

From: Deirdre Des Jardins <ddj@cah2oresearch.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 11:36 AM

To: Delta Council ISB <disb@deltacouncil.ca.gov>

Subject: Governor's 2024 Salmon Strategy failed to properly consult all tribes

Dear Delta ISB members

Wanted to pass on this information about issues with tribal consultation for [Governor Newsom's 2024 Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future](#).

The strategy was created without consultation with the tribal representatives, fishing and environmental groups who had spent countless hours lobbying the Water Board to protect salmon in the Sacramento River watershed during droughts. This is from outreach materials from Save California Salmon:



The image above may not be accessible for those using a screen reader. Below are the text within the image

The good the bad and the absent: Understanding California's Salmon strategy and how to you can help make it better

THE GOOD

Newsom's Salmon Strategy does incorporate critical actions, focusing on removal of antiquated dams and salmon strongholds such as North Coast watersheds, the Klamath and the Upper Sacramento region. It includes Tribes and intertribal organizations leading restoration projects in salmon strongholds, such as the Smith and Klamath rivers. While the strategy says implementing state agencies will work with Tribes, we are cautious because Tribes have not been properly consulted in some situations, and the state has passed laws taking away their right to consultation.

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THE STRATEGY

Governor Newsom finally responded with a much needed strategy, but it falls short of what California needs to do: control agricultural water use and pollution. The Salmon Strategy has some glaring omissions, potentially putting the nail in the coffin for salmonids. Simply put: without water, salmon cannot make it home. Sites Reservoir, Voluntary Agreements, the Delta Tunnel, and continuance of the Trump water plan could lead to salmon extinction. If the strategy is to succeed, it must include instream flows. Fish can't use dry rivers. That is why we are asking for changes to the salmon strategy.

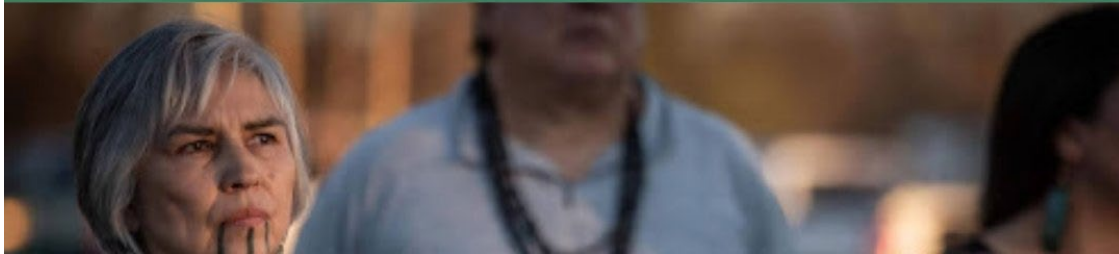
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THE BAD

Allowing irresponsible agricultural water use and approving large new diversions take away from any gains in the Strategy. Reforming water rights, updating the Bay Delta Plan using scientifically supported flows, and replacing the Trump water plan are critical to this strategy working.



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THE ABSENT

Flows for the Delta and rivers beyond the Scott and Shasta are not in the plan. We support dam removal, floodplain restoration, and temperature management, but in the end, un-inundated habitat is not fish habitat. Fish need water and cannot make it to restoration sites without enough water. The strategy also needs to address the Delta and carryover storage at reservoirs, along with Trinity River and East-side Sacramento Tributary flows. We cannot ignore ANY critical salmon watersheds.

As California's climate gets hotter, weather intensifies, and water is commodified, we must do more than reach for low hanging fruit. Salmon are depending on us for their survival, and the fishing industry and especially Native Californians who have depended on salmon for sustenance and ceremony since time immemorial, deserve more than this strategy.

Photo courtesy of Save California Salmon



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Press release by Ailing Salmon:

[Coalition Asks Gov. Newsom to Amend Salmon Strategy to Add Flows Needed](#)

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Deirdre Des Jardins

Climate change, pandemics, and societal change from a complex systems perspective

Former researcher, Santa Fe Institute, Center for Nonlinear Studies at Los Alamos National Lab, NASA Ames



"We aren't just failing to address the growing climate crisis to come; we're unprepared even for the impacts already here—in part because they keep surprising us with their intensity and in part because we can't seem to fathom our genuine vulnerability." – David Wallace Wells

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