

Dear Commissioner,

My name is Tom Infusino, and I am writing on behalf of the Community Action Project, CAP. CAP is a project of Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch in Calaveras County. CAP facilitates the adoption of plans and policies that protect natural resources and so maintain a high quality of life both in the county and in the region.

I am writing to express CAP's concerns about the proposal to divert even more water from the Tuolumne River as part of the Water System Improvement Program (WSIP). I am pleased to hear that the SFPUC staff is recommending a variant of the WSIP – an alternative that would support water conservation and recycling instead of the original proposal to divert 25 million more gallons of water per day from the River. I appreciate the SFPUC's willingness to explore alternatives to taking more water from the Tuolumne.

At the same time, CAP remains concerned that this alternative still proposes taking an additional 2 million gallons of water per day out of the Tuolumne. 59% of flows are currently diverted, which is already too much. We are facing a dramatic decline in the Tuolumne's native Chinook salmon and steelhead trout populations, problems with water quality in the San Francisco Bay Delta, and the coming effects of climate change. Considering these challenges, I believe it's imperative that we leave every drop of remaining water in the Tuolumne.

As a group that is invested in the health of the Tuolumne River and its future ability to meet water needs in the Bay Area, CAP urges the SFPUC to adopt the Aggressive Conservation and Water Recycling alternative that would guarantee no further water be taken from the River until at least 2030. If, however, you do choose the Phased WSIP variant, I ask that the SFPUC make strong assurances that it will not divert ANY additional water from the Tuolumne, including the 2 million gallons per day currently proposed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Community Action Project
c/o Thomas P. Infusino
P.O. Box 792
Pine Grove, CA 95665

October 24, 2008