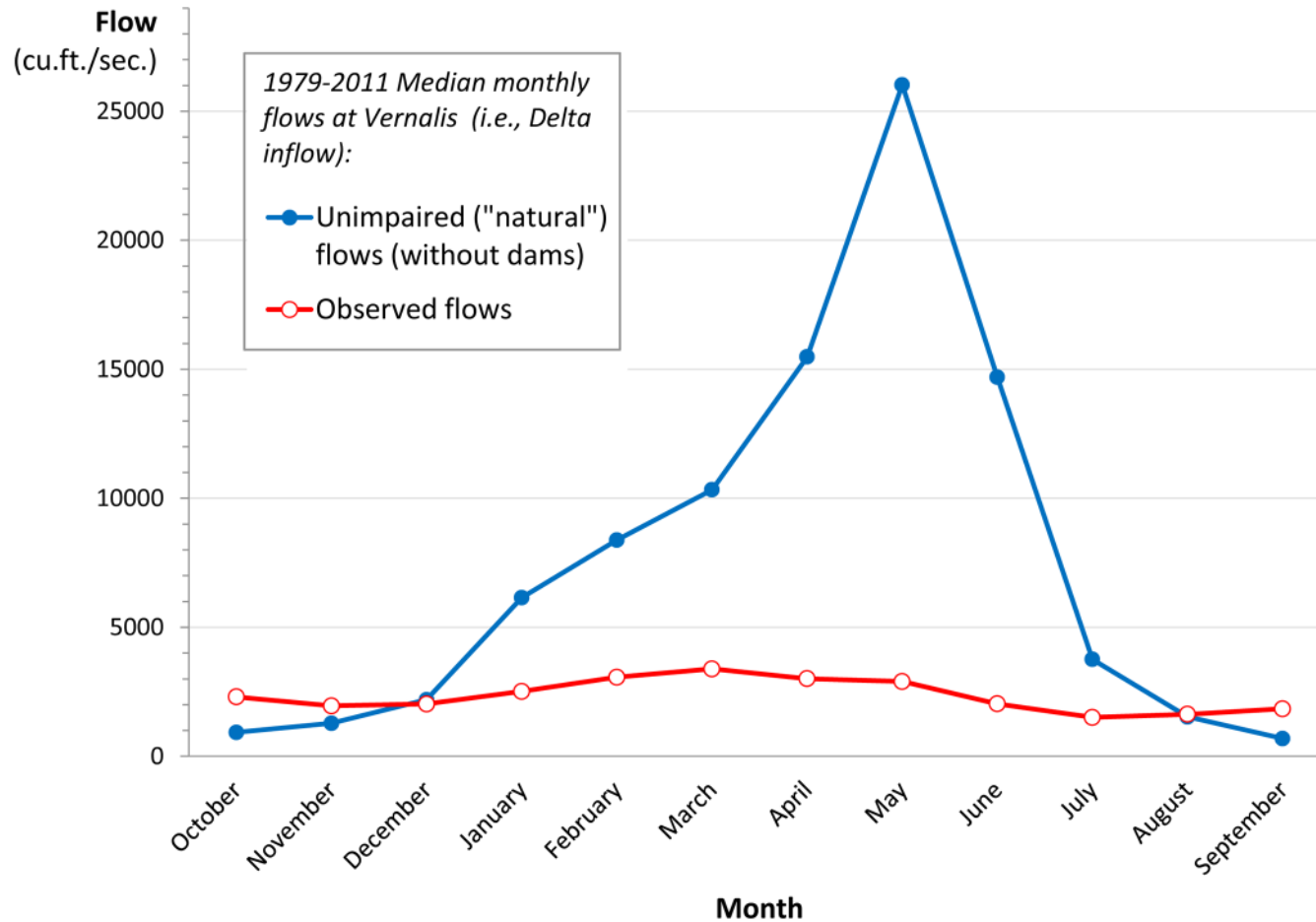


San Joaquin River flows have "flatlined" after the construction of major dams



"Flat hydrograph". The San Joaquin River is a shadow of its former self. Flows (as measured at Vernalis, downstream of dams and diversions) once peaked in the late spring with the snowmelt from the Sierra. After the construction of dams and extensive water diversions, the San Joaquin today exhibits a "flat hydrograph" -- the spring pulse flow (important for salmon and other fish) has been eliminated and the total flow volume (habitat for all aquatic species in the San Joaquin) has been severely reduced.