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Subject: comments + ideas
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Mister Chairman and members of the commission,

It was my pleasure to address you at your last meeting in Clarksburg. I will reiterate in writing a good portion of my comments. I started off saying it appeared most of the presenters before you wanted other agencies and areas to give up water and provide finances for the reparations of the Delta. We know that simply cannot be the case.

The next thing I talked about was the value of water. Water in the northern most part of the state is plentiful and therefore of less value than that which finds its way to the southern border. Between the reductions of deliverable stored water caused by problems in the Delta and the repayment of infrastructure costs this will always be true.

What I have seen lost in the conversation in the past is the value of the cleanest and coldest water diverted from the Delta. This water is diverted and pipelined under and around the Delta from Comanche, Pardee and Hetch Hetchy Reservoirs. As a tool for pursuing the coequal goals, money might be used as an equalizer for the reduction of the highest quality water from the ecosystem. Adequate time should be spent to price water quality reasonably. I would not ask directly for this water, as its quality could not be replaced; however the difference in value might be equalized in monetary contribution.

Another avenue might be to change the point of diversion to the Sherman Island area. This would allow the Delta to utilize the water for its ecosystem without depriving those areas of receiving their water.

There is no question the reverse or cross channel flows are a detriment to the salmon and potentially the smelt. It might be noteworthy to acknowledge the farmers and urban contractors south of the Delta did not design the projects; they just signed contracts to take delivery of developed water and repay the infrastructure cost.

The project designers, the state and federal governments, did not adequately address the flow changes the operations created. These flow changes have been exacerbated by additional water diversions from the Tuolumne, Mokelumne and other San Joaquin River diversions. All these diversions own a portion of the responsibility for degradation of the Delta. All should make contributions to its restoration.

I thank you for the opportunity for this input and for all the time, energy and frustration you are enduring in this process. Jim