



May 5, 2021

President Sophie Maxwell and Commissioners
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)
525 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Via Email

Re: Request for timely actions to address population and demand projections, alternative water supplies, and the length of the Design Drought.

Dear President Maxwell and Commissioners:

On behalf of the above environmental and fishing groups, we would like to thank you for hosting the three workshops focusing on the Tuolumne River. The depth of information provided and productive dialogue were refreshing.

We request that you take three immediate actions to advance some of the issues identified at the March 26 workshop focusing on water supply and demand. They are:

- 1) Direct your staff to produce an appendix for the SFPUC and BAWSCA Urban Water Management Plans (UWMP) that analyzes the impact on water supply of reducing the Design Drought to 7.5 years. This could be inserted easily into the UWMPs, and if in the future the SFPUC were to adopt this policy change, water agencies could simply use figures from the appendix in their Water Supply Assessments and other planning documents. We believe the BAWSCA agencies would support this addition, as it would make the approval of future housing projects much less problematic.

- 2) Commit to developing alternative water supplies, and incorporate the yield into the SFPUC's water supply projections in the UWMP. The current draft does not commit the SFPUC to developing any new water supplies for the next 25 years. Recycling water provides the additional benefit of reducing the nutrient load from wastewater entering the Bay, and with stricter limits on the horizon, developing recycled water projects would give the SFPUC a jumpstart on adhering to future effluent reduction requirements.

- 3) Commission a peer review of San Francisco's and BAWSCA's population and demand projections. The review should explore why past UWMP demand projections were off by as much as 33%, and what has been done to correct over-projections. It should explain how population forecasts in the UWMP were determined, and why they are so much greater than those produced by the California Department of Finance. It also should explain why the demand projections in the UWMP are so far afield from those forecasted by the SFPUC's financial department.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

Peter Drekmeier
Tuolumne River Trust

Eric Wesselman
Friends of the River

Heinrich Albert
Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter

Chris Shutes
California Sportfishing Protection
Alliance

Carol Steinfeld
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Cindy Charles
Golden West Women Flyfishers

Kristina Pappas
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Allison Boucher
Tuolumne River Conservancy

Jeff Miller
Alameda Creek Alliance

Mark Rockwell
Fly Fishers International, Northern
California Council

Mike Conroy
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's
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Dick Allen
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Konrad Fisher
Water Climate Trust

Bill Uyeki
Peninsula Fly Fishers