA went to hearing before the State Water Board on the water rights application of the cities of Woodland and Davis. CSPA [argued](#) that the Board should consider water availability for the application "only after the completion of proceedings that might significantly alter the amounts and timing of water required for Delta outflow." CSPA [said](#) the State Water Board's 2010 [Delta Flow Criteria Report](#) provided evidence that the Davis-Woodland water availability analysis overstated how much water would be available to the cities.

What Agencies Did

In Water Rights Decision [1650](#) (2011), the State Water Board granted the Woodland-Davis application, noting: "Although new objectives could reduce... water available...., some water would be available for appropriation even if the flow criteria outlined in the Report were incorporated as new regulatory requirements."

11 years later, in an August 27, 2022 [letter](#), Water Board staff found the application for water rights for proposed Sites Reservoir deficient, stating: "the application's water availability analysis does not assess or consider reasonably foreseeable updates to instream flow and Delta outflow objectives... Bay-Delta Plan."

Comments

In the past, the Board has declined to consider future flow conditions in analysis of water availability. The August 27 Sites acceptance letter breaks that precedent to a degree. The letter accords weight to the Board's Framework for Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan (Framework, 2018), although the Framework has no independent effect without an adopted Plan. It is likely that the magnitude of the proposed Sites water right influenced Board staff here. And there is no assurance that the required analysis will kill a project that is destructive on its face

CSPA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW!

THIS NEWSLETTER REPORTS ON JUST A FEW FRONTS WHERE CSPA HAS BEEN FIGHTING FOR OUR FISH AND CLEAN WATER. IT TAKES A LOT OF TIME AND EXPERTISE. WE HAVE BEEN WINNING SOME KEY BATTLES. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW TO CONTINUE OUR MOMENTUM.....

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