



San Joaquin Tributaries Authority Statement on Sacramento Superior Court Decision on State Water Board Cases

March 21, 2024

The Sacramento Superior Court's decision on the State Water Board cases summarily denied 116 claims without the stringent review necessary for a case with such direct impacts to agriculture, our cities' residents, and our communities.

As public water providers, the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) member agencies – the Modesto Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission – have over 100 years of water operations and watershed management experience on the San Joaquin River's two main tributaries: the Tuolumne and Stanislaus.

Millions of residents in eight Northern California counties and thousands of businesses and farmers have invested billions of dollars in the efficient and sustainable operation of our infrastructure. They have also invested in scientific research and adaptive management to effectively protect the Tuolumne and Stanislaus River watersheds and ecosystems. They depend on us for the stability, resilience and meticulous management of vital water resources and critical environmental systems.

The issues that ensure water delivery and environmental protections in California are complex, interdependent, and vital to our lives. More can be done, and we are prepared to tackle that challenge but not at the wholesale risk of critical water supply for our health, homes, farms, and economy. This is why California water agencies continue to work with the State on the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes – a collaborative solution that addresses environmental concerns while protecting critical water supplies.

SJTA is examining this court decision and discussing our next steps.