

Friends,

On the afternoon of Tuesday, August 23, the SFPUC will hold a workshop on their Design Drought. It will be really important for us to turn out our troops for this online meeting to demonstrate public support for restoring the Tuolumne River and Bay-Delta. Might you be able to join us?

The Design Drought is a planning scenario that combines the worst drought on record (1987-92) with the driest two-year period on record (1976/77). By using such a conservative scenario (the likelihood of the Design Drought occurring is infinitesimally small), potential water rationing gets jacked way up, and the SFPUC uses this as justification for their lawsuit against the Bay Delta Plan. We're encouraging them to reduce the Design Drought by one year, which would still leave it by far the most conservative planning scenario in the region. A recent SFPUC climate change study supports our conclusion that the Design Drought is way too conservative.

We're also encouraging the SFPUC to adopt reasonable water demand projections. Their projections have always been off by 20-30%, yet they continue to assume demand will increase until it reaches their sales cap of 265 million gallons per day (mgd) — demand has been under 200 mgd for the past eight years. In fact, current demand is half of what some previous studies projected. Using reasonable demand projections would reduce potential rationing dramatically.

If you're interested in digging into these issues a little deeper, you can read a couple of recent letters we submitted on the [climate change study](#) and [demand projections](#) (warning: they're a little wonky).

Please let me know if you might be able to attend the workshop on August 23, and I'll be sure to keep you in the loop. We'll likely have a brief training in advance, but you won't be expected to prepare any sophisticated comments (we'll provide talking points). The important thing is for the Commissioners to know you care enough to take a little time out of your schedule to participate in the workshop.

Thank you!

-Peter

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