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Heather Hadwick
930 Executive Way, Suite 201
Redding, CA 96002

Dear Ms. Hadwick:

I am the Shasta River Steward for Native Fish Society. My advocacy for restoration of the Shasta River stems from my decades of experience fishing the area around the Shasta's confluence with the Klamath. I became motivated to become an advocate for the Shasta because over the last decade the type of water year we experienced (low, average or high) had no impact on the Shasta's flow; every summer was a Shasta River drought. The purpose of my communication to you is to convey how important AB 263's goal of continued emergency flows are to recovery of the Shasta River and its fisheries.

In my path to becoming the Shasta River Steward I learned the reason for the constant drought-like-flows stemmed from its over allocation; that the adjudicated diversions exceed the Shasta's source inflows. I also discovered this archaic over allocation was done without provision for fish (or recreational) needs. Finally, I learned that the Coho Salmon and Steelhead population that once thrived in the Shasta have declined to near extinction levels because these fish remain in the river through the summer to grow before they head to the sea. Last year 41 Coho returned to the Shasta, not enough to successfully spawn offspring for a future generation.

I appreciate the ranching community and its contribution to both the Siskiyou way of life as well as our local economy. Unfortunately, the opportunities for voluntary agreements that might have averted the repetitive drought like flows never bore fruit and curtailments became a necessary step to avert the repeated recent dewatering events. With the curtailments the ranching community has survived because the sacrifice, albeit forced, has been small relative to the total amount of summer time source flows.

The water that flows from the mountains is a resource to be shared by all of California's citizens: ranchers, swimmers, boaters, homeowners and even fishermen like me. The time to share our flowing waters is here, a reasonable minimum flow pending a permanent solution is the only way to preserve the Shasta River as an essential public resource; please support AB 263.

Sincerely,

Andrew Marx, Esq.
Shasta River Steward, Native Fish Society