



BAY-DELTA WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN

SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (SED)

THE PROBLEM

THE BAY-DELTA WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN was created by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to set water quality objectives for the Bay-Delta and define how those objectives are to be implemented. To address the Plan's impacts, a Final Substitute Environmental Document (SED) has been developed for Phase 1 of the Plan.

PHASE 1 of the proposal seeks to require 40 percent of unimpaired flows to be released within the Tuolumne, Merced and Stanislaus rivers between February and June annually to allegedly benefit fish species and hopefully manage salinity by increasing flows to the Delta from the San Joaquin River.

Unfortunately, the SWRCB's proposal relied on studies not conducted on the Tuolumne River and applied generic data from other rivers and assumed this data would equally apply to all river systems.

IT'S NOT JUST 40% UNIMPAIRED FLOW...

Although the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan focuses heavily on unimpaired flow, there are additional requirements in the proposal that make the impacts extremely devastating. Essentially the SED removes local operational flexibility:

◆ **Carry Over Storage**

Cuts water storage in Don Pedro by 50% in all water year types.

◆ **Storage Refill Limitations**

Limits how much water TID can store in Don Pedro in wet years.

THE IMPACTS

Under the State Water Board's Proposal 2015 would have looked like this:

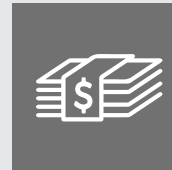
*These impacts do not consider the water storage requirement in Don Pedro as proposed in the SED.



\$1.6 BILLION
in economic
output loss



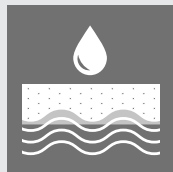
\$167 MILLION
farm-gate
revenue loss



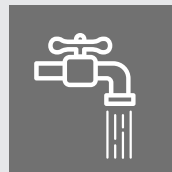
\$330 MILLION
in labor
income loss



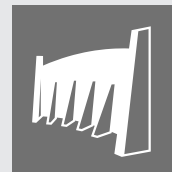
6,576 JOBS
would've
been lost



Groundwater
sustainability
IN JEOPARDY



Domestic
water supply
THREATENED



LESS
hydropower
available



NO WATER
available for
TID farmers

THE SOLUTION

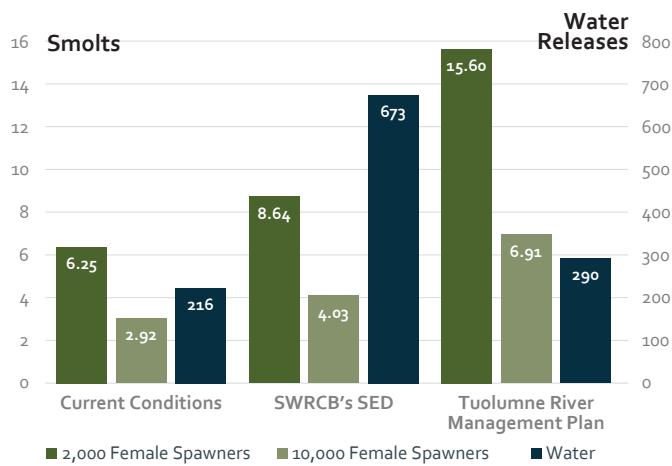


The Tuolumne River Management Plan was created by TID and Modesto Irrigation District (MID) for the proposed operations, improvements, and resource protection measures under a new federal license for the Don Pedro Project. The plan achieves the co-equal goals of protecting and improving the natural resources of the lower Tuolumne River and protecting while sustaining the water supplies to communities that rely upon Don Pedro.

PROPOSED MEASURES

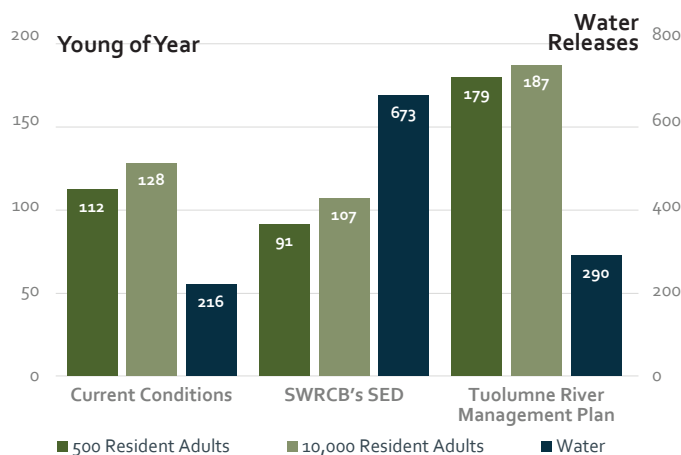
These measures are to be viewed as a suite of flow and non-flow actions which taken together will benefit fishery resources while being protective of agricultural and municipal water supplies, especially during successive dry year periods.

Water Proposals for Fall-Run Chinook Salmon



Average annual fall-run Chinook smolt production and required instream flows under Base Case SWRCB's flow proposal, and the Tuolumne River Management Plan (including Districts' non-flow measures (NFM)). Districts' instream flow is at La Grange gage. Flow below infiltration galleries at RM 26 is 241 TAF.

Water Proposals for O. Mykiss (Rainbow Trout)



Annual average O. Mykiss YOY production and required instream flows under Base Case, SWRCB's flow proposal, and the Tuolumne River Management Plan (including Districts' non-flow measures (NFM)). Districts' instream flow is at La Grange gage. Flow below infiltration galleries at RM 26 is 241 TAF.

1 PREDATOR CONTROL AND SUPPRESSION PROGRAM
The Districts will advocate for specific incentives and programs targeting an annual reduction in the population of black bass and striped bass by approximately 20% above the barrier weir and 10% below the barrier weir of levels documented in 2012.

2 WATER HYACINTH REMOVAL
The Districts would provide \$50,000 per year to the Division of California Boating and Waterways to assist its program of removal of water hyacinth and other non-native flora.

3 INFILTRATION GALLERY
Diverting water for irrigation purposes at the infiltration galleries will allow additional water to flow from La Grange to benefit Tuolumne River cold-water fisheries while also protecting the Districts' water supplies. This new diversion option for irrigation ensures a balanced and sustainable use of water.

4 FISH COUNTING AND BARRIER WEIR
The weir would reduce predation by prohibiting upstream movement of striped bass and other bass species into the prime rearing areas for juvenile salmon and O. Mykiss. The 5-foot-high weir would include a fishway and counting window, allow species separation and provide a salmon viewing opportunity for the public.

5 EXPERIMENTAL GRAVEL CLEANING PROGRAM
The Districts would conduct a five-year program of experimental gravel cleaning using a gravel ripper and pressure wash operated from a backhoe, or equivalent methodology, in cooperation with resource agencies.

6 INSTREAM HABITAT COMPLEXITY PROGRAM
Introduction of large woody debris (LWD) or suitably sized cobble/boulder material for introducing greater instream structure and habitat complexity. The Districts would identify, collect and place boulder-size stone in select locations between river miles 42 and 50, the preferred habitat reach of O. Mykiss.

7 COARSE SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Improve spawning gravel quantity and quality to benefit lower Tuolumne River salmonids by adding more than 75,000 tons of new coarse sediment.

8 TUOLUMNE RIVER RESTORATION HATCHERY
The purpose of the hatchery would be to support the protection and expansion of a Tuolumne River fall-run Chinook population. The Districts would pay for hatchery construction, and operation and maintenance for the first 20 years, at which time the success of hatchery measures would be re-evaluated.

9 WARD'S FERRY BOAT TAKEOUT IMPROVEMENT
The Districts are proposing the construction of a deck on river left, upstream of Ward's Ferry Bridge, large enough to accommodate two or three truck cranes and hauling vehicles at one time, which will reduce congestion and improve safety on the bridge.