



**GOLDEN STATE
SALMON
ASSOCIATION**



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL**



October 21, 2020

The Honorable London Breed
City Hall, Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **SFPUC Appointment and Bay-Delta Issues**

Dear Mayor Breed,

We are writing to you as representatives of the environmental and fishing communities to request a meeting to discuss the direction of the SFPUC and several critical upcoming decisions. We recognize that you are facing extraordinary demands on your time and on City resources. However, we are writing to request this meeting now for several reasons.

You currently have an opening on the SFPUC. Appointments to the SFPUC occur only rarely. We would appreciate an opportunity to discuss this appointment with you, particularly because this appointment also comes at a critical time.

It has now been a quarter of a century since the State Water Resources Control Board completed the adoption and implementation of new flow standards for the Bay-Delta estuary. Since then, an enormous amount of scientific evidence has confirmed that inadequate flows are the driver of environmental problems in the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The current State Board

process has been underway for more than a decade. During this time, the Bay-Delta has entered a period of crisis, including serious damage to salmon runs and the salmon fishing industry in San Francisco, increasing toxic algae blooms in the Delta and a growing risk of near-term extinction for numerous Bay-Delta fish species.

Given San Francisco's reputation as an environmental leader, the SFPUC should be in the forefront of efforts to adopt stronger science-based protections for the Bay Delta and to implement alternative water supply strategies that reduce the City's reliance on the Delta system during vulnerable times. Unfortunately, over the past several years, this has not proven to be the case.

Recently, an independent peer review was released by the National Marine Fisheries Service. That review examined the models that the SFPUC has relied on to develop and to support its position in regulatory processes related to the Tuolumne River. The peer review confirmed our communities' concerns regarding these models, identifying significant scientific flaws. The review also demonstrates that the models – and the science – do not support the SFPUC's position on Tuolumne River issues. Unfortunately, the SFPUC staff has delayed a presentation of the peer review to the Commission. Further, the staff continues to urge state agencies to support the flawed and inadequate proposal that was developed using these models.

Finally, we are convinced that the SFPUC can maintain a reliable water supply while supporting strong science-based flow standards for the Bay-Delta and its tributaries. The key to doing so is for the SFPUC to implement alternative water supply strategies that have been demonstrated to be affordable and feasible by urban water agencies across the state.

We have raised these issues with the SFPUC and look forward to a continued discussion with the Commission. However, the SFPUC consists entirely of mayoral appointments. As a result, we believe that a conversation with you at this time would be appropriate and productive.

Thank you for considering this request. We will be in touch with your office to identify a convenient time for a meeting.

Sincerely,

Gary Bobker
The Bay Institute

John McManus
Golden Gate Salmon Association

Chris Shutes
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

Cindy Charles
Golden West Women Flyfishers

Rachel Zwillinger
Defenders of Wildlife

Doug Obegi
Natural Resources Defense Council

Mark Rockwell
Northern California Council
Fly Fishers International

Mike Conroy
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's
Assns.
Institute for Fisheries Resources

Barbara Barrigan Parilla
Restore the Delta

Allison & Dave Boucher
Tuolumne River Conservancy

Peter Drekmeier
Tuolumne River Trust