

**2026 Resolutions
Adopted
By
The SFPUC
Full Citizens'
Advisory
Committee**

Resolution on Salmon Restoration Projects

Whereas, since the inauguration of the Hetch Hetchy System in 1932 salmon populations have been significantly impacted by increasing diversions from the Tuolumne River, creating difficult tradeoffs between water supply for agriculture, the Bay Area cities and counties served by the diversions, and the needs of the salmon populations;

Whereas, in 2009, the state legislature adopted the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act, which directed the State Water Board to develop flow requirements for Delta tributaries, which include the Tuolumne River;

Whereas, the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) published a Scientific Basis Report (2016) and adopted flow requirements (2018) for the Tuolumne River, which have been put on hold pending negotiations between the administration and upstream diverters to establish “voluntary agreements” that may be implemented more quickly;

Whereas, the Board in September 2025 released an updated draft Scientific Basis Report analyzing the impacts of the proposed Tuolumne Voluntary Agreement (TVA, also known as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program), which is a necessary prerequisite to voting to amend the Bay Delta Plan to allow the flow requirements recommended in the TVA;

Whereas, since the adoption of the Bay-Delta Reform Act in 2009, salmon populations in the Tuolumne River have not recovered; in fact, salmon returns have continued to decline due to many factors, including drought, poor harvest management, straying hatchery fish, and low juvenile outmigration survival, and we are far from reaching State and Federal doubling goals (see figure ES-1 graph). These factors, among others, contributed to the cancellation of the California commercial salmon fishing season in 2023, 2024, 2025 and is now scheduled to be open only on a limited basis for 2026;

Whereas, Fall-run Chinook salmon are present in the Tuolumne and have a three-year migration cycle;

Whereas, continuing to engage in early implementation of habitat improvements and expediting implementation of proposed increased flows on the lower Tuolumne River (pending Board adoption) will provide improved support for spawning, rearing, and outmigration of Fall-run Chinook salmon on the lower Tuolumne River;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) urges the SFPUC to work with its partners to expedite early implementation of beneficial projects to assist the recovery of salmon populations on the Tuolumne, regardless of the timing of Board actions on the TVA; and

Further Resolved, the SFPUC CAC supports project funding included in the SFPUC bi-annual budget, to be considered for adoption by the Board of Supervisors in June 2026; and

Finally resolved, that the SFPUC Citizens’ Advisory Committee urges the SFPUC to amend its design drought and drought operations, working with the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation districts, as necessary to ensure that 30% minimum flows¹ during salmon season are provided in

at least 5 years in an 8 and a half year drought and that flows below the minimum will not occur for more than two consecutive years.

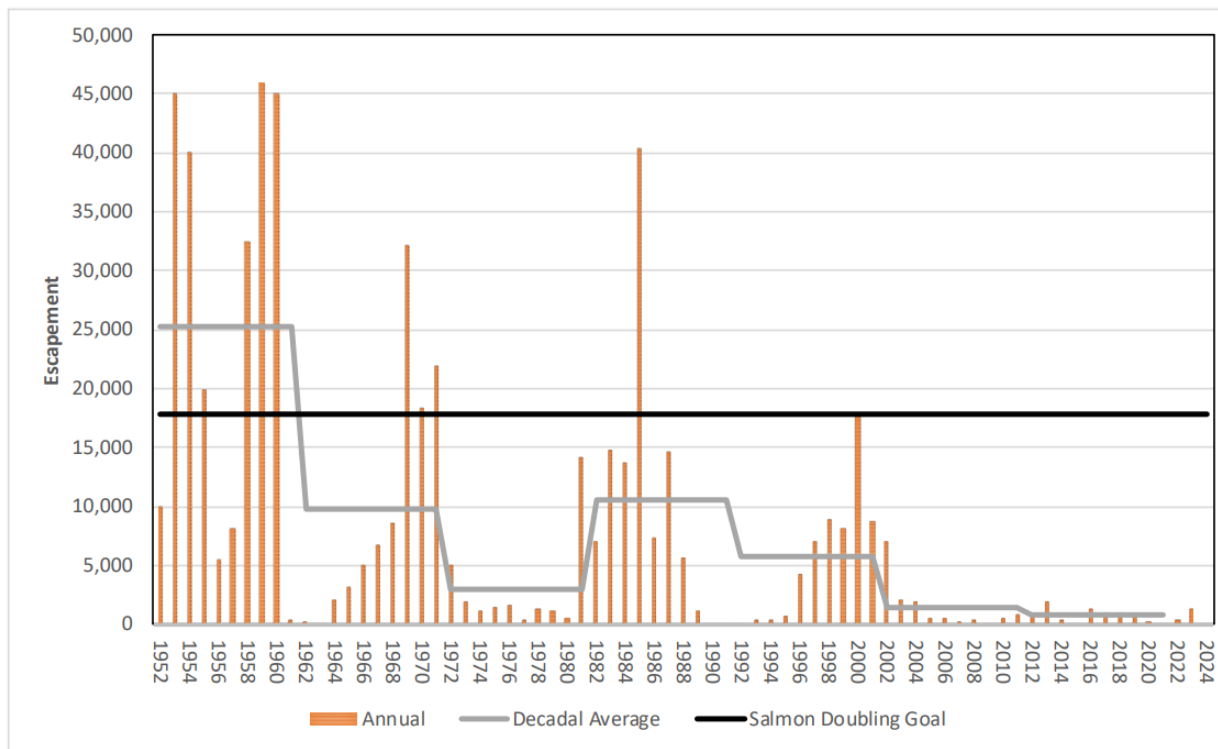


Figure ES-1. Tuolumne River Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Annual and Decadal Average Escapement from CDFW GrandTab (2025). The Salmon Doubling Goal (17,800) Represents the Estimated Tuolumne River Salmon Escapement Needed to Meet the Narrative Salmon Protection Objective. ⁱⁱ

As adopted by the Full Citizens' Advisory Committee on May 19, 2026.

PROPOUNDED BY: Aaron Hebert

ⁱ In its adoption of the Lower San Joaquin river minimum flow requirements in 2018 (resolution [2018-059](#)), the State Water Board created a tributary numeric objective of 40% unimpaired flow within an adaptive range of 30-50% from February-June.

ⁱⁱ Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement for the Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement Proposal, Prepared by the State Water Resources Control board, California Department of Water Resources and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sept. 2025