

# SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM

Final Environmental Impact Report  
FEIR Volume 2: Comments on the Draft EIR and Responses

Prepared for



California Department  
of Fish and Game

August 2009



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Final Environmental Impact Report

	<u>Page</u>
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>2. Response to Comments and Public Hearing Testimony.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 Master Responses.....	2-1
2.2 Responses to Individual Comments .....	2-10
2.2.1 Responses to Joint Shasta and Scott Comments .....	2-10
2.2.2 Responses to Comments Specific to the Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program Draft EIR .....	2-71
2.2.3 Responses to Oral Comments Received at the Public Hearing, Fort Jones Public Library, November 18, 2008 .....	2-111
2.2.4 Responses to Oral Comments Received at the Public Hearing, Siskiyou County Courthouse, Yreka, California, November 19, 2008.....	2-117
<b>3. Comment Letters Received and Public Hearing Testimony .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
<b>4. Text Changes to the Draft EIR .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
 <b>Appendices</b>	
A. Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Incidental Take Permit .....	A-1
Attachment 1 – Scott River Watershed Map .....	A-44
Attachment 2 – Covered Activities .....	A-45
Attachment 3 – Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan .....	A-51
Appendix 1 – Compliance Monitoring Tables .....	A-70
Appendix 2 – SQRCD Monitoring Table.....	A-75
Appendix 3 – Checklist Monitoring .....	A-85
Appendix 4 – Adaptive Management Plan Feedback Loop .....	A-88
B. Streambed Alteration Agreement Memorandum of Understanding .....	B-1
Attachment 1 Master List of Terms and Conditions .....	B-10
Exhibit 1 – Application Forms and Instructions for Incidental Take Sub Permit and Streambed Alteration Agreement.....	B-45
Attachment A: Water Rights Verification Form .....	B-64
Attachment B: Right of Entry Agreement.....	B-68
Exhibit 2 – Program Area .....	B-73

**Appendices (cont.)**

C. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Game on Procedures for Watermasters on the Scott and Shasta River Systems to Coordinate Actions to Avoid the Take of Coho Salmon ..... C-1

D. Shasta and Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Programs Application Process..... D-1

**List of Tables**

1-1 Comment Letters Received ..... 1-3

# CHAPTER 1

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## Introduction

After completion of a draft environmental impact report (EIR), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the Lead Agency to consult with and obtain comments from public agencies that have legal jurisdiction with respect to the project being proposed, and to provide the general public with opportunities to comment on the Draft EIR. The Lead Agency for the Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program (Program) EIR is the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG or Department). CEQA also requires the Lead Agency to evaluate comments on environmental issues received from persons who reviewed the Draft EIR and prepare written responses.

The Program's Draft EIR (State Clearinghouse #2006102093) was released for public review and comment in October 10, 2008. CDFG circulated the Draft EIR for review by public agencies, interested parties, and organizations for a 60-day public comment period, which ended on December 9, 2008. During the comment period, CDFG held Public Hearings in Siskiyou County on November 18 and 19, 2008 to take public comment on the Draft EIR. CDFG received numerous comment letters in addition to oral testimony at the Public Hearings.

In accordance with CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15132, this Final EIR contains a list of those agencies, organizations, and individuals who commented on the Draft EIR (**Table 1-1**), copies of the comments received, CDFG's responses to significant environmental points, and the revisions to the Draft EIR and Appendices made in either response to comments or as CDFG staff-initiated changes. CDFG has also responded to comments on the Program which did not raise significant environmental points as a means of providing additional Program information and clarification.

Chapter 2 contains CDFG's responses to the comments and to the testimony received at the Public Hearings. Responses are referenced using the same numeric system as the comment letters and Public Hearing testimony. Some comments on the Draft EIR or Program were raised multiple times. For many of these a "Master Response" has been prepared and where appropriate, the responses to these individual comments are cross-referenced to the applicable Master Response. Master Responses are found at the beginning of Chapter 2 followed by the individual responses to each Comment Letter.

Some of the comments have prompted CDFG staff to revise the Draft EIRs and Appendices, which include the Program's Incidental Take Permit (ITP) (Appendix A), streambed alteration agreement (SAA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Master List of Terms and Conditions (MLTC) (Appendix B). CDFG staff have also revised the permitting documents. These revisions are shown as follows:

- Excerpts of the text of the Draft EIR, ITP, MOU, and MLTC are indented and *italicized*;
- Additions to the text are shown as underlined;
- Deletions of the text are shown as ~~strikeout~~.

Chapter 3 contains all comments received during the comment period. One hundred seventeen letters received by CDFG commented on both the Scott Program Draft EIR and the Shasta River Watershed-wide Permitting Program Draft EIR, which was prepared and released concurrently. These letters are presented first, followed by 19 letters that address only the Scott document. Each comment letter has been assigned a number from 0 through 50, and each comment within a letter is numbered sequentially in the right margin. Seventeen individuals provided comments at the Public Hearings. The transcripts from the Public Hearing held in Fort Jones (assigned number “51”) and from the Public Hearing in Yreka (assigned the number “52”) follow the comment letters.

Changes to the text of the Draft EIR are also shown in Chapter 4.

- Additions to the Draft EIR text are shown as underlined;
- Deletions of text are shown as ~~strikeout~~.

The revised ITP and the SAA MOU, and MLTC documents are printed in their entirety in this Final EIR and attached as Appendix A and B respectfully. As stated above, additions to these documents are shown underlined and deletions are shown as strikeout. The complete text of the Draft EIR, as revised, is available on CD.

Appendix C of the Final EIR contains the Memorandum of Understanding on “Procedures for Watermasters on the Scott and Shasta River Systems to Coordinate Actions to Avoid the Take of Coho Salmon.

**TABLE 1-1  
COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED**

<b>Comment Letter Identification</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>COMMENTS TO BOTH THE SCOTT AND SHASTA DEIRS</b>	
<b>State and Regional Agencies</b>	
1	Ric Costales, County of Siskiyou, County Administrative Office
1.1	Ric Costales, County of Siskiyou, County Administrative Office
2	Marcia Armstrong, Board of Supervisors
2.1	Daniel J. Drake, Ph.D., UC Cooperative Extension
<b>Organizations</b>	
3	Jim Morris, Siskiyou County Farm Bureau
4	Jack L. Rice, Associate Counsel, California Farm Bureau Federation, Natural Resources and Environmental Division
5	Justin Oldfield, California Cattlemen's Association
6	Alan Levine, Coast Action Group
7	Jenner Cattle Company
8	Petey Brucker, Klamath River Program Klamath Forest Alliance
9	Ellen Taylor, Chair, Lost Coast League
10	Ani Kameenui, Klamath Campaign Coordinator
11	North Group, Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club, Environmental Protection and Information Center, Northcoast Environmental Center, Felice Pace
11.1	Family Water Alliance, Ashley Indrieri
<b>Individuals</b>	
12	Kim Austin
13	Jerry L. Bacigalupi
14	Lee T. Bergeron
15	Jodi Burch
16	Michael Cassidy
17	Jack Cowley
18	Norman Dyche
19	Michael Evenson
20	Brian Favero
21	Sam Hartman
22	Patrick Higgins
23	Joyce H. King
24	Scott P. Murphy
25	Meighan O'Brien
26	Abigael Proctor
27	Hella Sekaisin
28	Rhondl Snodgrass
29	Felicia Sobonya
30.01	Lowell Ashbaugh
30.02	Lynn S. Bain
30.03	Patricia Bergeron
30.04	Jennifer Berman
30.05	Ginger Bhakti
30.06	Carolyn Brandenburg
30.07	Brien Brennan
30.08	Josh Brown
30.09	Linda A. Carr

**TABLE 1-1 (Continued)**  
**COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED**

<b>Comment Letter Identification</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>COMMENTS TO BOTH THE SCOTT AND SHASTA DEIRS (cont.)</b>	
<b>Individuals (cont.)</b>	
30.10	James Carr
30.11	Rebekah Chappel
30.12	David Clark
30.13	Yvonne Cooney
30.14	Duelcie Cooper
30.15	Jeff Corral - Ribordy, MD
30.16	Lyra Cressey
30.17	Terry Deardorff
30.18	Kira Deschaux
30.19	M. Desobrin
30.20	Mary Dunn
30.21	Margaret Draper, Attorney at Law
30.22	Teresa Evans
30.23	Edward Forsyth
30.24	Ali Freedlund
30.25	Pgar
30.26	Grace Gold
30.27	Gregg Gold
30.28	Rosalinda Gonzdiez
30.29	Amy Gordon
30.30	Erin C. Hannelly
30.31	Jenny Hanson
30.32	Cathenie Hurt
30.33	Terl Humpry
30.34	Cindy Humphy
30.35	Nancy R. Ihara
30.36	Tori Jacobs
30.37	Eva Janson
30.38	Vaden Jantz
30.39	Todd Jenkins
30.40	Susan Johnson
30.41	Jeannine Kaprielian
30.42	Kathie Kelly
30.43	Paul and Barbara Kelly
30.44	Barbara Kennedy
30.45	Sam B. King
30.46	Melenie Kuhnel
30.47	Ron Kuhnel
30.48	Jennifer Lance
30.49	Charlene Lantelime
30.50	Linda Lee
30.51	Tom Leskin
30.52	Selene M. Levesque
30.53	Saba Malik
30.54	Nancy Marie



**TABLE 1-1 (Continued)**  
**COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED**

<b>Comment Letter Identification</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>COMMENTS TO BOTH THE SCOTT AND SHASTA DEIRS (cont.)</b>	
<b>Individuals (cont.)</b>	
30.55	Alan McCann-Sayles
30.56	Melvin McKinney
30.57	Roberta Mickelson
30.58	Ken Miller, MD
30.59	Carol Neakirk
30.60	Jesse Noell
30.61	Jim Peterson
30.62	Amanda Picitelli
30.63	Gerald C. Resse Jr.
30.64	Eva Janson
30.65	Rick Reese and Lisa Keller
30.66	Jeanne Reily
30.67	Alan Samuel
30.68	Austin Scales
30.69	Shermen Schapine
30.70	Sarah Scher
30.71	Brett Shuler
30.72	Star Siegfried, RN, IBCIC
30.73	John St. Marie
30.74	Connie Stringer
30.75	Kerry Sweeney
30.76	Liz Thompson
30.77	Jacqueline Thorpe
30.78	Carol Vander Meer
30.79	Marie Wadman
30.80	Mary Lou Weaver
30.81	David Weinstein
30.82	Nora Winge
30.83	Wayne Wood
30.84	Joel R. Ziegler
30.85	Leon Zlatkoff
<b>COMMENTS SPECIFIC TO THE SCOTT DEIR</b>	
0	Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit
<b>Tribes and Federal Agencies</b>	
34	Karuk Tribe of California, Earl Crosby, Interim Director, Department of Natural Resources and Susan Corum, Water Quality Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources
35	Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, Crystal Bowman, Environmental Director
36	Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, Michael Belchik, Senior Fisheries Biologist
<b>State and Regional Agencies</b>	
37	State of California, Native American Heritage Commission
38	State of California, Department of Water Resources
39	State of California, Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region
39.1	Siskiyou RCD, William Krum, President of the Board of Directors

**TABLE 1.1 (Continued)  
COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED**

<b>Comment Letter Identification</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>COMMENTS SPECIFIC TO THE SCOTT DEIR (cont.)</b>	
<b>Organizations</b>	
40	Erica Terence, Klamath Riverkeeper and Glen H. Spain Northwest Regional Director, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and the Institute for Fisheries Resources,
<b>Individuals</b>	
41	Mario Burch
42	Clint Custer
43	Jeff Edwards
44	Thomas Force
45	Jim Harris
46	Rick Hayden
47	Caroline Santos Luiz
48	Annie Marsh
49	Felice Pace
50	Danielle Yokel
<b>Public Hearing Comments</b>	
<i>Testimony from Public Hearing held in Fort Jones</i>	
51.1	Marcia Armstrong, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors
51.2 and 51.11	Mark Baird
51.3	Jeff Fowle, Siskiyou County Farm Bureau
51.4	Doug Jenner
51.5	Caroline Luiz
51.6	Erica Terence, Klamath Riverkeeper
51.7 and 51.12	Nick Jenner
51.8	John Jenner
51.9	Jim Harris
51.10	Carl Hammond
<i>Testimony from Public Hearing held in Yreka</i>	
52.1	Blair Smith
52.2	Richard Kuck, Chairman, Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
52.3	Jack Roggenbuck, Hidden Valley Ranch
52.4	Brian Favero
52.5	Malena Marvin, Klamath Riverkeeper
52.6	Tom Wetter
52.7	Jim Cook, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

## **CHAPTER 2**

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# **Response to Comments and Public Hearing Testimony**

## **2.1 Master Responses**

This section contains ten “Master Responses” which consolidate the responses to comments that address major issues raised during public review of the Draft EIR. The ten Master Response topics are as follows:

1. Jeopardy
2. Upland Forest Management and Effects on Streamflows
3. Effects on Water Quality of Pesticide and Herbicide Use
4. Groundwater
5. Access for CDFG Personnel
6. Monitoring Responsibilities
7. Recovery of Coho Salmon
8. Van Kirk and Naman Article
9. Water Rights and Takings
10. Effects of Irrigation Reduction on Streamflow and Water Quality

## Master Response 1: Jeopardy

This Master Response responds to comments which indicated that the Draft EIRs do not adequately analyze the Programs' potential to jeopardize the continued existence of coho salmon. This Master Response addresses those comments by explaining the purposes and requirements of CEQA as distinguished from those of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

CEQA requires the disclosure of environmental effects of a proposed project before discretionary approval can be issued by a public or local agency (California Code of Regulations, title 14, § 15000 *et seq.*). Pursuant to Public Resource Code, § 20161 "The purpose of an environmental impact report is to provide public agencies and the public in general with detailed information about the effect which a proposed project is likely to have on the environment; to list ways in which the significant effects of such a project might be minimized; and to indicate alternatives to such a project."

The Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program Draft EIR:

1. Described the Program;
2. Determined whether the Program has the potential to cause significant adverse effects on the physical environment;
3. Where such effects were identified, developed feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate the environmental impacts; and
4. Considered feasible alternatives to the Program that could attain most of the Program's objectives, while reducing its environmental impacts.

CESA prohibits the take of endangered, threatened, or candidate species, unless CDFG authorizes, by permit, the take of such species (sometimes referred to as "take authorization"). Pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b), CDFG may issue an Incidental Take Permit, referred to as an ITP, if all of the following conditions are met: (1) the take is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity; (2) the impacts of the authorized take are minimized and fully mitigated; (3) the permit is consistent with any regulations adopted pursuant to Fish and Game Code, §§ 2112 and 2114; and (4) the applicant ensures adequate funding to implement the measures required by Fish and Game Code, § 2081 (b)(2), and for monitoring compliance with, and effectiveness of, those measures.

Furthermore, Fish and Game Code, § 2081(c) provides that CDFG may not issue an ITP if issuance of the permit would jeopardize the continued existence of the species, and that CDFG "shall make this determination based on the best scientific and other information that is reasonably available, and shall include consideration of the species' capability to survive and reproduce, and any adverse impacts of the taking on those abilities in light of (1) known population trends; (2) known threats to the species; and (3) reasonably foreseeable impacts on the species from other related projects and activities." Thus, CDFG must make its jeopardy determination, based on a thorough analysis of the above factors ("jeopardy analysis"), prior to issuing an ITP. If, after completing this analysis, CDFG determines that permit issuance would not jeopardize the continued existence of the species, the ITP can be issued and the Program can be implemented. If, however, CDFG determines that the

continued existence of the species would be jeopardized by the permit, the ITP would not be issued and the Program would not be implemented.

As explained above, the jeopardy determination is an ITP issuance criterion pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 2081(c), but not a CEQA requirement. Furthermore, the Draft EIRs are not intended to be, nor should they be interpreted as constituting, the jeopardy determination required under Fish and Game Code, § 2081(c). That determination is a statutory requirement (under CESA) separate from any requirement under CEQA.

## **Master Response 2: Upland Forest Management and Effects on Streamflows**

This Master Response responds to comments which stated the Draft EIRs do not sufficiently examine the effects of upland forest management on streamflows. These comments generally imply that recent changes in upland forest management may have caused changes in evapotranspiration and infiltration rates that have as much or more influence on streamflows as agricultural water diversions.

It is beyond the scope and purpose of the Draft EIR to analyze the influence of upland evapotranspiration on stream flow because none of the Covered Activities under the Program will affect such evapotranspiration. Obviously, evapotranspiration rates influence how much precipitation eventually discharges to stream channels as runoff or groundwater. However, many other climatic and physical factors also influence how much runoff and groundwater is discharged to stream channels. The existing baseflow characteristics in both the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds reflect all such existing influences. Dissecting all processes at work and quantifying their impact upon existing baseflow volumes is not necessary or required for the purpose of the Draft EIRs. With respect to baseflow volumes, one of the primary purposes of the Program is to reduce the impact of water diverted for irrigation on coho salmon. As such, with respect to effects upon existing baseflow volumes, the setting information presented in the Draft EIRs appropriately focuses primarily on the influence of agricultural diversions. Agricultural diversions and impoundments account for a large percentage of the decrease in baseflow volumes in both watersheds.

Comment 4-5 stated a need to correct the Draft EIR's "faulty assumption that the Shasta and Scott Rivers are over adjudicated." The Draft EIR's statement that the Shasta and Scott Rivers are over-allocated during the summer and early fall is not "faulty", but is a fact supported by the allotment information presented in Table 3.2-1 (Shasta) and Tables 3.2-2, 3.2-3, and 3.2-4 (Scott).

Increased timber harvesting and stand thinning are not proposed as part of the Program and the potential impacts of such activities are therefore not addressed in the Draft EIR as a potential consequence of the Program.

## Master Response 3: Effects on Water Quality of Pesticide and Herbicide Use

This Master Response responds to comments which state that the Draft EIRs did not examine the potential effects of current or future use of agricultural pesticides and herbicides on water quality and fish mortality.

The use of herbicides and pesticides by Program participants is not a Covered Activity within the proposed Program, and the Program does not propose the use of herbicides or pesticides as part of its implementation. Furthermore, an increase in the scope or spatial extent of farming practices and crop-production is not proposed as part of the Program. As such, pesticide and herbicide use was not considered a potential impact of the proposed Program.

## Master Response 4: Groundwater

This Master Response responds to comments which contend that the Draft EIRs did not rely on the best available information on groundwater characteristics and dynamics within the Shasta River and Scott River watersheds, and that the Draft EIRs do not adequately analyze the potential for the Programs to increase reliance on groundwater, with resulting impacts on streamflows, water quality, and aquatic habitat.

The Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality chapter in each Draft EIR (Chapter 3.2) was thoroughly and extensively researched, as evidenced by the reference section at the conclusion of each chapter. Research included review of the best available information on groundwater characteristics and dynamics within the Shasta River and Scott River watersheds, including very recent publications reflecting current research in the watersheds.

The existing and future use of groundwater is not a Covered Activity under the proposed Program and, other than being proposed as an alternative stock-watering mitigation measure, not part of the Program. The Draft EIRs examine the potential for the Programs to result inadvertently in Program participants increasing their reliance on groundwater, or shifting from surface water diversions, which would be subject to the conditions of the Programs, to groundwater, which is not regulated or relatively unregulated in the watersheds. For the reasons stated in Impact 3.2-4 in each Draft EIR, this impact is found to be less than significant.

Where the Program intentionally encourages groundwater use, that is, as an alternative stock-watering method, this would be *in-lieu* of surface water use during coho salmon spawning migration, when streamflows are often low, and when even the relatively small volumes of surface water diversions used for this purpose (relative to use for irrigation) may have a substantial effect on the species.

The Draft EIRs also examine a secondary effect of the potential for the Programs to result in increased reliance on groundwater, since this could impact aquatic habitat, particularly by affecting baseflows and stream temperatures. For the reasons stated in Impact 3.3-2 in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, this impact is also found to be less than significant.

CDFG’s authority over the pumping and use of groundwater under CESA and Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* is limited to those instances when doing so will take a CESA-protected species or substantially divert the flow of a river or stream, respectively. In regard to Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.*, CDFG is aware of some instances in the Program Area where pumping may reduce the surface flow of a river or stream. However, to determine whether the pumping is effectively diverting water from a stream or river requires a detailed technical analysis on a case-by-case basis using various methodologies that can be expensive and time-intensive. General authority over groundwater pumping and use rests with Siskiyou County, and in some cases where the “groundwater” is subsurface flow, with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Based on the foregoing, CDFG decided not to include the pumping and use of groundwater as a Covered Activity under the Programs and it is addressed in the Draft EIRs only as an alternative stock watering method. Further, developing a groundwater management policy as part of the Programs as some commenters suggested is beyond the scope of the Programs because, as indicated above, CDFG has very limited authority to regulate the use of groundwater.

## Master Response 5: Access for CDFG Personnel

This Master Response responds to comments that mistakenly state that the Programs would restrict access to streams and rivers by CDFG enforcement personnel (i.e., wardens).

The Programs will not restrict the authority of CDFG enforcement personnel to access private property. These comments may be misinterpreting ITP Article XIII.E.1.(c), which reads:

*Sub-permittees shall provide non-enforcement Department employees written consent to access the sub-permittee’s property for the specific purpose of verifying compliance with, or the effectiveness of, the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures required by this Permit or a sub-permit and/or for the purpose of fish population monitoring in the Scott River and its tributaries, provided the Department notifies the sub-permittee at least 48 hours in advance, whether verbally or in writing. (Emphasis added.)*

As can be seen from this paragraph of the ITPs, the Programs require sub-permittees to provide CDFG non-enforcement personnel access to a sub-permittee’s property, and do not restrict in any way access of CDFG enforcement personnel.

CDFG has never agreed to keep wardens out of areas they are responsible for protecting, and such an action is not contemplated as part, or in any way suggested within, the Programs. Fish and Game Code, § 857 limits the ability of DFG employees to enter private property without land owner’s permission but is explicit in that permission is not required for a sworn peace officer (warden) to enter private lands if necessary for law enforcement purposes and that non-enforcement personnel may accompany them. Therefore, the ITPs, consistent with Fish and Game Code, § 857, specifically require Program participants to provide authorization to non-enforcement personnel to access their property for monitoring purposes. In order to clarify this point the following text has been added to ITP Article XIII.E.1.(c):

*Sworn peace officers may enter private lands if necessary for law enforcement purposes pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 857 or as otherwise authorized by law.*

## Master Response 6: Monitoring Responsibilities

This Master Response responds to comments that state that CDFG should not delegate regulatory responsibility to the RCDs. CDFG is responsible for conserving, protecting, and managing California's fish, wildlife, and native plant resources and meets that responsibility by administering and enforcing various statutes in the Fish and Game Code and other state laws, including section 1600 et seq. (section 1600) and CESA. CDFG is not delegating its responsibility to implement or enforce these laws through the Programs. In fact, ITP Article XXI., the Enforcement section, states:

- A. *This Permit does not authorize or require SQRCD to bring an enforcement action against a sub-permittee who is not in compliance with its sub-permit. Such enforcement shall be the sole responsibility and at the sole discretion of the Department.*
- B. *Nothing in this Permit precludes the Department from pursuing an enforcement action against the SQRCD or a sub-permittee instead of or in addition to suspending or revoking the Permit or any sub-permit.*

CDFG will conduct compliance monitoring of all activities it authorizes under the Programs and will review all monitoring documents and checklists prepared by the RCDs and the sub-permittees. CDFG is responsible for determining whether or not the RCDs and/or sub-permittees are in compliance with the conditions of the Permit or any sub-permits. ITP Article XIX, the Suspension and Revocation section, states:

*If the SQRCD or a sub-permittee fails to comply with any term or condition in the Permit or sub-permit, the Department may suspend or revoke the Permit or sub-permit in accordance with subsection 783.7 of title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.*

Although CDFG never intended to delegate any of its authority to the RCDs, based on the comments received and discussions with the RCDs, the monitoring role of the RCDs under the Program has been clarified and CDFG has edited ITP Article XIV., Monitoring Program, and Attachment 3 of the ITP. The revised ITP is included as Appendix A. Where appropriate, the Draft EIRs have also been edited to capture these changes.

Each RCD is required to establish a monitoring program to track the implementation of the mitigation measures for which it is responsible, and to determine the effectiveness of those measures in improving conditions for coho salmon. In addition, each RCD is available to assist sub-permittees in filling out effectiveness monitoring checklists for the diversion of water and livestock or vehicle crossings. Each RCD will fund all the monitoring activities it is responsible for performing.

Each sub-permittee will be responsible for monitoring the terms and condition of their sub-permit by completing the appropriate monitoring checklists and submitting them to CDFG.

As stated above, CDFG is responsible for any and all compliance monitoring.



## Master Response 7: Recovery of Coho Salmon

This Master Response responds to comments which state that the Programs will not result in the recovery of coho salmon stocks.

As stated in Chapter 2, Project Description, of each Draft EIR, the Programs are consistent with the *Recovery Strategy for Coho Salmon in California* (CDFG, 2004) (Coho Recovery Strategy), and measures to fully mitigate for take of coho salmon required by the ITP include key coho recovery tasks identified in that document. However, those measures, and the Programs in general, are not intended and should not be construed as comprehensive plans or programs to recover coho salmon. Instead, they are intended to satisfy the criteria for permit issuance pursuant to CESA (Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b)).

Sections 2081(b) and (c) of CESA stipulate that the Department may issue an ITP for a State listed threatened and endangered species only if specific criteria are met. These criteria are reiterated in Title 14 CCR, Sections 783.4(a) and (b), and are as follows:

1. The authorized take is **incidental to an otherwise lawful activity**;
2. The impacts of the authorized take are **minimized and fully mitigated**;
3. The measures required to minimize and fully mitigate the impacts of the authorized take:
  - a. are **roughly proportional** in extent to the impact of the taking on the species,
  - b. **maintain the applicant's objectives** to the greatest extent possible, and
  - c. **are capable of successful implementation**;
4. **Adequate funding** is provided to implement the required minimization and mitigation measures and to monitor compliance with and the effectiveness of the measures; and
5. Issuance of the permit **will not jeopardize the continued existence of a State-listed species**.

The Program will facilitate the objective of recovery identified in Coho Recovery Strategy by requiring the implementation of high priority coho recovery tasks as avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures however; a recovery standard is not one of the CESA issuance criteria.

## Master Response 8: Van Kirk and Naman Article

This Master Response responds to comments which state incorrectly that a recent article by Van Kirk and Naman<sup>1</sup> that analyzes effects of water diversions and groundwater extraction on stream flows in the Scott River basin was not cited in the Draft EIRs or used in the analysis.

The Van Kirk and Naman study was reviewed for Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality of the Scott River Draft EIR, and its findings were incorporated in the setting description. The article was cited several times in this Chapter. The following paragraph is excerpted from page 3-32 of the Scott River Draft EIR:

<sup>1</sup> Van Kirk, R.W. and S.W. Naman, "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin," *Journal of the American Water Resources Association (JAWRA)* 44(4): 1-18, 2008.

*The decline in Scott River baseflow volumes and durations can be attributed, in part, to an increase in overall consumptive water use as well as the amount of water taken from groundwater sources. The period of 1942 to 1950 was prior to the establishment of the first adjudication settlement in the Program Area (i.e., the Shackleford Creek Decree) and the diversion of surface water, which was the dominant (if not exclusive) source at that time, was not regulated by statutory adjudication. As discussed above, groundwater use increased dramatically beginning in the 1990s. In essence, Figures 3.2-8 and 3.2-9 compare a dry period that occurred before much (if any) groundwater was being used to a subsequent dry period during which the use of groundwater played a greater role. The marked decline in baseflow is likely, in part, attributable to the increase in groundwater consumption. Comparing historic (1942-1976) to modern (1977-2005) periods, Van Kirk and Naman (2008) noted a significant decline in Scott River discharge during the low-flow season (approximately July through October); the authors attributed over 60 percent of this observed decline to local factors such as increases in irrigation withdrawal and consumptive use. Figure 3.2-10 further demonstrates that, regardless of water year-type or extended wet and dry periods, Scott River flows during the late summer and early fall have decreased over time. For example, in Figure 3.2-10 the discharge curve for the more recent, relatively wetter period (1995 to 2004) crosses and falls below the discharge curve for the historic, relatively drier period (1942 to 1951).*

The Van Kirk and Naman study focused on the Scott River watershed for their analysis, and for this reason it was cited only in reference to the Scott River Draft EIR. Similar, overall conclusions were presented in the environmental setting section of the Shasta River Draft EIR (i.e., existing agricultural water diversions have negative impacts on flow volumes and fish habitat), but the specific conclusions drawn in the Van Kirk and Naman (2008) study (i.e., the quantity of baseflow reductions, the percent attributable to a given source or cause, etc.) were in reference to the Scott River. As such, these specific conclusions were only cited in the Scott River Draft EIR.

## Master Response 9: Water Rights

This Master Response responds to commenters who expressed concern that the Programs will in some way affect their adjudicated or nonadjudicated water rights, and if that is the case, they should be compensated. To participate in the Programs, an agricultural operator must have a valid existing water right, adjudicated or nonadjudicated, and may not exceed that right. For example, an agricultural operator may not use more water than his or her water right allows. CDFG does not intend to “revoke” such water rights, and indeed does not have the legal authority to do so. However, the ITP, sub-permits, and streambed alteration agreements (SAA) issued under the Programs will in some cases include conditions the Program participant must follow that could affect the exercise of his or her water right during certain times of the year. For example, in some cases, a Program participant might need to bypass a certain amount of water past his or her diversion during certain times of the year to protect fish and wildlife resources. Such conditions are not unique to the ITP, sub-permits, and SAAs under the Programs.

Further, it is a long-established legal principle that water rights are subject to the valid enforcement of other applicable statutes and regulations by government agencies, in addition to the state constitutional limitation of reasonable and beneficial use. CDFG does not believe that

any of the conditions that might be imposed on Program participants through the ITP, sub-permits, or SAAs require compensation and CDFG expects Program participants to comply with all conditions in those permits. Further, such comments raise legal issues that do not preclude CDFG from enforcing the mitigation measures identified and analyzed in the Draft EIR.

To be clear, compensation under the Program will only be available where a Program participant elects to participate in a Water Trust. The establishment of local Water Trusts will allow a Program participant to voluntarily sell or lease water that will be left instream to benefit fish and wildlife resources in accordance with guidelines prepared by the RCDs and approved by CDFG.

## Master Response 10: Effects of Irrigation Reduction on Streamflow and Water Quality

This Master Response responds to comments which contend that water conservation measures specified in the Programs, including use of more water conserving irrigation methods than those currently used (such as flood irrigation) and water efficiency measures, such as lining or piping ditches to reduce loss during conveyance of diverted water, could result in decreased recharge of groundwater and reduced groundwater return (as cold water) to streams, thus negatively impacting streamflow and stream temperature. At the watershed scale, the amount of groundwater recharge provided by applied irrigation water is likely small compared to the recharge provided by natural rainfall and runoff. More fundamentally, the Program is not expected to result in a substantial reduction in the amount of water used for irrigation.

From the perspective of aquatic habitat and impacts to fish, water during the irrigation season provides more benefit if left in the channel. Under natural conditions (and conditions more conducive to aquatic habitat), the irrigation season (i.e., summer and early fall) should be a time during which groundwater is *discharging* to surface channels, not a time when flow from surface channels is recharging and being stored within the groundwater table. Thus, according to the CEQA Guidelines pertaining to biological resources and hydrology, the Program will not have a negative impact upon groundwater recharge.

The assertion that percolated irrigation water results in an increase in the cold water baseflow of streams, or that this same water would return to the stream at a cooler temperature than when it was extracted, is speculative at best. Further, the timing of such return flow is also important with respect to habitat for fish. For example, if a portion of applied irrigation water returns to the stream at a time when the flow volume is higher compared to when that same water was extracted, then the benefit of that water to aquatic habitat has likely been diminished. Finally, the adverse effects of tailwater return on water quality and fish habitat are well documented and well understood, and likely far outweigh any benefits that may accrue to streams from unrestricted and abundant application of diverted surface water to agricultural fields.

## 2.2 Response to Individual Comments

This section contains CDFG’s responses to individual comments and the testimony received at the two Public Hearings. Each comment letter is assigned a number from 1 through 50, and each comment is numbered sequentially in the right margin of the comment letter and responses are referenced using the same numeric system. Testimony from the Public Hearing held in Fort Jones is assigned the number 51 and testimony from the Public Hearing held in Yreka is assigned the number “52” and follows the comment letters.

### 2.2.1 Responses to Joint Shasta and Scott Comments

#### **Comment Letter 0: Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit**

0-1 This comment from the State Clearinghouse acknowledges receipt and distribution to State agencies of the Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program Draft EIR, and notes the date for close of the comment period. The letter includes as an attachment a letter from the Native American Heritage Commission. This letter is included in the response document as comment letter 37, and is responded to there.

#### **Comment Letter 1: Siskiyou County**

1-1 The comment contends that the listing of the coho salmon has had damaging impacts on the County, and that the Programs are prime examples. The comment goes on to state that a reasonable, affordable balance might have been struck between the needs of fish and ranchers, but was not in this case. Comment noted.

1-2 The comment observes that there are other mitigations in the Draft EIR that “do not appear to be associated with CEQA or 1602,” and cites mitigation requirements in the Draft EIR for paleontological and archaeological resources as an example. The Draft EIR does in some cases include mitigation measures that are not part of the proposed ITP or Master List of Terms and Conditions for SAAs. The Draft EIR evaluated the potential environmental impacts of the Programs, looked at the mitigation measures, conditions, and responsibilities that will be part of the ITP, sub-permits, and SAAs, and in some cases proposed additional actions to minimize Program-related impacts. This is, in essence, the purpose and function of CEQA: in this case, to independently evaluate the Programs, identify any potential significant environmental effects associated with the Program, and to identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce those impacts, including measures that might not already be included in the ITP, sub-permits, and SAAs CDFG will be issuing under the Programs.

1-3 The comment also cites riparian planting and spawning gravel enhancement as examples of the “disconnect” between proposed mitigation and the actual impacts of the Covered Activities, i.e., “agricultural operations.” The balance between water use for agriculture and fish (which the commenter felt was not achieved) is the reason for these kinds of

enhancements. The legal diversion and use of water and other Covered Activities in the Program have the potential to adversely impact coho salmon. These potential impacts must be fully mitigated, and methods for doing this include enhancing fish habitat quality in other ways. As a theoretical point: if a stream has only two-thirds of its water, it might be able to support the same number of fish if the habitat is otherwise substantially enhanced, as it would be with additional shade and gravel. In sum, the enhancements cited correspond to potential Program-related impacts.

(By way of clarification, SVRCD ITP Article XIII.E.2.(b)(iii) requires the SVRCD to plant riparian habitat along eight linear miles of streambank during the 10-year period of the ITP, and not each year as the comment states.)

- 1-4 It will be less expensive to obtain take authorization and a SAA under the Program than it would be to obtain those permits on an individual basis outside the Program. Indeed, one of the objectives of the Program was to reduce the financial burden on Program participants to comply with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA. From that perspective, the Program benefits participants. Comment noted.
- 1-5 The term “substantial” is not defined in the Fish and Game Code or in CDFG regulations. However, at least one court defined “substantial” in the context of now Fish and Game Code, § 1602 as “characterizing something as ample or of considerable amount, quantity or size [or] . . . as important or material and of considerable amount or value rather than inconsequential or small.” (*Rutherford v. State of California* (1987) 188 Cal.App.3d 1267, 1279.) While CDFG acknowledges that there are grounds for valid differences of opinion as to what constitutes a substantial diversion of the natural flow of a river, CDFG believes that the agricultural water diversions in the Program Area are substantial as the Rutherford court defined that term. Finally, although CDFG encourages all diverters in the Program Area to participate in the Program, if a particular diverter does not believe his or her diversion amounts to a substantial diversion of the natural flow of a particular river or stream, he or she may elect not to participate.
- 1-6 CDFG acknowledges the receipt of Supervisor Marcia Armstrong’s comments, and the commenter’s support of those comments. CDFG’s responds to Supervisor Armstrong’s comments as Comment Letter 2 below.
- 1-7 See responses to Supervisor Armstrong’s comment letter below (Comment letter 2).

## **Comment Letter 1.1: Siskiyou County**

- 1.1-1 Based upon the substantial number of comments received on the Draft EIR, CDFG believes the review period, which exceeded the requirements under CEQA, was sufficient, and for that reason CDFG decided not to extend the review period.

## **Comment Letter 2: Marcia Armstrong, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors District 5**

- 2-1 Comment noted.
- 2-2 Without taking any position on its force and effect on state agencies like CDFG, CDFG believes that in developing the Programs and preparing the Draft EIRs, it has acted consistent with “Siskiyou County Code – Title 10 Planning and Zoning, Chapter 12. County Participation in State and Federal Agencies Land Transactions, Sec. 10-12.01 Findings” excerpted in the comment letter. More importantly, in all respects, CDFG exceeded CEQA’s disclosure and noticing requirements. For example, the public scoping meetings on the Initial Studies and public hearings on the Draft EIRs in Fort Jones and Yreka exceeded CEQA requirements; the Draft EIRs’ public comment period was longer than required under CEQA; and CDFG staff met repeatedly with individuals, irrigation districts, Resource Conservation Districts, Save our Shasta and Scott Valleys Inc. (SOSS), individual county supervisors and other county representatives during the development and preparation of the Draft EIRs. Finally, although CDFG appeared formally before the Siskiyou Board of Supervisors on only a few occasions during this same period, the county’s Natural Resource Specialist was a regular participant at meetings on the Programs attended by CDFG.
- 2-3 Please see response to Comment 2-2.
- 2-4 The proposed Programs are consistent with Siskiyou County’s conservation objectives relating to hydrology, water resources, and water quality, in addition to CDFG’s general obligations as the trustee for the state’s fish and wildlife resources. Also, please see response to Comment 2-2.
- 2-5 Please see response to Comment 2-2 and as to “takings,” Master Response 9.
- 2-6 The Draft EIRs acknowledge that Siskiyou County has jurisdiction over groundwater management. However, that does not remove the need under CEQA to analyze any Program-related impacts to groundwater resources. For that reason, the potential environmental impacts to groundwater resources are addressed and analyzed in the Draft EIRs. (See Impact 3.2-4 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology and Water Quality, of each Draft EIR.)
- 2-7 This comment pertains to the authority of county supervisors over non-navigable streams, summarizes some court opinions on that subject, and makes a conclusion regarding the State Lands Commission’s authority over non-navigable streams. The comment does not appear to be related in any way to the Programs, the Draft EIRs, CDFG’s authority under the Fish and Game Code including CDFG’s authority to regulate activities in or near rivers and streams under the Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.*, and SWRCB’s and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards’ authority under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, § 13000 *et seq.*) and other provisions in the Water Code.

- 2-8 This comment reflects a legal opinion regarding the nature of a water right and takings. However, please see Master Response 9.
- 2-9 This comment states that under the ITP, it appears that the watermaster will be required to reduce water diversion to meet the instream flow needs of fish, and asks whether compensation for such “reallocation” will be provided through the Water Trust and raises issues regarding takings. In some cases, the watermaster might be asked to reduce water diversions, but, as ITP Article XVIII.D. provides, only

*If reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion will avoid or minimize stranding, and that is determined by the Department to be the only available measure to avoid or minimize stranding,...*

Also, in that case, the Department will work with SVRCD/SQRCD and sub-permittee and, if applicable, the watermaster to take such action. Hence, CDFG will consult with the sub-permittee before such action is taken. However, in that event, the sub-permittee will not be compensated through the Water Trust or any other mechanism. In further response, please see Master Response 9.

The comment continues by stating a legal opinion that notification is not required under Fish and Game Code, § 1602 for the mere diversion of water, i.e., “even if no physical disruption of the channel occurs” and states, “The California Farm Bureau has indicated that no where [*sic*] else in California has the CDFG interpreted the 1602 provisions to categorically require a conditional permit on all water diversions for irrigation.” The comment questions CDFG’s interpretation of the requirement in Fish and Game Code, § 1602 for an entity to notify CDFG before substantially diverting the natural flow of a river, stream, or lake. However, CDFG respectfully disagrees with the commenter’s assertion, and the same assertion by the California Farm Bureau. CDFG believes that its position is entirely consistent with the broad legislative purpose of Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.*, as articulated in § 1600, with other statutes that more directly govern the “diversion” of water, namely the Water Code, and court decisions regarding Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and that nothing in the legislative history leading to the original enactment of Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* contradicts CDFG’s position on this issue. Also, insofar as the commenter believes or is concerned that the Programs represent the first and only time CDFG has applied Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* to the diversion of water where “no physical disruption of the channel occurs,” that conclusion is incorrect. Hence, Program participants would be treated in the same manner as other entities with SAAs that cover water diversions; they would not in some way be “singled out” or treated unfairly by participating in the Programs. Indeed, the Programs would afford them a financial benefit not available to other entities in the state who must obtain a SAA because Program participants do not need to pay a notification fee or CDFG’s CEQA-related costs.

The comment also states that the “ITP . . . seems to require conversions of an undefined corridor of riparian lands to lands planted in trees for the benefit of endangered species habitat” and that “[the ITP] appears to recognize [CDFG] as land use authority in regard

to grazing in this undefined area of land.” The purpose of revegetating and protecting riparian corridors is to minimize any take of coho salmon that might occur incidental to a Covered Activity, namely the grazing of livestock. In making those requirements part of the ITP, and similar requirements part of an SAA, CDFG is acting within its statutory authority under CESA to ensure that any take of coho salmon is minimized and under Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.*, to protect fish and wildlife resources a particular activity could substantially adversely affect; CDFG agrees that it does not have and does not purport to have any general land use authority.

Finally, the comment raises a concern regarding “rough proportionality.” The comment raises a legal or permitting issue. However, insofar as the commenter is concerned that the minimization and mitigation measures in the ITP and sub-permits are not roughly proportional, as CESA requires, CDFG respectfully disagrees. The Programs’ mitigation measures meet the issuance criteria required pursuant to CESA, including the rough proportionality requirement in general and the measures in the ITP and sub-permits that apply to riparian corridors.

2-10 The comment raises concerns about the financial burdens that compliance with the conditions in the ITP, sub-permits, and SAAs issued under the Programs impose on individual family farms, the RCDs, and the county’s agricultural population as a whole. This comment raises social and economic issues, rather than significant environmental issues with respect to the Programs. However, CDFG acknowledges that compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.*, CESA, and other Fish and Game Code provisions can be costly. Indeed, both Draft EIRs acknowledge in Chapter 3.1, Land Use and Agriculture, and in Chapter 4, Cumulative Effects and other Required Topics, that the cost to participate in the Program (including performing specific avoidance and minimization measures) could potentially reduce net income for participants. However, CDFG does not have the authority to exempt an entity from Fish and Game Code requirements for economic reasons. At the same time, a main objective of the Programs is to facilitate compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA by reducing as much as possible the cost of obtaining take authorization and a SAA which would be much greater outside the Programs. Similarly, a primary motive for, and objective of, the RCDs’ participation is to support landowner activities (both private and public) in order to enhance the conservation and economic stability of Siskiyou County’s natural resources. (See Chapter 2 of both Draft EIRs.) In broad terms, the enterprise of family farming is as dependent on stable watersheds as the fish they support.

2-11 The comment continues the concerns raised in comment 2-10, providing considerable data and information regarding the economic plight of Siskiyou County and its consequences for its citizens. Please see response to Comment 2-10. The perspective of the comment is broadened here to describe the full effect of numerous other regulations on the social fabric of the county, which is beyond the scope of the Programs and Draft EIRs. The commenter ends with a suggestion that putting local people to work in restoration projects, and making operations more efficient and productive would be desirable. CDFG will consider that comment in implementing the Programs.



- 2-12 Comment noted.
- 2-13 Program participants will be required only to adhere to the terms and conditions of their ITP or sub-permit and SAA, as well as any applicable mitigation measures in the EIRs. While some of these terms, conditions, and mitigation measures may require adjustment and adaptation to meet the challenges posed by a changing climate, Program participants will not be responsible individually for halting climate change or be held liable for the general effects of climate change on coho salmon or other resources. Please refer also to Chapter 3.7, Public Utilities, Service Systems, and Energy, for an analysis of the effects of the Programs on climate change.
- 2-14 The ITPs are based on the measures described in the applications that the RCDs submitted to minimize and fully mitigate take of coho salmon pursuant to CESA. The SSRT identified a diverse and large set of actions which, if implemented, would assist with recovery of coho salmon. The Programs represent an opportunity to implement some key coho recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy while using those same tasks to minimize or mitigate take of coho salmon that *might* occur incidental to agricultural operations. In response to the comment that “[i]t is as though the decline in coho populations is being attributed entirely to agricultural operations[,]” the Draft EIRs make no such representation or suggestion. Any representation or suggestion to the contrary would contradict the Coho Recovery Strategy’s conclusion that the observed decline of coho salmon populations leading to state listing is attributable to many factors, including agricultural operations. However, given that agricultural operations are in fact one factor, it is to the benefit of diverters to participate in the Programs in order to obtain take coverage in the event such coverage is needed. Finally, and as already mentioned above in response to Comment 2-9, CDFG does not agree that measures in the Program to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the impacts of taking are “extraordinary or disproportional.”
- 2-15 and 2-16  
The comment references pages S-12 to S-15 in each Draft EIR. The comment presumes that cultural, paleontological, and biological surveys before ground- disturbing activities would interfere with agriculture. All mitigation measures apply only to the Program’s Covered Activities, which are detailed beginning on page 2-10 of both Draft EIRs, and do not include farming practices such as plowing or tilling.
- 2-17 The commenter cites from page S-14 in each Draft EIR a summary of grazing and riparian fencing requirements under the Program. The commenter’s concern is that the ITP could severely restrict grazing within a fenced riparian area. Indeed, the purpose of exclusion fencing is to allow riparian vegetation to re-establish itself, but is not intended to totally prohibit grazing. The commenter recognizes that these areas can be grazed in accordance with a grazing management plan approved by CDFG, but asks whether existing fencing located, for example, 20 feet from a stream would have to be relocated further away to meet the 35-foot buffer stipulated by the ITP. Only new fencing would require a buffer of approximately 35 feet. The commenter continues with a question

about stock watering access. Stock watering assess lanes are a Covered Activity under the Program. Last, the commenter proposes that if a riparian area is planted to trees, it would remove it from agricultural or other economic use, and that this should be considered in any economic analysis. CDFG differs with this assertion. Among other benefits, healthy and stable vegetated riparian areas insure that bank erosion does not threaten adjacent uplands, and their restoration will benefit economic uses as much as natural resources. Neither would this require a change in land use designation under the County General Plan or zoning ordinance.

- 2-18 Please response to Comment 2-7. The State Lands Commission’s authority or lack of authority over non-navigable rivers is immaterial to the Programs and CDFG’s CEQA analysis in the Draft EIRs.
- 2-19 Sub-permittee must provide non-enforcement CDFG personnel permission to access the sub-permittee’s property (MLTC Conditions 17) to verify compliance with, or the effectiveness of, the avoidance and minimization measures required by their sub-permit and for fish population monitoring; SVRCD or SQRCD personnel must also be provided permission to access the sub-permittee’s property where necessary to inspect sub-permittee’s screens, headgates, measuring devices, diversion structures and livestock and vehicle crossings annually; and/or to allow SVRCD or SQRCD to complete the mitigation obligations required in ITP Article XIII.E.2 and for CDFG and SVRCD or SQRCD to monitor the effectiveness of those measures.

CDFG and the RCDs must notify the sub-permittee at least 48 hours in advance, whether verbally or in writing. Nothing in the Program restricts the sub-permittee from accompanying CDFG or the RCD on their property; in fact, sub-permittee participation is encouraged. Insofar as the commenter is primarily concerned about obtaining landowner permission, as stated above, CDFG and the RCDs will not enter private property without the landowner’s permission. On the other hand, the sub-permittee must grant such permission as a condition of participating in the Programs. In further response, please see Master Response 5.

Regarding the comment, “Liability insurance for the employee should also be guaranteed”, CDFG is self-insured against all or any part of any tort liability.

- 2-20 Please see response to Comments 2-10 and 2-11 regarding the comment that the measures for sub-permittees should be reasonable and affordable. In regard to the comment that the ITP appears to “shift the burden of fish screens” from CDFG to Program participants, it is not necessarily true that the burden would have been CDFG’s in the first instance in any particular case. Regardless, in some cases, a fish screen is needed to avoid and/or minimize take, and therefore it is entirely valid to include such a requirement in a sub-permit which the sub-permittee must then meet.
- 2-21 CDFG is aware of the “legal difficulties” it might encounter in implementing measures for tailwater reduction and capture, but it does not believe that such potential difficulties

make those measures unenforceable or otherwise impossible to implement. In regard to the comments on takings, please see Master Response 9.

- 2-22 The primary purpose of the water efficiency programs the comment mentions is to leave more water in the channels during critical times of the year to increase the likelihood of fish survival (i.e., summer and early fall), while still providing the same volume of water allocated by right to a given landowner. Removing less water from the channel during the time period when it is critical for fish survival would likely be a beneficial impact of the Program; suggestions to the contrary are not supported. Potential impacts to wetlands are addressed in Chapter 3.4, Biological Resources: Botany, Wildlife, and Wetlands, of each Draft EIR.
- 2-23 The comment again raises the issue of takings. As to that issue, please see Master Response 9. As to the role of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) watermaster as an agent of the court, CDFG is mindful of the watermaster's proper role in administering various decrees in the Scott and Shasta Valley watersheds. Finally, in regard to the possibility that a local watermaster service will replace DWR's watermaster service, whether in the Scott or Shasta systems or both, Chapter 4, page 4-28, in the Draft EIR addresses the potential for watermastering responsibilities to be transferred to newly established Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District. If and when a new local watermaster district assumes responsibility for the watermastering duties from DWR, they will be required to comply with CESA by obtaining a sub-permit through the Program or individually outside the Program.
- 2-24 CDFG has no information available to evaluate a cost of a local watermaster service versus the cost of DWR's watermaster service.
- 2-25 The commenter references page 3-2 of the Scott River Draft EIR. The commenter's interpretation is correct: historic and ongoing activities are not subject to the environmental analysis. The Draft EIRs evaluate the potential for the Programs to result in new environmental impacts, above and beyond what is currently occurring, and where such impacts are found to be significant, additional mitigation measures are specified. Continuation of baseline activities do not require mitigation under CEQA but may require mitigation under CESA and Fish and Game Code, § 1602. Thus the statement that mitigation is therefore "for the physical changes the actual 1602 and ITP requirements would cause" is incorrect. Mitigation obligations contained in the ITP are to offset residual, incidental take of coho salmon after implementation of avoidance measures and apply to all take occurring under the Program, i.e., take resulting from historic, ongoing activities, as well as any take resulting from the implementation of ITP required avoidance and full mitigation measures. Mitigation obligations contained in the SAAs are to protect fish and wildlife resources that a particular Covered Activity could substantially adversely affect even though that activity might be one that is historic and ongoing.
- 2-26 CDFG agrees with the comment that under the Programs, less agricultural water will be diverted because CDFG believes that it is not uncommon for some diverters to exceed

their legal water rights which the Program will prohibit; as mentioned in Master Response 9, in some cases, Program participants under their sub-permits and SAAs will need to divert less water during certain times of the year to benefit fish species; the Program includes water efficiency and management measures; and some Program participants will elect to sell or transfer some portion of their water to one of the local Water Trusts that will be established under the Program. However, as explained in Master Response 9 none of those actions will constitute a taking.

Regarding the question about analysis of the Programs' affect on the productivity of land and the cost of various studies necessary to conduct before performing ground-disturbing activities, the issue of economic burden on landowners is examined in Impact 3.1-1 in Chapter 3.1, Land Use and Agriculture, in each Draft EIR and was determined to be less than significant. Please also see response to Comment 2-10.

- 2-27 Both Draft EIRs include a description of nursery crops as a component of the local agricultural sector. See Chapter 3.1, Land Use and Agriculture, in each Draft EIR. As noted in the Draft EIRs, nursery crop data were based on information provided by the Center for Economic Development and the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture.
- 2-28 The comment states that lands currently zoned for agriculture could “lose access to irrigation or be tied up in such expensive and onerous regulations that the agriculture ceases to be an economically viable use of the land,” which could prompt changes to General Plan elements and zoning. As described under Impact 3.1-1, it is unlikely that the Program would reduce the financial viability of existing agricultural operations to such a level that agricultural lands would be converted to non-agricultural uses. The Siskiyou County General Plan has stringent policies and mechanisms that discourage conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Zoning and land use changes would be subject to CEQA review by the County. Such laws, regulations, and policies represent substantial hurdles to land use conversion. The conversion of agricultural land within the Scott River Watershed and the Shasta River Watershed to non-agricultural uses is an important concern to many parties. These Programs were designed with extensive consideration to alleviating costs associated with meeting the requirements of the ITP and SAA, as discussed in the Introduction and Program Description in each Draft EIR, as well as in Impact 3.1-1 in each Draft EIR. In further response, please see response to Comments 2-10 and 2-11.
- 2-29 Comment noted.
- 2-30 Comment noted. The potential environmental impacts to groundwater resources are addressed and analyzed in the Draft EIRs (see Impact 3.2-4 in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology and Water Quality, of each Draft EIR).
- 2-31 The commenter asserts that costs, loss of productivity and land conversion from productivity have the potential for serious impacts on the County and should be analyzed. The Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures section (page 4-30) in the Draft EIR states,

*the cumulative impact of environmental regulations, watermaster fees, and Program-related fees may cause landowners of properties with less viable agricultural operations to feel increased pressure to convert or sell their land. However, the cost and effort for those who choose to comply with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 et seq. and CESA outside the Program would likely be much greater than for Program participants.*

As analyzed under Impact 3.1-1, the potential for the Programs to result in the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses was determined to be less than significant.

- 2-32 The conditions and changes described in the comment are part of the existing physical setting in the Scott and Shasta Valley watersheds, and therefore are part of the baseline for purposes of the environmental analysis in the Draft EIRs. Indeed, the hydrologic and geomorphic impacts of human development within both watersheds are discussed exhaustively in the Draft EIRs. Comment noted.
- 2-33 The Draft EIR concurs with the commenter's assertion that, according to readily available groundwater data, regular annual groundwater recharge occurs within the Scott Valley. The Draft EIR also acknowledges that other, more recent trends are only suggestive and inconclusive at present.
- 2-34 Van Kirk and Naman published an Erratum (Erratum No. JAWRA-07-0074-ER) to their paper in the very same journal issue. The Erratum specifically addressed the discrepancy with the reported irrigated acreage values. However, their overall conclusions remained unchanged and the information presented in the Erratum did not contradict their original conjecture that consumptive use of water has increased in the Scott River watershed. Please see Master Response 8.
- 2-35 The cited opinion by DWR's previous watermaster, as well as the general comment, are noted. The Draft EIR does not attribute the cause of baseflow decline to a single source. Rather, it is acknowledged that other factors aside from agricultural diversions and consumptive use likely play a role.
- 2-36 Within the Shasta and Scott River watersheds the reduction in the extent and quality of aquatic habitat can and does result in take of coho salmon. The ITP and sub-permits meet the issuance criteria required pursuant to CESA (including avoidance, minimization, and full mitigation of take).
- 2-37 Please see Master Response 9.
- 2-38 Comment noted.
- 2-39 MLTC Condition 34 (Condition 32 in Draft EIR) states that push-up dam construction shall commence no earlier than May 1 unless authorized by CDFG. Installation may occur earlier pursuant to MLTC Condition 35 (Condition 33 in Draft EIR) if CDFG determines construction will not substantially adversely affect an existing fish or wildlife resource. MLTC Condition 36 (Condition 34 in Draft EIR) states push-up dam construction and

- removal shall be accomplished by the operation of a bucket attached to a loader, excavator, or backhoe that is situated outside of the wetted portion of the stream channel.
- 2-40 The comment poses a hypothetical scenario that requires a legal opinion or conclusion that even if CDFG were willing or required to address would be unable to do so without more facts.
- 2-41 Under CEQA, social and economic effects are not considered significant environmental effects, unless they would result in a significant physical change in the environment (CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15131(a)). As analyzed under Impact 3.1-1 the potential for the Programs to result in the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses was determined to be less than significant. The same effect is considered in the broader context of other recent regulatory actions in the Cumulative Impacts analysis (Chapter 4) of each document, and also found to be less than significant.
- 2-42 Please see Master Response 9.
- 2-43 Please see response to Comment 2-9.
- 2-44 The RCDs and CDFG have taken and will continue to take steps to minimize the agricultural participants' cost to participate in the Programs. On behalf of the participants, the RCDs will fund the full mitigation requirements under CESA and have paid the notification fee. Also, please see response to Comment 2-41.

### **Comment Letter 2.1: Dr. Daniel J. Drake, PhD., University of California Cooperative Extension**

- 2.1-1 The commenter postulates a possible effect of the Programs on cropping types or regimes, particularly a shift from perennial pasture to annual hay production in riparian areas, and states that such a shift could cause secondary impacts on water quality and other resources. While the scenario posed by the commenter is plausible, the chain of events leading to an adverse physical environmental change are considered too long, too tenuous, and too speculative to rise to the level of a significant impact. First, the Programs will not prevent use of riparian corridors for grazing, nor terminate existing water rights, but will only add conditions and incentives to minimize the adverse effects of these activities on coho salmon. Therefore, any change in crop types would be expected to be limited. Second, the required fencing of streams and associated riparian corridors would reduce direct pollution of streams, such as manure pollution, and would increase buffering of any polluted runoff from both pastures and fields. Third, the beneficial effects of the Programs, including control of access by cattle to streams and riparian corridors, increased efficiency (and therefore a likely reduction) in use of diverted water, and in-stream habitat improvements, would be expected to outweigh possible adverse effects of crop changes. Finally, the changes postulated by the commenter would not result in a change of land use from agricultural to another use, but

merely a shift in crops or type of agriculture. From a CEQA perspective, this change would not in itself constitute a significant impact.

### **Comment Letter 3: Siskiyou County Farm Bureau**

- 3-1 Comment noted.
- 3-2 Page 3.3-42 of the Shasta River Draft EIR and page 3.3-45 of the Scott River Draft EIR state that the range-wide decline of coho salmon is at least partially the result of conditions or events that are not specific to any given watershed; the Draft EIR does not imply that agricultural operations are solely responsible for the decline. CDFG acknowledges that there is currently insufficient data to link the decline of coho salmon in the Shasta and Scott watersheds directly to agricultural operations. However, as described in detail in Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 of the Draft EIRs, agricultural operations are directly linked to aquatic habitat quality, and aquatic habitat quality is directly linked to coho salmon survival and productivity. The adverse effects of water diversions on fish species is documented extensively in the scientific literature, a small fraction of which is presented in the Draft EIRs. Also, please see response to Comments 2-14 and 2-35.
- 3-3 Please see Master Response 2.
- 3-4 The Draft EIRs describe in detail the agricultural history and land uses in the Scott and Shasta River watersheds, and address the possibility that the Programs could result in a change in agricultural land use. Since the use of land for agriculture is central to the “culture of agriculture,” this topic is adequately covered in the Draft EIRs. Impact 3.1-1 in Subchapter 3.1, Land Use and Agriculture, in each Draft EIR finds that the potential for the Programs to result in a change in agricultural land to another use is less than significant. Therefore, any effect on the “culture of agriculture” would also be less than significant.
- 3-5 The level of detail in the description and analysis of the In-Stream Flow Alternative in each of the Draft EIRs is consistent with CEQA *Guidelines* § 15126.6, and does not require revision or expansion. CDFG determined that implementation of this alternative would greatly increase the Programs’ environmental impacts and cost. As stated in the discussion of the Environmentally Superior Alternative in Chapter 5 of each Draft EIR, CDFG determined that the Programs are environmentally superior to the alternatives considered.
- 3-6 Under CEQA, social and economic effects are not considered significant environmental effects, unless they would result in a significant physical change in the environment (CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15131(a)). The Draft EIRs examine the potential for the Programs to decrease the profitability of farming and ranching enterprises to the extent that this would effect a change in land use from agriculture to other uses. The Draft EIRs find in Impact 3.1-1 in Chapter 3.1, Land Use and Agriculture, that such an effect of each Program is by itself unlikely, and does not rise to the level of significance under CEQA. This conclusion is reached based on the cost-saving aspects of the Programs, and on the

- likelihood of funding to assist Program participants with compliance with the Program terms and conditions. The cumulative effects analysis in Chapter 4 of each Draft EIR finds that the Programs would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable extent to such an impact when combined with the effects of other regulatory programs on agricultural land uses.
- 3-7 The potential for increased cost of watermastering service is discussed in Chapter 4, Cumulative Effects and Other Required Topics, of each Draft EIR.
- 3-8 The Programs are not expected to result in reduced crop yields to the extent that current crop yields are based on use of water in accordance with existing water rights. Insofar as a sub-permittee is required to reduce the amount of diverted water to comply with his or her sub-permit and SAA or elects to do so by selling or transferring some portion of his or her water as part of a local Water Trust, or for any other reason, the amount of the decrease and when any decrease occurs cannot be determined at this time, and therefore is speculative. Also, it is more likely that any effect of a decrease in crop yields would be economic rather than environmental, and even if environmental, not necessarily adverse. As mentioned in response to Comment 3-6, under CEQA, social and economic effects are not considered significant environmental effects, unless they would result in a significant physical change in the environment (CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15131(a)).
- 3-9 Please see response to Comment 3-6. Also, Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b)(4) requires an ITP applicant to ensure adequate funding to implement the measures required to minimize and fully mitigate take. In other words, CESA makes it clear that the applicant is responsible for meeting the minimization and full mitigation requirements without which CDFG could not authorize take. As a general rule, that is the case in regard to any federal, state, or local permit; the burden is on the permittee to comply with its terms and conditions. Consistent with the CESA requirement mentioned above, ITP Article XIII.E.1.(d) states that a sub-permittee will be
- ...solely responsible for any costs the sub-permittee incurs to implement any avoidance or minimization measures required under a sub-permit...*
- Of course, as the Draft EIRs explain, the cost to sub-permittees to obtain take authorization under the Programs will be much less because under the Programs, the RCDs will be responsible for meeting the full mitigation requirements on behalf of the sub-permittees.
- 3-10 Please see response to Comment 3-6.
- 3-11 The comment is noted. For the reasons stated in Chapter 3.1, the Setting section, non-renewal of a Williamson Act contract is costly and cancellation is still difficult. Also, as described in Impact Analysis 3.1-1, even if Program participants were to suffer a decline in the financial viability of their agricultural operations as a result of participation in the Program, specific and general restrictions on land use changes would serve as an obstacle to the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. The Siskiyou County



General Plan has policies and mechanisms that discourage conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Zoning and land use changes would be subject to CEQA review by the County.

- 3-12 A cost-benefit analysis is not required by CEQA. Also, the Programs are intended to facilitate compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA. While an individual might engage in a cost-benefit analysis in deciding whether to comply with those statutes where they apply, because compliance is mandatory by law, such an analysis is irrelevant in the context of enforcing Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA through implementation of the Programs.
- 3-13 The commenter is presumably referring to the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The information on the CRP below was derived from the USDA website.<sup>2</sup> Enrollment of land within the Program areas in the CRP would not result in a change in land use from agricultural uses to non-agricultural uses. Because the USDA provides incentive and rental payments for enrollment and maintenance of land in the CRP, the overall effects on income, agricultural employment, and the County's tax base would be expected to be minor, and would not be likely to cause secondary impacts, such as blighting of commercial areas. Therefore, if such a change were to occur, partly or wholly because of the Program, it would not be expected to result in a significant environmental effect.

### Overview

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long term, resource conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost share assistance.

FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support. More detailed information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet "Conservation Reserve Program."

### CRP Continuous Sign-up

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding. Continuous sign-up contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

To offer land for continuous sign-up, producers should contact their local FSA offices. To find your local office, visit FSA's Service Center Locator.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp-sp>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateOffices?area=stoffice&subject=landing&topic=landing>

### **Eligible Producers**

To be eligible for CRP continuous sign-up enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right or redemption in accordance with state law; or
- The circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

### **Eligible Land**

To be eligible for placement in CRP, land must be either:

- Cropland (including field margins) that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the previous six crop years from 1996 to 2001, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity; or
- Certain marginal pastureland that is enrolled in the Water Bank Program or suitable for use as a riparian buffer or for similar water quality purposes.

### **Eligible Practices**

Also, the land must be eligible and suitable for any of the following conservation practices:

- riparian buffers;
- wildlife habitat buffers;
- wetland buffers;
- filter strips;
- wetland restoration;
- grass waterways;
- shelterbelts;
- living snow fences;
- contour grass strips;
- salt tolerant vegetation; and
- shallow water areas for wildlife.

Land within an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-designated public wellhead area may also be eligible for enrollment on a continuous basis.

### **CRP Continuous Sign-up Payments**

FSA provides CRP continuous sign-up participants with rental payments, including any incentives, and cost share assistance:

- Rental Payments

In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative

productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash rent or cash rent equivalent. The maximum CRP rental rate for each offer is calculated in advance of enrollment. Producers may offer land at that rate or offer a lower rental rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted. The per acre annual rental rate may not exceed FSA's maximum payment amount and is calculated in advance of enrollment. While continuous sign-up acceptance is not determined by a competitive offer process, producers may elect to receive an amount less than the maximum payment rate.

- Cost-share Assistance

FSA provides cost share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance can be an amount not more than 50 percent of the participants' costs in establishing approved practices.

- Financial Incentives

As a part of annual rental payments, FSA offers financial incentives of up to 20 percent of the soil rental rate for field windbreaks, grass waterways, filter strips, and riparian buffers. An additional 10 percent may be added to the soil rental rate for land located within EPA designated wellhead protection areas. A per acre payment rate may also be added for maintenance of eligible practices.

#### **Additional Financial Incentives**

Also as a part of annual rental payments, FSA offers participants the following payment enhancements:

An up front signing incentive payment (CRP-SIP) of \$100 to \$150 per acre (depending on contract length) for eligible participants who enroll certain practices. The one time SIP will be made after the contract is approved and all payment eligibility criteria are met.

- A practice incentive payment (CRP-PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs for eligible participants who enroll certain practices. The one time PIP will be issued after the practice is installed, eligible costs are verified, and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

3-14 Please see response to Comments 3-6 and 3-13.

3-15 The commenter states that conclusions and statements in the Draft EIR regarding commodities grown and trends in crop value are inaccurate, but does not state specifically which figures are inaccurate. The commenter is also concerned with the source material used in this section. Table 3.1-1, Agricultural Production in Siskiyou County showing crop type and estimated value is based on data from the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture. The Caltrans document used as the source for the agricultural sector's future performance forecast cites statistics that were gathered from the County Agricultural Commissioner's Offices, Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics among other sources.

3-16 While the crop rotation cycles cited by the commenter may not have been taken into account in describing cropping trends over time, it seems unlikely that rotations occur in lock-step; presumably they are staggered from farm to farm. In any event, the statistics presented are merely to characterize the environmental setting, and do not form the basis for an impact conclusion.

3-17 and 3-18

Please see Master Response 10. After commenting that the Draft EIR needs to be more “holistic,” the commenter expresses the view that there would be unaddressed but significant impacts from reduced diversions on wells, wetlands, waterfowl, amphibians, wildlife and groundwater. In the opinion of most natural scientists, water that remains in a natural watercourse represents its highest and best use as far as biological resources are concerned. Water extracted and then partially returned, or incidentally creating habitat elsewhere, only partially offsets the impact of the withdrawal. The effects on wells and groundwater are more difficult to predict.

3-19 The comment raises a legal issue. However, Recommendation 16 is unclear insofar as it does not identify the party that would “shield” the sub-permittee from liability and, as drafted, would protect the sub-permittee from liability in *all* instances, including those where the damage is caused by the sub-permittee’s own negligence or willful misconduct. In that regard, it is overly broad. Also, it is not clear if the type of relief the commenter is seeking is “hold harmless,” indemnification, and/or relief from prosecution for violating other laws intended to protect fish and wildlife. In any case, CDFG understands the general objective of the recommendation, essentially to shield a sub-permittee from liability for damage to real property and/or injury or death to persons or fish and wildlife that might result from actions the sub-permittee takes to comply with a condition in his or her sub-permit or SAA. Obviously, in regard to damage to real property or injury or death to persons, CDFG cannot force another party to provide such relief, and it would be impossible to identify all potential claimants for that purpose in the first place. Hence, CDFG presumes the commenter wants CDFG to “shield” the sub-permittee from the type of liability described above. Even if CDFG were willing to do so, it does not have the statutory authority to implement that recommendation.

In regard to Recommendation 17, a sub-permittee must provide non-enforcement CDFG personnel permission to access the sub-permittee’s property (MLTC Condition 17) to verify compliance with, or the effectiveness of, the avoidance and minimization measures as required by their sub-permit and for fish population monitoring; SVRCD or SQRCD personnel must also be provided permission to access the sub-permittee’s property where necessary to inspect sub-permittee’s screens, headgates, measuring devices, diversion structures and livestock and vehicle crossings annually; and/or to allow SVRCD or SQRCD to complete the mitigation obligations required in ITP Article XIII.E.2 and for CDFG and SVRCD or SQRCD to monitor the effectiveness of those measures. For that reason, a sub-permittee may only participate in the Programs if they grant CDFG and the RCDs permission to access their property for the purposes stated above. There might be times when it is necessary for CDFG or RCDs to bring a consultant onto a potential

project site to assist with project design or construction of a minimization or mitigation measure. In those cases the consultants will be accompanied by CDFG or RCD staff unless special arrangements have been made with the sub-permittee.

The current fish survey access agreements are inadequate to meet the objectives listed above. They are specific to fish monitoring activities and must be renewed each year because they are written for a single season. They do not include access for the other monitoring and construction activities required under the ITP. New access authorization is therefore required.

- 3-20 Comment 20 consists of a brief comment followed by five recommendations, Recommendations 18-22. CDFG responds as follows:

*Recommendation 18:* Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b)(4) requires an ITP applicant to ensure adequate funding to implement the measures required to minimize and fully mitigate take. In other words, CESA makes it clear that the applicant is responsible for meeting the minimization and full mitigation requirements without which CDFG could not authorize take. As a general rule, that is the case in regard to any federal, state, or local permit; the burden is on the permittee to comply with its terms and conditions. Hence, the sub-permittee's responsibility to install exclusion fencing cannot be predicated upon the availability of grant funding or other funding sources. However, as ITP Article XV.E.2. states, the RCDs will work with the sub-permittees to try and identify funds that can be used to offset the cost of installing exclusion fencing, but the availability of funds cannot be guaranteed.

*Recommendation 19:* For the same reasons stated above in response to Recommendation 18, following a natural event that damages or eliminates riparian fencing, if the sub-permittee intends to continue or resume any activity covered under the ITP, he or she must be in full compliance with avoidance and minimization measures that apply to that activity. Hence, under the scenario described in the recommendation, the sub-permittee would be responsible for repairing or replacing the riparian fencing as soon as practicable after the event (see ITP Article XXIII.). If the sub-permittee failed to do so, he or she would risk losing take authorization under the sub-permit.

*Recommendation 20:* ITP Article XV.E.5. states that a sub-permittee may not graze livestock within a fenced riparian area unless the grazing is done in accordance with a grazing management plan approved by CDFG. A sub-permittee may submit to CDFG a grazing plan prepared in accordance with the California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan adopted by the SWRCB, but it would still be subject to CDFG's approval on a case-by-case basis. At a minimum, to meet the requirement of the ITP, the plan must include an explanation of how the grazing will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat.

*Recommendation 21:* ITP Covered Activity 10, Grazing Livestock, includes only the grazing of livestock in the riparian exclusion zone along the Shasta or Scott River or their tributaries in accordance with a grazing management plan approved by CDFG. The Program places no restriction on grazing outside this area. Further, CDFG will not assume regulatory authority for grazing management on land outside the riparian exclusion zone.

*Recommendation 22:* This comment raises a legal issue. However, it is not clear in the first instance whether a sub-permittee would be liable if his or her riparian fencing caused harm to other wildlife; it would depend on the facts and based on the facts, the applicable law. Also, while CDFG and other regulatory agencies have enforcement discretion, CDFG's authority to hold harmless or indemnify natural persons is very limited and almost certainly would not apply in the scenario described in the recommendation.

3-21 CDFG cannot and does not purport to make any guarantees relative to sub-permittees' water rights. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the sub-permittee to comply with any conditions in his or her sub-permit or SAA that might reduce the amount of water he or she would otherwise divert in a given period, e.g., to protect coho, while at the same time taking any necessary steps to protect his or her water rights, such as by formally dedicating any bypassed water for instream beneficial use. In further response, please see Master Response 9. Finally, although participation in the Programs is voluntary, an applicant would face the same issues if he or she were to obtain a ITP or SAA outside the Program. In other words, it is not the Programs *per se* that might affect the exercise of a participant's existing valid water right, but rather the measures CDFG might include in a SAA or ITP necessary to protect fish and wildlife resources or to minimize and fully mitigate take as required by Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA, respectively. In regard to "voluntary decreases," CDFG defines that to mean decreases a water user elects to make where he or she is *not* required to do so in accordance, e.g., with a permit. In those cases, compensation might be available through the Water Trust or some other mechanism.

3-22 Under Recommendation 25, the commenter states that ITP Article XVII.C. "requires DWR to make determinations that are outside of their expertise and gives the DFG the authority to reduce diversions, which is not an allowable action in the adjudications." ITP Article XVII.C. states DWR will inform CDFG of

*any points of diversion in the watermastered areas where stranding is probable.*

In their comment letter to CDFG (Comment Letter 38) DWR states they can inform CDFG of any areas they observe where fish stranding is probable based on flow conditions. As explained in Master Response 9, CDFG is responsible for administering and enforcing various provisions in the Fish and Game Code that could require a water user to reduce the amount of water he or she is otherwise entitled to use regardless of whether the water right is adjudicated or not. However, the adjudication does not provide CDFG the authority to reduce diversions.

In regard to Recommendation 26, Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b)(4) requires an ITP applicant to ensure adequate funding to implement the measures required to minimize and fully mitigate take and it is unknown whether DWR would or could pass any potential additional expense on to water users. CDFG will not be responsible for any additional expenses DWR may incur to participate in the Programs and will not be responsible for those expenses should DWR pass them on to sub-permittees.

- 3-23 The commenter is concerned about the 25-foot mandated width of vehicle and livestock crossings because rivers are sometimes wider than 25 feet. The width stipulated by the measure is not the length of the crossing, but its “right of way” width, i.e., at right angles to the long axis of the river or stream.
- 3-24 Riparian fencing will only exclude cattle; elk fencing would need to be seven feet or higher. Access to the waterways will not be restricted. The effects of elk on riparian areas can admittedly be deleterious when elk are present in large numbers, but that is not the case here.
- 3-25 The commenter is correct that under the Program, if a participant disagrees with any MLTC Conditions CDFG includes in his or her SAA, and CDFG and the participant cannot resolve the disagreement informally, the participant is not entitled to arbitration to resolve the matter. As a result, the participant must either accept the SAA or obtain a SAA outside the Program, in which case, he or she would be entitled to arbitration in the event of an impasse over measures in a Draft SAA.

Generally speaking, under CEQA, a lead agency (in this case, CDFG) that prepares an EIR must make various “findings,” including whether the mitigation measures identified in a Draft EIR are in fact feasible. “Feasible” means “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time.” (CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15364). An arbitration panel in the event of a dispute may decide that a particular mitigation measure is not required, in which case the applicant would not be required to implement it. Hence, allowing arbitration would make it impossible for CDFG to determine whether any of the measures listed in the MLTC (the ones which will be carried over to SAAs) are in fact feasible because they would all be subject, at least potentially, to arbitration, and as mentioned above, an arbitration panel could disregard them. Also, allowing arbitration would likely increase Program costs and could result in SAAs for the same Covered Activity not having the same mitigation measures. It is for this reason CDFG respectfully declines the commenter’s recommendation to allow Program participants the right to arbitration.

SAA MOU Article III.F. originally stated:

*The Department may include in the draft Agreement measures that are not in the MLTC, if the Department determines such additional measures are necessary to protect fish and wildlife resources the project could substantially adversely affect, and the Department meets any CEQA requirements that might apply before issuing the final Agreement.*

CDFG has revised this clause. It is now SAA MOU Article III, E. CDFG has added language to the MOU which provides the opportunity for the RCDs and sub-permittees to work with CDFG staff, and ultimately the Regional Manager, to resolve any disagreement regarding only those additional measures which are not currently in the MLTC. This new provision is SAA MOU Article III.F. and states:

*For draft Agreements that include measures that are not in the MLTC to protect fish and wildlife resources pursuant to paragraph E above, the Participant shall work with Department staff to resolve any disagreement regarding only those measures. If the disagreement is not resolved between the Participant and Department staff, the Regional Manager shall be informed. Thereafter the Regional Manager shall work with the Participant to resolve any disagreement regarding any measure that is not in the MLTC. The decision by the Regional Manager shall be final.*

- 3-26 This statement makes a very broad generalization. There can be many degrees of “recovery” depending on the system and the nature and magnitude of existing and/or anticipated disturbances. Instability (natural or induced, or both) is a factor that is often incorporated and accounted for in many types of restoration (or enhancement, improvement, etc.) projects. We respectfully disagree with the commenter’s general statement regarding the potential for recovery of the Scott River system.
- 3-27 For the reasons stated in the response to Comment 3-20 (Recommendation 18), following a natural event that damages or eliminates a required avoidance and/or minimization project, if the sub-permittee intends to continue or resume any activity covered under the ITP, he or she must be in full compliance with avoidance and minimization measures that apply to that activity. Hence, the sub-permittee would be responsible for repairing or replacing the measures as soon as practicable after the event (see ITP Article XXIII.). If the sub-permittee failed to do so, he or she would risk losing take authorization under the sub-permit.
- 3-28 “Stabilization” of the Scott River is not a goal of the Program. The potential effects of the actions that would reasonably result from Program implementation are examined in the Draft EIR.
- 3-29 CDFG has held numerous discussions with DWR regarding their participation in the Programs. Should DWR decide not to participate in the Programs, CDFG will evaluate its options and any applicable legal requirements at that time.
- 3-30 The commenter states that the Draft EIRs discuss “flows of both watersheds and utilizes the data presented to form the conclusion that agriculture is the **major cause** for the decreased flows” (emphasis added). The Draft EIRs never state that agriculture is the “major cause” of decreased flows but do discuss the impacts of water diversions and groundwater pumping for agricultural purposes on flows. The data referred to by the commenter are presented to help define and explain the existing hydrologic condition and flow regime within both watersheds, and the data are sufficient for this purpose. The proposed Program would not have a negative impact upon flows. In fact, one of the main purposes of the Program is to provide additional flow for fish at critical times of the year.
- 3-31 As described in Chapter 3.3 Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat in both Draft EIRs, as well as in the Coho Recovery Strategy and numerous scientific publications, riparian vegetation is an important habitat requirement for coho salmon as it



- reduces water temperatures, increases stream bank stability, increases prey supplies in the form of aerial and terrestrial insects, and improves habitat complexity. We do not believe further studies are needed to support the widely acknowledged benefits of riparian plantings in areas that have been denuded.
- 3-32 CDFG respectfully disagrees with the commenter's assertion. Please see response to Comment 2-9, paragraph 2.
- 3-33 The referenced statement does not assume landowners are diverting the entire available flow of the Scott River. This is not stated in the Draft EIR; rather, the commenter introduced this assumption. In fact, the statement makes no assumption at all as to the quantity of water landowners may actually be diverting. The statement in the Draft EIR is simply in reference to the quantity which is *allotted* under the decrees (i.e., that amount that is permitted to be diverted).
- 3-34 Water diversions pursuant to existing water rights are considered in the environmental analysis to be a part of the environmental baseline and not analyzed as impacts of the Program. Municipal water diversions are described in the Draft EIRs but, because municipal water diversions are not part of the Program, any environmental effect they may have are not considered impacts of the Programs.
- 3-35 CDFG will work with municipal water diverters in both watersheds to ascertain the need for incidental take authorization and SAAs.
- 3-36 Please refer to Impact 3.1-1 (the Programs could result in the conversion of agricultural land within the Scott River and Shasta River watershed to non-agricultural uses) in Chapter 3.1, Land Use and Agriculture, in each Draft EIR. In both Draft EIRs, this effect is found to be less than significant, for the reasons stated in the impact discussion. Also, please see response to Comment 2-28.
- 3-37 Diverting water from a surface stream leads to a decrease in the flow of that stream immediately below the diversion point. This is implicit in the term *diversion* (i.e., confirming this notion does not require additional data or peer-reviewed science). The referenced passages are essentially summary statements derived from the information presented in the Environmental Setting of Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; they stand alone as such and do not require a citation or direct reference. A number of references are provided in the Environmental Setting with respect to flow decreases, stream temperature, and land-clearing impacts upon water quality. The correlation between decreases in flow and increases in water temperature, as well as between land clearing (grazing, tillage, cutting, etc.) and accelerated erosion, is well documented within the disciplines of hydrology and geomorphology.
- 3-38 Based upon the substantial number of comments received on the Draft EIR, CDFG believes the review period, which exceeded the requirements under CEQA, was sufficient, and for that reason CDFG decided not to extend the review period.

## Comment Letter 4: California Farm Bureau Federation

- 4-1 Comment noted.
- 4-2 Comment noted.
- 4-3 CDFG respectfully disagrees with the commenter's assertion regarding the applicability of Fish and Game Code, §1602 to the diversion of water. Please see response to Comment 2-9, paragraph 2. The other Covered Activities the commenter believes are not subject to Fish and Game Code, §1602 shall remain part of the Program because in some cases they divert or obstruct the natural flow of a river, stream, or lake, or modify the bed channel or bank of a river, stream, or lake and therefore, a SAA notification will be necessary.
- 4-4 The suggestion is made that a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) would be another and perhaps preferable way to meet the objectives of the Programs. This is a valid suggestion, but it would not obviate the need for individual SAAs and CDFG believes the Programs will better meet the objective of facilitating compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA.
- 4-5 Please see Master Response 2.
- 4-6 The commenter suggests that the Draft EIRs be revised to allow landowners who choose not to participate in the Programs, but rather obtain an ITP and/or SAA outside the Program, to "tier" from the Final EIR. It appears the commenter is suggesting that CDFG should have identified the Draft EIR as a first tier environmental analysis for possible future permitting efforts for individual projects that fall outside of the proposed Program. In so doing, the commenter expresses a policy interest in modifying the project description in the Draft EIRs to include possible future permitting actions by CDFG for individual projects that are not covered by the proposed Program. Modifying the project description for the current analysis to this effect is not consistent with CDFG's goals and objectives in establishing a watershed-wide permitting program. Possible future permitting efforts by CDFG for individual projects that fall outside the proposed Program are not part of the project description at issue in the current analysis and any such individual permitting effort will be analyzed by CDFG as required by CEQA at the appropriate time on a project-specific basis. At the same time, the applicant may utilize any information in the Draft EIR relevant to the particular project if such information exists.
- 4-7 Please see response to Comment 3-25.
- 4-8 The "priority system" that applies to appropriative water rights in California (sometimes summarized as, "first in time, first in right") governs the allocation of water among "competing" appropriators. That system, however, does not apply, and CDFG is not required to apply it, in situations where, for example, a particular user must reduce his or her consumptive use in order to meet a statutory obligation to protect fish and wildlife resources. Such obligations are "stand alone" obligations that an appropriator must meet

- regardless of the appropriator's priority. Further, without elaborating, trying to apply the priority system in such cases would be impractical on many levels.
- 4-9 Please see Master Response 10.
- 4-10 The development of the Programs has been undertaken by CDFG in cooperation with the RCDs and the agricultural community in a process that has lasted several years. The Draft EIRs circulated for a period of 60 days, which exceeds the statutory requirement under CEQA. During this period CDFG also held public hearings, which are not required by CEQA. CDFG also conducted public scoping meetings during circulation of the Notices of Preparation for the EIRs. Based upon our receipt of a substantial number of comments we believe the review period was sufficient, and therefore we decided not to extend the review period. In further response, see response to Comment 2-9, paragraph 2.

### **Comment Letter 5: California Cattlemen's Association**

- 5-1 Comment noted.
- 5-2 The Commenter notes the following comments apply to both Shasta and Scott Draft EIRs.
- 5-3 The Programs have been the subject of an ongoing collaboration between CDFG and the RCDs, with multiple opportunities for public involvement in the process, including the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Initial Studies and Draft EIRs by providing written comments and having the opportunity to speak at the public hearings held on the Draft EIRs.
- 5-4 Please see Master Response 9.
- 5-5 Please see Master Response 6.
- 5-6 The RCDs have been working with federal, state, and local agencies as well as private entities to identify grant funding for the mitigation measures they have agreed to implement on behalf of the agricultural participants. The RCDs plan to charge agricultural participants a management fee to cover their administration and monitoring costs. The amount charged will depend in part on the number of participants.
- 5-7 The commenter is incorrect in stating that the RCDs are not government entities. The RCDs are non-profit public agencies, organized under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code. The commenter is, however, correct in stating that the RCDs are not regulatory agencies. Also, please see Master Response 6.
- 5-8 Please see Master Response 6. The responsibilities of the RCDs are spelled out in the ITPs, and are summarized in the first several pages of Chapter 2, Project Description, of each Draft EIR.

- 5-9 The reference to the ITP Article “XIII.(v)” is incomplete and therefore cannot be accurately determined but it is assumed the reference is to Scott and Shasta Programs ITP Article XIII, E. 2.(a)(v). Please see Master Response 9.
- 5-10 Under ITP Article XV.A.2., sub-permittees agree to verify the quantity of water diverted. For those diversions that are watermastered, this verification will be performed on behalf of the sub-permittee by the watermaster. Such verification is consistent with the watermaster’s responsibility to administer the decrees.
- 5-11 The ITP provision referenced does not preclude cattle from crossing streams, but only restricts this activity in order to avoid and minimize take of coho salmon. This provision was thoroughly vetted with the RCDs during the drafting of the documents and is considered feasible, reasonable, and a necessary prerequisite for incidental take authorization.
- 5-12 The ITP provision referenced assumes that the RCDs will collaborate with Program participants in the preparation of the Riparian Fencing Plans. Each agricultural operator who becomes a sub-permittee must, however, allow riparian fencing on their property if it is identified as a priority location under the RCDs’ Riparian Fencing Plan, per ITP Article XV.E.4. Article XV.E.5. requires sub-permittees to prepare a grazing management plan should they wish to graze livestock within fenced riparian areas. Mitigation Measure 3.4-4b, in Chapter 3.4, Biological Resources: Botany, Wildlife, and Wetlands of each Draft EIR further describes the required content of a grazing management plan.
- 5-13 The California Cattlemen’s Association opposes the fencing setback of approximately 35 feet from the edge of the stream required in ITP Article XV.E.3. This fencing setback reflects a reasonable buffer in which riparian habitat may become established and/or persist, and a reasonable buffer to provide bio-filtration benefits.
- 5-14 The commenter believes MLTC Covered Activities F. Fencing, is not an activity subject to Fish and Game Code, §1602. Covered Activity F. states:

*This category includes only the installation and maintenance of livestock exclusion fencing to protect riparian zones including the construction of fencing along livestock and vehicle crossings and livestock watering lanes.*

As stated in the Draft EIR, riparian fencing would be constructed approximately 35 feet from the edge of the streambank. Sub-permittees will be required to make reasonable efforts to include the existing riparian vegetation within the fenced area although this may not always be the case. The construction of fencing for livestock and vehicle crossings and livestock watering lanes could cross through existing riparian vegetation and may require modification of the bed and bank of the stream (see MLTC Condition 66 (Condition 60 in Draft EIR)). CDFG routinely takes jurisdiction over activities within riparian zones under Fish and Game Code, § 1602, and for this reason has included the fencing described above as a Covered Activity under the Program. This means that a

notification for the fencing will need to be submitted to CDFG. In some cases CDFG may determine a SAA is not required. Whether a SAA is required will depend on whether the installation of riparian fencing at the proposed location could substantially adversely affect a fish or wildlife resource, including coho salmon, which CDFG will determine after making a site visit.

- 5-15 The moving of livestock and vehicles across flowing streams or intermittent channels (SAA Covered Activity D) shall remain part of the Program because, in some cases, the activity may result in or require modification of the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake (see MLTC Condition 66 (Condition 60 in the Draft EIR)) and therefore, SAA notification will be necessary. Once notified, CDFG would visit the site and determine whether use or construction of the crossing has the potential to substantially adversely affect fish and/or wildlife resources, including coho salmon, and whether a SAA would be required.
- 5-16 Please see response to Comment 5-15. In further response, the MLTC does not limit vehicle crossings to less than one month per calendar year. The cited condition limits vehicle operation within the wetted channel to only as authorized in a SAA. CDFG includes conditions that allow for year-round vehicle crossings within the wetted channel.
- 5-17 CDFG appreciates the comments by the California Cattlemen's Association.

## **Comment Letter 6: Coast Action Group**

- 6-1 Comment noted.
- 6-2 The commenter is only partly correct: the Programs rely only on authority granted to CDFG under Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.*, CESA, and other provisions in the Fish and Game Code, as cited. CDFG intends to collaborate with other agencies, including DWR, the SWRCB, and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as described in Chapter 1, Introduction, of each Draft EIR. The Programs meet all regulatory requirements of the Fish and Game Code and CEQA. CDFG is not required to obtain other permits or approvals from other agencies for the Programs. However, Program participants may be required to obtain other permits or approvals from other agencies for their Covered Activities. Obtaining these other permits is the responsibility of each Program participant, as is typically the case for project proponents.
- 6-3 The Draft EIRs adequately disclose and analyze the impacts associated with the Programs and where those impacts are deemed to be significant, identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce those impacts to less than significant. In sum, the Draft EIRs fully comply with CEQA.
- 6-4 CDFG has adhered to all requirements for public noticing, circulation of the environmental documents prepared for the Programs, and alternatives analysis prepared pursuant to CEQA. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program will be adopted by CDFG at the time of Program approval (Public Resources Code, § 21081.6).

- 6-5 There is no piecemealing as suggested by the commenter because the Draft EIRs examine the whole of the action contemplated by CDFG in issuing ITPs and SAAs, as described in Chapter 2, Project Description, of each Draft EIR. Under the Mitigation Obligations of the SVRCD/SQRCD (ITP Article XIII.E.2.) the RCDs are required, within a specific number of years, to identify locations and implement projects which will improve instream flow, provide gravel enhancement, install instream habitat improvement structures, plant riparian vegetation, and remove barriers to provide fish passage. Although the location where these projects will be performed is not currently known, the Draft EIR adequately describes these projects and analyzes their potential effects. Prior to implementation of these projects, the RCDs will be required to notify CDFG pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and obtain a SAA. Before issuing a SAA, CDFG is required to determine whether all potential impacts of a proposed project have been analyzed in the Final EIR or in another document prepared pursuant to CEQA. If CDFG identifies potential impacts which were not disclosed, CDFG will proceed as required under CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15162 and § 15168. The potential for additional environmental review for specific activities that may occur under the Program is discussed in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR (Section 1.2.3, Scope of the Draft EIR, page 1-4).
- 6-6 Non-participation in the Programs does not relieve diverters of the requirement to comply with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA to the extent that these apply to non-participants' agricultural operations or other activities.
- 6-7 A riparian right entitles the owner of land contiguous to a watercourse a right to the reasonable and beneficial use of water on that land. Unlike post-1914 appropriators, the landowner does not need a permit or approval from the SWRCB to exercise a riparian right, although in some cases, riparian claims will be included in an adjudication. For example, all appropriative claims prior to 1914 *and* riparian water rights were included in all of the court adjudicated decrees within the Scott River watershed, which include: the Shackleford Creek Decree (1950), the French Creek Decree (1958), and the Scott River Decree (1980). By contrast, riparian water rights in the Shasta River watershed are not adjudicated.
- While a landowner does not need a permit or approval to exercise a riparian right, he or she must comply with all laws that apply to the diversion. That includes, but is not limited to, Fish and Game Code, § 1602, which requires an entity to notify CDFG before beginning an activity that will substantially divert the natural flow of a river, stream, or lake, and CESA if the diversion will cause take of a listed species.
- 6-8 Use of groundwater is described in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology and Water Quality, in each Draft EIR. Each Draft EIR also evaluates the potential for the Programs to result in increased reliance on groundwater; see Impact 3.2-4 in the above-cited chapter, and Impact 3.3-1 in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, of each Draft EIR.
- 6-9 CDFG's determination regarding baseline is in accordance with CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15125(a) and case law. The Programs do not authorize any illegal activities. Instead, one of the primary purposes of the Program is to ensure compliance by Program participants with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA.

- 6-10 The commenter appears to be describing a suggested alternative to the Programs however, the description is inconsistent. The first sentence of the paragraph suggests limiting the scope of the permits to RCD restoration activities only, but the remainder of the proposal describes suggested modifications of or conditions on agricultural water diversions. Several of the suggested conditions, are already included in the ITP and Master List of Terms and Conditions. See ITP Article XX. and MLTC Condition 26 (Condition 25 in the Draft EIR) in each document. Limiting factors for coho salmon are extensively discussed in Chapter 3.2, Fisheries, of each Draft EIR.
- 6-11 Please see Master Response 4. Potential impacts on groundwater and its relationship with surface water flows and water quality are discussed in Impact 3.2-4 in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Impact 3.3-1 in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, in each Draft EIR. The conclusion of “less than significant” for each is well-supported and described.
- 6-12 Please see Master Response 7.
- 6-13 The Programs do not confer regulatory authority on the RCDs or any other party. The enforcement responsibilities of CDFG cannot be assigned. Please see Master Response 6.
- 6-14 Please see Master Response 5.
- 6-15 The premise regarding delegation of regulatory authority is incorrect. Please see Master Responses 5 and 6.
- 6-16 CDFG may not issue a SAA under Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq* without first complying with CEQA, including its public notification and public participation requirements. CDFG, in preparing the Draft EIRs, met this requirement. Before CDFG issues a SAA and sub-permit, it will 1) confirm that the activity is a Covered Activity, and, if so, 2) determine in light of the project-specific information whether the impacts of the Covered Activity are adequately addressed in the EIR for the Program and its related mitigation measures. If that is not the case, CDFG will proceed as required under CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15162 and § 15168. As stated above, the potential for additional environmental review for specific activities that may occur under the Program is discussed in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR (Section 1.2.3, Scope of the Draft EIR, page 1-4).
- 6-17 Please see response to Comment 6-13, above and Master Response 6.
- 6-18 Please see Master Response 5.
- 6-19 Covered Activities are described in Chapter 2, Project Description, in each Draft EIR.
- 6-20 Existing conditions are described in the Setting section of Chapter 3 and each of its seven subchapters (including Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; and Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat) in each Draft EIR. Impacts are defined as those that will arise as a consequence of Program approval. As

discussed in Chapter 3, existing conditions are not considered Program impacts. However, the Programs address many long-standing impacts associated with agricultural operations in the two watersheds. Although the Programs include select key coho recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy as avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, it is not intended to be a vehicle for implementation of the full Coho Recovery Strategy.

- 6-21 Areas of controversy are briefly noted in Section S.6 in Chapter S, Summary, of each Draft EIR and are addressed throughout the Draft EIR. See also “Response to Comments” (page 1-6) in Section 1.2.3, Scope of the Draft EIR, of each Draft EIR.

The alternatives analysis in each Draft EIR fully complies with the requirements of CEQA, including the requirement to analyze a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. Please refer to Chapter 5, Alternatives, in each Draft EIR.

Potential impacts on groundwater, and on surface water quality and flows where surface water is interconnected with groundwater, are examined in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality in each Draft EIR; see particularly Impact 3.2-4 in each document.

- 6-22 The Draft EIRs, in conjunction with the Initial Studies prepared for each Program (see Appendix D of each Draft EIR) fully describe environmental impacts and mitigation measures, as required by CEQA. The comment regarding, “...conditions not noted in the Draft EIR...” and “mitigations that have yet be [sic] described...” are unclear and cannot be responded to.

- 6-23 As stated in the response to Comment 6-4, above, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program will be adopted at the time of Program approval, as required by Public Resources Code, § 21081.6. In addition, the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (MAMP) (Appendix A, Attachment 3) describes the monitoring components of the Program including adaptive management provisions.

- 6-24 Alternatives are discussed in Chapter 5 of each Draft EIR.

- 6-25 The comment that “[t]he ITP must be consistent with all [Fish and Game Code provisions] - Including 1600-1603, 5937 and 5901, State Water Code on diversions and licensing (including beneficial use protection), and the public trust[,] is not correct. Instead, the ITP must meet the issuance criteria and other requirements in Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b) and (c). However, the person responsible for the project which requires the ITP is responsible for complying with all other federal, state, and local laws and regulations that apply to the project. In regard to the Programs, in order to participate, the Program participant must obtain both a SAA and ITP, but he or she must still comply with other laws and regulations in conducting the activities the SAA or ITP authorize, as would be the case outside the Program.



- 6-26 The level of take is not necessarily quantified as a numerical total in a CEQA document for an ITP program. The actual analysis of whether the ITP issuance will jeopardize the species is more rigorous, and will be part of the Department's jeopardy determination, which must be made before the Department may issue any take authorization. Please see Master Response 1.
- 6-27 Under the Programs, the RCDs will be implementing key coho recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy. Normally, such projects are funded by grants and other public monies. That will be the case for the restoration projects the RCDs implement under the Programs, as well. Hence, even though these projects will serve to fully mitigate any take of coho salmon that might occur incidental to a Covered Activity authorized under the Program, CDFG does not view the grants and public monies the RCDs receive to fund their restoration projects as "public funding for mitigation." It is more accurate to characterize it as public funding for restoration.

As stated in ITP Article XIII.E.1.(d), sub-permittees will be

*...solely responsible for any costs the sub-permittee incurs to implement any avoidance or minimization measures required under a sub-permit.*

However, CDFG and the RCDs will make every effort to assist Program participants in reducing their compliance costs because doing so will help the Programs to succeed, which in turn will benefit coho and other fish and wildlife species in the Program Areas.

- 6-28 Program impacts on Chinook salmon and steelhead are analyzed in each Draft EIR. Please see Impact 3.3-1 in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, in each Draft EIR.
- 6-29 Cumulative impacts are thoroughly analyzed in Chapter 4 of each Draft EIR. Complete descriptions of the Programs are included in Chapter 2 of each Draft EIR.
- 6-30 This is a Program EIR covering individual activities subject to Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and § 2081, which have similar effects and can be mitigated in similar ways. ITP Article XIII.E.2.(a) includes a number of flow enhancement activities to provide for or support the instream needs of coho salmon at specific life-cycle stages. These activities include: development and implementation of water trusts; improvement of baseline instream flows and/or water quality through installation of water efficiency and/or water management improvement projects; development and implementation of a contingency plan for dry and critically-dry water years; and installation of alternative stock water systems. The exact numbers or locations of these activities cannot be precisely identified prior to Program implementation. Similarly the reach-specific mitigations depend on the site-specific and cumulative participation in the Programs. Consequently, identification of measurable objectives in any particular reach would provide an unwarranted degree of specificity and be speculative.

- 6-31 The requirement to prepare a Dry Year Contingency Plan in each ITP provides discretion to CDFG to determine the adequacy of the Plan, which must be prepared by each RCD within three years of Permit issuance. Groundwater would be “relevant” where it is determined that it is, or is likely to be, interconnected with surface flow. CDFG’s determination of the adequacy of the specific provisions of the plans will be based on the best available scientific information.
- 6-32 The cumulative effects of water diversion likely play an important role in “stranding” of fish. The preventative measures for stranding prescribed in the ITPs are twofold. One list of measures is for the DWR sub-permit (Article XVII.), requiring that they coordinate with CDFG when they observe the potential for stranding. The other list of measures is for inclusion in the sub-permits requiring that sub-permittees acknowledge that if stranding were to occur at a watermastered point of diversion, CDFG and DWR would coordinate with the sub-permittee and the RCD in the process described (Article XVIII.).
- 6-33 In this comment, the riparian exclusion zone is considered too narrow. The fencing setback of approximately 35-feet from the edge of the stream as required in ITP Article XV.E.3. reflects a reasonable buffer in which riparian habitat may become established and/or persist, and a reasonable buffer to provide bio-filtration benefits. Please see response to Comment 5-13 in which the commenter considered the width as too wide.
- 6-34 CDFG agrees with the comment and will comply with CEQA and any other applicable law, including the Public Records Act (Government Code, § 6250 *et seq.*) in regard to information disclosure.
- 6-35 CDFG disagrees with the commenter’s assertion that “[t]he DEIR must address where monitoring and other data will be considered proprietary and explain why the agency and the public will not need this [*sic*] data to evaluate compliance with permit conditions and applicable laws and codes.” That is not required under CEQA. In regard to any data or other information held by the RCDs, CDFG cannot respond for them. However, as public agencies they are subject to the requirements of the Public Records Act.

**Comments 6-36 through 6-42 apply only to the Scott document**

- 6-36 See response to Comment 2-2. In further response, CDFG followed and met the requirements in CEQA in conducting its agency and public outreach efforts. The commenter had the same opportunity as other interested parties to provide its data and raise concerns about how the Program might impact its interests. Insofar as the commenter is suggesting that CDFG ignored it, that was certainly not CDFG’s intention; again, it conducted extensive outreach in an effort to receive input from all interested parties. If the commenter has data which it believes would be useful to CDFG, CDFG would appreciate the opportunity to examine it.
- 6-37 Fish capture and relocation in the Scott River watershed is described on p. 3.3-41 of the Draft EIR. Fish capture and relocation are considered part of the baseline and are not a “Covered Activity” under the Program, and therefore are not an impact of the Program.

- These effects are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; and in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat. If fish within the Program Area are found in a location with poor aquatic habitat conditions from which they cannot escape and their survival is threatened, CDFG staff have federal and state authority to rescue those fish. CDFG has performed this task in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, if necessary, as resources allow.
- 6-38 The Draft EIR acknowledges the influence that surface water diversions and groundwater pumping have on baseflow volumes in the Scott River (see page 3.2-32). The Draft EIR took into consideration peer-reviewed scientific information related to the hydrologic conditions within the Scott River watershed and how such conditions relate to existing agricultural practices. This scientific information was considered to be of high quality. Nevertheless, groundwater-surface water interactions in the Scott River watershed are not thoroughly understood.
- 6-39 The importance of water temperature to coho salmon and the effects of water diversions on water temperature are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; and in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.
- 6-40 The fact that U.S. Forest Service (USFS) water rights on the Scott River are generally not being fulfilled is acknowledged in the Draft EIR. According to the Scott River Decree, the USFS water rights are junior in priority to many of the large diversions within the Scott River watershed.
- 6-41 Several mitigation obligations in Article XIII.E.2. of the ITP are aimed at improving instream flows, particularly during dry and critically-dry water years.
- 6-42 The paper that the commenter referenced (Van Kirk et al (2008)) discusses groundwater issues in the Scott River Basin. The information provided in this paper was used during the development of the EIR prepared for the Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program. See Master Response 8.

***Comments 6-43 through 6-47 apply only to the Shasta document***

- 6-43 The ongoing effects of Dwinnell Dam on water quality and fisheries are considered part of the baseline, not impacts of the Program. These effects are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; and in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.
- 6-44 CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.6(a) requires an EIR to “describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project.” As stated in the Draft EIR, the alternative of removing Dwinnell Dam has the potential to substantially increase the significant effects of the Program: “The major adverse impacts associated with removal of Dwinnell Dam

would include effects on existing water supply systems, loss of recreational opportunities, and effects associated with construction of new off-stream storage capacity and related diversion and conveyance features. There is insufficient information to discern the severity of other impacts, including release of sediments from behind the dam (and the quality of these sediments) and effects on flooding in the Shasta Valley.” For these and other reasons stated in the Draft EIR, this alternative was rejected from further consideration.

In regard to the comment on Fish and Game Code, § 5937, whether or not Dwinnell Dam is in compliance with that section has no bearing on CDFG’s alternatives analysis in the Draft EIR or any decision to adopt or reject a particular alternative. However, it remains the case that Dwinnell Dam is subject to the requirements of Fish and Game Code, § 5937 and any other laws and regulations that apply to its operation.

6-45 Please see response to Comment 6-7. In further response, the ongoing diversion of water under riparian claim is part of the baseline condition in the Program Areas and does not need to be analyzed in the Draft EIRs as described by the commenter. Individuals who divert water in the Program Areas under riparian rights for agricultural purposes are eligible to participate in the Programs, even though those in the Shasta River watershed have not been adjudicated. Such operators may participate in the Programs because Fish and Game Code § 1600 *et seq.* applies to the diversion of water regardless of the basis of right and CESA’s prohibition on take absent authorization from CDFG applies regardless of how the take might occur. If such operators choose to participate, they will obtain a sub-permit and SAA like any other participant, and be subject to the terms and conditions of these permits intended to protect fish and wildlife resources, including coho, from any impacts associated with their diversions.

6-46 CDFG reminds the commenter that one of the main objectives of the Program is to facilitate compliance by agricultural diverters in the Scott and Shasta River watersheds with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA.

6-47 This comment, which comprises the remainder of this comment letter, addresses the TMDLs for the Shasta and Scott Rivers. The TMDLs are not the subject of the Draft EIRs. TMDLs are the responsibility of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the SWRCB, not CDFG. Further, CDFG has no authority to require the SWRCB to undertake the actions the commenter urges, and these should instead be directed to the SWRCB.

### **Comment Letter 7: Jenner Cattle Co., Inc.**

7-1 This comment appears to go more to the merits of the Programs than to the environmental analysis, or is too vague to enable a substantive response. Please note that no one is compelled or required to participate in the Programs.

- 7-2 Potential effects of the Programs on the viability of agriculture are addressed in Chapter 3.1, Land Use and Agriculture (see particularly Impact 3.1-1) and in Chapter 4, Cumulative Effects and Other Required Topics (see particularly Section 4.2.1, Land Use and Agriculture) in each of the two Draft EIRs. The Programs are not intended to assign blame for the decline of coho salmon, or to constitute a plan or program for coho salmon recovery. As stated in Chapter 2, Project Description, in each Draft EIR, the Programs are intended to provide a streamlined approach for Agricultural Operators in the Scott and Shasta watersheds to comply with the requirements of CESA and Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* To the extent that tribal members or tribes participate in the Programs as Agricultural Operators, the provisions of the Programs would apply to them as well.
- 7-3 These comments appear to go to the merits of the Programs, not to the environmental analysis. See responses to Comments 1-5, 2-20 (first paragraph), and 6-37. In issuing SAAs and sub-permits, CDFG staff will perform site visits and work with the RCDs and sub-permittees so these measures are implemented in a manner appropriate to the specific conditions of the site.
- 7-4 Please see Master Response 9.
- 7-5 The issue of economic burden on landowners is examined in Impact 3.1-1 in Chapter 3.1, Land Use and Agriculture, in each Draft EIR. In further response, please see responses to Comments 2-10 and 2-11.
- 7-6 This comment appears to go to the merits of the Programs, not to the environmental analysis. Please see response to Comment 2-20.
- 7-7 As described in Chapter 2, Section 2.3.4, of the Draft EIR, the Programs include a Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program (Appendix A, Attachment 3). Also, please see response to Comment 6-30, first paragraph.
- 7-8 Potential impacts on groundwater, and on surface water quality and flows where surface water is interconnected with groundwater, are examined in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality in each Draft EIR; see particularly Impact 3.2-4 in each document.
- 7-9 As noted above, landowners are not compelled or required to participate in the Programs.

## **Comment Letter 8: Klamath Forest Alliance**

- 8-1 Comment noted. In further response, the comment letters of the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation and the Klamath Riverkeeper are responded to separately (see Comment Letters 35 and 42, respectively, in the Shasta River Watershed-wide Permitting Program Final EIR, and Comment Letters 35 and 40, respectively, in the Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program Final EIR).

- 8-2 This comment recounts the history of the federal and state listing of coho salmon, and the issuance of the notices of preparation of the EIRs for the Programs. Comment noted.
- 8-3 Comment noted. For the relationship between CDFG and the RCDs, please refer to the Project Descriptions (Chapter 2) in each Draft EIR.
- 8-4 This comment addresses the merits of Programs, not the environmental analysis. Please note that under CESA, CDFG must make a jeopardy determination before issuing the ITPs. Please see Master Response 1.
- 8-5 Please see Master Response 7. Factors limiting coho salmon are discussed in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, in each Draft EIR.
- 8-6 Fish stranding due to water diverted pursuant to legal water rights is considered an existing condition that is part of the baseline for the purpose of the environmental analysis, and is therefore not an impact of the Programs. ITP Article XVII.C., D., and E. and Article XVIII. are intended to avoid and minimize take associated with stranding. Also, please see response to Comment 6-37.
- 8-7 The commenter states, “CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off of streams they are responsible for protecting.” Such an action is not contemplated, or in any way suggested as part of the Programs. Please see Master Response 5. Fish and Game Code, § 857 is explicit in that sworn peace officers may enter private lands if necessary for law enforcement purposes. That same statute, however, limits the ability of non-law enforcement personnel from entering private property. Therefore, the ITPs specifically require Program participants to provide authorization to *non-enforcement* personnel to access their property for monitoring purposes. Article XIII.E.1.(c) of each ITP reads as follows (with emphasis added):

- c) *Sub-permittees shall provide non-enforcement Department employees written consent to access the sub-permittee’s property for the specific purpose of verifying compliance with, or the effectiveness of, the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures required by this Permit or a sub-permit and/or for the purpose of fish population monitoring in the Scott River and its tributaries, provided the Department notifies the sub-permittee at least 48 hours in advance, whether verbally or in writing. The sub-permittee is entitled to be present or have a representative present. Sworn peace officers may enter private lands if necessary for law enforcement purposes pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 857 or as otherwise authorized by law.*

As can be seen from this paragraph of the ITPs, the Programs expand access to sub-permittee’s property by CDFG non-enforcement personnel, and do not restrict in any way access by CDFG enforcement personnel.

- 8-8 The Programs do not confer regulatory authority on the RCDs or any other party. Please see Master Response 6.

- 8-9 Please see Master Response 8.
- 8-10 This comment addresses the merits of the Programs, not the environmental analysis. See, however, the response to Comment 6-27, first paragraph.
- 8-11 Implementation of the entire Coho Recovery Strategy is not one of the purposes of the Programs. Instead, selected key coho salmon recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy will be implemented by the RCDs through the Programs, and those tasks will also serve to meet the full mitigation requirement under CESA for the activities the Programs covers. In selecting the tasks to be implemented by the RCDs to fully mitigate the impacts of the Programs' authorized take, CDFG is not "exchanging recommended actions under the Coho Recovery Strategy for other mitigation options." CDFG is selecting those tasks which will fully mitigate for any take that might occur; are roughly proportional in extent to the impact of the take; maintains the applicant's objectives to the greatest extent; and are capable of successful implementation. Please see Master Response 7.
- 8-12 CDFG will verify the water rights of all Program participants who propose to divert water under the Program during the application process (MLTC Exhibit 1, Attachment A). Diverters under the Program will be required to operate and maintain their diversions in accordance with their water rights and applicable law. Diversions will be verified by a watermaster or by some other reliable means as determined by CDFG. The quantity of water diverted at each diversion will be reported to CDFG on at least a monthly basis in the form of a database or other form approved by CDFG.

The Draft EIR refers to the joint Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District as a "private" watermaster service. The District is a "Special District" created through passage of AB 1580 (Chapter 416, Statutes of 2007) which gives the District the power to act as watermaster over decreed water rights, adopt ordinances and regulations, acquire and dispose of property, appoint employees, enter contracts, and charge fees. In February 2008, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors appointed the initial Board of Directors for the District. The Final EIR has been edited as follows:

Page 2-13:

***ITP Covered Activity 11: Water Management.** This activity includes water management, water monitoring, and watermastering (either state or special district private) activities, including the operation of headgates in conjunction with measuring devices to assure that each diversion is operated in compliance with its associated water right or adjudicated volume.*

ITP Attachment 2, page A-43

*11. Water Management  
Covered activities include water management, water monitoring, and watermastering (either State or special district private) activities; including the operation of head gates in conjunction with measuring devices to assure that each diversion is operated in compliance with the associated water right*

*or adjudicated volume; the ongoing management and/or maintenance of existing flashboard dams, including the placement of boards into concrete abutments across the wetted channel to build head to divert water, and the removal of the boards; actions related to water diversion construction; operation, repair, minor alteration, replacement, and removal; the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, minor alteration, replacement, and removal of headgates and measuring devices on or in a diversion channel; the installation, operation, repair, minor alteration, removal, replacement and maintenance of stream gages in the active stream channel.*

**Comments 8-13 through 8-16 address the Shasta Program Draft EIR**

- 8-13 Please see response to Comments 6-43 and 6-44. In further response, CDFG makes no claim that Dwinnell Dam is “legal” under Fish and Game Code, § 5937, and CEQA does not compel CDFG to engage in a discussion on this and other enforcement issues.
- 8-14 As discussed in the response to Comment 8-5, existing, ongoing water diversions, including those that cause hydraulic discontinuity in perennial, fish-bearing streams, are considered existing conditions, and therefore part of the baseline for the purpose of the environmental analysis, and are not impacts of the Programs.
- 8-15 The TMDLs for the Shasta River are discussed in Section 3.2.2 (Regulatory Setting) in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality.
- 8-16 Impacts on anadromous salmonids other than coho, and on other fish species, are addressed in Impact 3.3-1 in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, in the Draft EIR.

**Comments 8-17 through 8-21 address the Scott River Watershed Program Draft EIR**

- 8-17 The Draft EIR is based on the best available science. Please refer to the references cited at the conclusion of each chapter.
- 8-18 Factors limiting coho salmon in the Scott watershed, and the current status of the species, are extensively reviewed in the Setting section of Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, in the Draft EIR.
- 8-19 The effects of existing, ongoing water diversions on streamflow and water quality are described in the Setting section of Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; and their effects on the fishery are described in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, in the Draft EIR. As stated above, however, existing, ongoing water diversions are considered existing conditions, and therefore part of the baseline for the purpose of the environmental analysis, and are not impacts of the Programs.
- 8-20 Please see response to Comments 6-34 and 6-35.



- 8-21 Impacts on anadromous salmonids other than coho, and on other fish species, are addressed in Impact 3.3-1 in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, in the Draft EIR.
- 8-22 Scaling back the Programs to permit only RCD restoration projects and water diversions activities would eliminate only a few Covered Activities from the Programs, specifically, the movement of livestock and vehicles across flowing streams and the construction of vehicle and livestock crossing and livestock watering lanes and the grazing of livestock within the riparian exclusion zone under specified conditions. ITP Attachment 2 includes the list of the specific Covered Activities.
- 8-23 The Draft EIRs fully analyze the potential impacts of the Programs, pursuant to CEQA. The purpose of an EIR is not to assure compliance with other laws and regulations. That is, however, a proper function for CDFG and other regulatory agencies. Also, please see response to Comment 6-25.
- 8-24 As previously stated, the Programs are intended to implement key coho recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy, but are not intended to be comprehensive recovery plans themselves. Please see Master Response 7.
- 8-25 CDFG appreciates Mr. Brucker's comments.
- 8-26 This comment contains references cited by the commenter.

### **Comment Letter 9: Lost Coast League**

- 9-1 Comment noted.
- 9-2 CDFG is responsible for conserving, protecting, and managing California's fish, wildlife, and native plant resources and meets that responsibility by administering and enforcing various statutes in the Fish and Game Code and other state laws, including Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA. CDFG is not delegating its responsibility to implement or enforce these laws through the Programs. In fact, Article XXI. of the Draft ITP, the Enforcement section, states:

*This Permit does not authorize or require RCD to bring an enforcement action against a sub-permittee who is not in compliance with its sub-permit. Such enforcement shall be the sole responsibility and at the sole discretion of the Department.*

*Nothing in this Permit precludes the Department from pursuing an enforcement action against the RCD or a sub-permittee instead of or in addition to suspending or revoking the Permit or any sub-permit.*

Also, please see Master Response 6.

## **Comment Letter 10: Oregon Wild**

- 10-1 Comment noted. For a more complete description of the Programs, please refer to Chapter 2, Project Description, in each Draft EIR.
- 10-2 Please see response to Comment 9-2.
- 10-3 Please see Master Response 5.
- 10-4 Under CESA, CDFG must make a jeopardy determination before issuing the ITPs. Please refer to Master Response 1.
- 10-5 Limiting factors for coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead are discussed in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.
- 10-6 Please see response to Comment 9-2. Also, please see Master Response 6.
- 10-7 Please see Master Response 5.
- 10-8 The Draft EIRs rely on the best available scientific information, as required by CEQA. Please see the references at the conclusion of each chapter for authorities used in the analysis.
- 10-9 The Draft EIRs identify potential impacts of the Programs. Where these are found to be significant, mitigation measures are specified.
- 10-10 The Draft EIRs are written pursuant to CEQA, not to CESA, the Water Code, or the Fish and Game Code.
- 10-11 Alternatives to the Programs are described and analyzed in Chapter 5 of each Draft EIR, as required by CEQA.
- 10-12 Please see response to Comment 8-22.
- 10-13 The Draft EIRs do fully analyze potential impacts of the Programs. Enforcement of laws and regulations is beyond the scope of an EIR.
- 10-14 CDFG appreciates Ms. Kame'enui's comments.

## **Comment Letter 11: North Group, Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club; Environmental Protection and Information Center; Northcoast Environmental Center, and Felice Pace (as an individual)**

- 11-1 Each of the commenters listed in the table have been added to CDFG's mailing list. Comment noted.

- 11-2 This comment generally addresses the merits of the Programs, not the environmental analysis. Comment noted.
- 11-3 This comment describes CESA issuance criteria for ITPs. Comment noted.
- 11-4 As described in Chapter 2, Project Description, of each Draft EIR, the ITPs will cover only,

*...the diversion of surface water by an appropriative or riparian right through a conduit or opening from streams channels, or sloughs ... by an agricultural operator for agricultural purposes in accordance with a valid water right.*

Illegal diversions will not be covered. Also, please see response to Comment 6-37.

- 11-5 In its simplest form, a determination of full mitigation amounts to a quantitative analysis of the number of individuals proposed to be taken, the number of individuals to be protected through implementation of avoidance and minimization measures, and the number of individuals to be replaced through mitigation. However, such a simplistic arithmetic approach can rarely be applied since it is usually not possible to quantify precisely the number of individuals that are expected to be taken, protected, or replaced. For the Program these numbers cannot be determined with any degree of certainty. In order to determine the amount of mitigation required to “fully mitigate” the take of coho salmon CDFG looked at the probable risks that individual coho salmon will likely experience as a result of the Covered Activities and the expected beneficial effects of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures. Key coho salmon recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy were selected to improve conditions for coho salmon with the goals of increasing the number of fish successfully reared within the watershed and offsetting the impacts to coho salmon due to the implementation of the Program’s Covered Activities.

To determine whether the full mitigation requirement of CESA is being met, CDFG has developed priorities for long-term population monitoring of coho salmon in the Shasta and Scott River watersheds. As stated under Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan Article IX., Measurement of the Overall Success of the Permit Program, the data collected will allow for an analysis of adult to juvenile ratio trends over time to determine if the Programs are resulting in a stable or increased production rate based on the ratio of juveniles per adult in the watershed and whether conditions for coho salmon within the watersheds are improving under the Programs. See Appendix A, Attachment 3.

Please also see response to Comment 6-26.

- 11-6 The ITP includes numerous mitigation obligations that have not been implemented by the RCDs in the past. Furthermore, many of the avoidance and minimization measures described in the ITP, as well as the terms and conditions specified in the MLTC, have historically not been implemented in the Program Area. These measures will avoid and minimize the take of coho salmon, thereby reducing the level of take that will need to be mitigated. The commenter is correct that some of the measures currently do not include

- quantitative performance standards. However, the expected effectiveness of these measures to avoid, minimize, and fully mitigate take of coho salmon will be evaluated in CDFG's jeopardy analysis. Last, while some monitoring is required of the RCDs, Program participant's compliance will be monitored by CDFG. Also, please see Master Response 6.
- 11-7 Please see response to Comment 6-27 and Master Response 7.
- 11-8 Please see Master Response 1. Also, please see response to Comment 6-27 and Master Response 7.
- 11-9 As described in Chapter 2, Project Description of each Draft EIR, the Programs (the ITPs and SAAs) cover only certain agricultural activities. Extraction of groundwater is specifically excluded from coverage. The Draft EIRs examine the potential for the Programs to result in increased reliance on groundwater, to the possible detriment of surface water flows and water quality, but find that this impact would be less than significant (see Impact 3.2-4 in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality, in each Draft EIR; see also Impact 3.3-2, in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat in each Draft EIR, which relates this impact to fish habitat. As stated in the response to Comment 11-4, the Programs only cover water diversions that meet specific criteria. Also, please see Master Response 4.
- 11-10 As discussed in Chapter 3 in each Draft EIR, the EIRs analyze the potential for the Programs to cause new or more severe environmental impacts above and beyond existing conditions, as required by CEQA. Also, please see response to Comment 11-9.
- 11-11 Article XIII.E.1.(f) of each ITP requires the respective RCD to submit an irrevocable Letter of Credit or other security to CDFG in the amount of \$100,000, which CDFG may draw upon to implement the minimization and mitigation measures in the ITPs and sub-permits if the RCDs or sub-permittees fail to implement.
- The RCDs have been working with federal, state, and local agencies and private entities to identify grant funding for the mitigation measures they will be responsible for implementing under the Programs. The commenter is correct that there can be no guarantee that funding will be available in any given year. However, CDFG does not anticipate that will be the case. However, if for some reason the RCDs are unable to fulfill their mitigation obligations, CDFG may elect to suspend or revoke the ITP, which could also have the effect of suspending or revoking the Program participant's take authorization.
- 11-12 Please see Master Response 8.
- 11-13 The alternatives analysis in each Draft EIR fully complies with the requirements of CEQA, including the requirement to analyze a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. Please refer to Chapter 5, Alternatives, in each Draft EIR.

- 11-14 Please see response to Comment 11-13.
- 11-15 Please see Master Response 3.
- 11-16 Please see response to Comment 6-27 and Master Response 7. Under Fish and Game Code, § 1602, the SAA is required to include measures necessary to protect existing fish or wildlife resources that the project described in a notification could adversely affect. Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b)(2) requires the impacts of any authorized take to be minimized and fully mitigated. The measures required to meet this obligation must be roughly proportional in extent to the impact of the authorized taking on the species. Thus, the requirement of the Program is to protect existing fish and wildlife resources and implement avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures which will result in survival of additional coho to maintain the population at the same level as would exist if the impacts from the “Covered Activities” did not occur. CDFG expects that the overall outcome of the Program will be to reduce take and adverse impacts to coho salmon caused by agricultural operations and contribute to recovery of the species.

The Programs have provided multiple opportunities for public involvement in the CEQA process including the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Initial Studies and Draft EIRs by providing written comments and having the opportunity to speak at the public hearings held on the Draft EIRs.

- 11-17 Please see response to Comments 11-4 and 11-9.
- 11-18 Please see Master Response 6.
- 11-19 Comment noted. Please see Master Response 6.
- 11-20 Compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 5937 is an ongoing legal requirement, where applicable. The Programs do not change that. In addition, ITP Article XX. and General Condition 20 (Condition 19 in Draft EIR) require compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 5937. Also please see response to Comment 6-25. The Programs will be fully compliant with CESA and CEQA.
- 11-21 The commenter is incorrect in stating that the Programs include incidental take coverage for unregulated pumping of groundwater. Please see the last paragraph of Master Response 4.

The recommendations in this comment are addressed in the Programs:

- The Programs provide incidental take authorization for surface water diversions and associated activities that may result in take of coho salmon. The Programs also provide incidental take authorization and SAAs for stream restoration projects of the RCDs. See Chapter 2, Project Description, in each Draft EIR.
- Under the Programs, CDFG is ultimately responsible for monitoring compliance. Please see Master Response 6.

- The Programs would not limit access by enforcement personnel. Please see Master Response 5.
- Take associated with permitted activities will be minimized, avoided, and fully mitigated. Please see Master Response 1.
- In regard to Fish and Game Code, § 5937 and other sections, please see response to Comment 11-20.
- Analysis of take and the Programs' ability to avoid, minimize, and mitigate for take will be included in CDFG's jeopardy analysis. Please see Master Response 1.
- Cumulative impacts to Chinook salmon and lamprey are analyzed and disclosed in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and in Chapter 4, Cumulative Effects.

11-22 Please see Master Response 5 and 7.

11-23 The Programs do not cover all agricultural operations of participants. Attachment 2 of each Programs' ITP describes the Covered Activities the Programs may authorize. Also, please see response to Comments 6-7, 11-4, and 11-9.

11-24 Scaling back the Program to permit only RCD restoration projects would not allow CDFG to fulfill its commitment to develop a permitting framework within the context of the Shasta-Scott Pilot Program in the Coho Recovery Strategy which would authorize take of coho salmon incidental to Covered Activities.

ITP Article XX., Compliance With Other Laws, requires participants to comply with all local, state, and federal laws. MLTC General Condition 19 (General Condition 18 in the Draft EIR) states:

*This Agreement does not relieve the responsible party from obtaining any other permits or authorizations that might be required under other federal, state, or local laws or regulations before beginning the project or projects this Agreement authorizes,...*

MLTC General Condition 20 (General Condition 19 in the Draft EIR) requires all participants to comply with the provision of the Fish and Game Code including CESA and sections 5650, 5901, and 5937.

Please see Master Response 6 regarding monitoring responsibilities and regulatory authority.

11-25 This comment raise two separate, but related issues. First, Fish and Game Code, § 2081 does not establish a requirement for recovery associated with an incidental take permit; the permittee's obligation is limited to avoiding, minimizing, and fully mitigating the impacts of the authorized take. Overall, however, the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation obligations defined in the ITP, and the programmatic approach itself are consistent with the Coho Recovery Strategy, and are expected to contribute to recovery.

- Please see Master Response 7. Secondly, Attachment 2 of each Programs' ITP does not cover all aspects of agricultural operations. The Covered Activities are clearly defined in the ITP and do not include unregulated groundwater pumping, over which CDFG does not typically have jurisdiction.
- 11-26 Limiting the range of agricultural and restoration activities covered under the Programs would not be consistent with Program objectives. Program objectives are described in Chapter 2, Project Description, of each Draft EIR.
- 11-27 Please see response to Comment 9-2 and Master Response 6.
- 11-28 Please see Master Response 5.
- 11-29 The commenter questions the completeness of the setting descriptions, and states that key information, including changes in agricultural impacts over time, and illegal activities, are omitted. A CEQA document is not required to be absolutely comprehensive in its description of the setting. Neither is a CEQA document a law enforcement tool. CEQA *Guidelines* §15125, in discussing the Environmental Setting, only mandates a description of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, as they exist at the time the notice of preparation is published. The objective of the ITP is to authorize take which is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity through the permit terms and conditions, and CEQA mitigation measures. See responses to Comments 11-43, description of ITP Article XV.A. and 11-20.
- 11-30 As indicated by the commenter, the effects of low flows on coho salmon migration are disclosed in the Draft EIR. However, these effects are part of the environmental baseline and are not caused by the Program, and thus do not need to be mitigated under CEQA. Nevertheless, several mitigation obligations in the ITP are aimed at improving instream flows, particularly during dry and critically-dry water years.
- 11-31 The ITPs contain provisions to increase flows in the Scott and Shasta Rivers, relative to baseline conditions, and are therefore not expected to result in an impact related to reduced stream flows. ITP Article XIII.E.2.(a) includes a number of flow enhancement activities to provide for or support the instream needs of coho salmon at specific life-cycle stages. These activities include: development and implementation of water trusts; improvement of baseline instream flows and/or water quality through installation of water efficiency and/or water management improvement projects; development and implementation of a contingency plan for dry and critically-dry water years; and installation of alternative stock water systems. The exact numbers or locations of these activities cannot be precisely identified prior to Program implementation. Similarly the reach-specific mitigations depend on the site-specific and cumulative participation in the Programs. Consequently, identification of measurable objectives in any particular reach would provide an unwarranted degree of specificity and would be speculative.

To determine whether the full mitigation requirement of CESA is being met, CDFG has developed priorities for long-term population monitoring of salmonids in the Shasta and

Scott River watersheds. As stated under Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan Article IX., Measurement of the Overall Success of the Permit Program, the data collected will allow for an analysis of adult to juvenile ratio trends over time to determine if the Programs are resulting in a stable or increased production rate based on the ratio of juveniles per adult in the watershed and whether conditions for coho salmon within the watersheds are improving under the Programs. See Appendix A, Attachment 3.

The commenter's statement that "the vast majority of the mitigations prescribed have already been implemented" is incorrect. Please see response to Comment 11-6.

The benefit of increasing cold water flow below the confluence of Big Springs Creek by 45 cfs is discussed in the Shasta Program Draft EIR on page 3.3-40. The statement that CDFG proposes 10 cfs to lower temperature in the Shasta River is false. CDFG only mentions 10 cfs in the Shasta Draft EIR as the flows determined to be necessary to attract migrating adults under the Parks Creek-Upper Shasta River Fish Bypass Channel Alternative (page 5-20).

11-32 The Programs do not restrict access of CDFG enforcement personnel. Please see response to Master Responses 5 and 6

11-33 Please see responses to Comments 6-25, 11-43, explanation of ITP Article XV.A., and 11-21, above.

11-34 Please see response to Comment 11-29.

11-35 The effects of the Program on special-status fish species, including steelhead and Chinook salmon, are analyzed in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.

11-36 Please see response to Comments 6-34 and 6-35.

11-37 Please see response to Comments 6-34 and 6-35.

***Comments 11-38 through 11-41 applicable only to the Scott Draft EIR***

11-38 Please see response to Comment 6-36.

11-39 The Programs do not include fish capture and relocation as a "Covered Activity" nor do they authorize capture and relocation. Capture and relocation operations are described in the Draft EIRs because they are part of the environmental baseline. The stranding provisions of the ITPs (Article XVIII.) will avoid and minimize stranding, and therefore the need for fish rescue. Any residual take associated with stranding, or other consequences of Covered Activities, must be fully mitigated. If coho salmon within the Program Area are found in a location with poor aquatic habitat conditions from which they cannot escape and their survival is threatened, CDFG staff have federal and state



authority to rescue those fish. CDFG has performed this task in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, if necessary, as resources allow.

11-40 Please see Master Response 8.

**Comments 11-41 through 11-46 applicable only to the Shasta Draft EIR**

11-41 The effects of Dwinnell Dam on coho salmon are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat. These effects are part of the environmental baseline and are not caused by the Program.

11-42 Please see response to Comment 6-44.

11-43 Water diversion by riparian landowners is a baseline condition. Individuals operating surface water diversions pursuant to riparian rights, whether included in any of the adjudication decrees or not, are eligible to participate in the Program, and whether they choose to participate or not, are subject to the requirements of both CESA and Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* ITP Article XV.A.1. and 2. require sub-permittees to comply with their water rights and verify they are operating pursuant to a valid water right (see MLTC Exhibit 1, Attachment A: Water Right Verification Form).

11-44 Please see response to Comment 6-44. The purpose of the DEIR is to analyze the Program, which provides a regulatory framework for Agricultural Operators to come into compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA. CDFG cannot speak for the SWRCB and DWR.

11-45 The existence of Dwinnell Dam is part of the physical environmental conditions existing at that time that the baseline was established (April 28, 2005) and against which the potential environmental impacts of approving and implementing the Program were measured. An alternative that would include the removal of Dwinnell Dam is considered in the Shasta Draft EIR (Chapter 5, Alternatives), but it is rejected as infeasible. Please see the first paragraph of the response to Comment 6-44.

11-46 Comment noted.

**Comments 11-47 through 11-66 applicable only to the Scott Draft EIR**

11-47 Please see response to Comment 6-27, Comment 11-11 and Master Response 7.

11-48 This comment is based on a false premise that the Programs would prevent CDFG enforcement personnel access to streams and rivers in the Program Areas. Please see Master Response 5.

11-49 The commenter addresses the Scott River Draft EIR text at pages 2-22 through 2-25, questioning the mitigations as actions already undertaken but without positive results. The ITP includes numerous mitigation obligations that have not been implemented by the

RCDs in the past. Furthermore, many of the avoidance and minimization measures described in the ITP, as well as the terms and conditions specified in the MLTC, have historically not been implemented in the Program Area. These measures will avoid and minimize the take of coho salmon, thereby reducing the level of take that will need to be mitigated. The comment goes on to assert that water allocated to a Water Trust can simply be replaced by using interconnected groundwater. Use of groundwater is described in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology and Water Quality, in each Draft EIR; each Draft EIR also evaluates the potential for the Programs to result in increased reliance on groundwater.

11-50 The commenter doubts that the Flow Enhancement Mitigation for contingency planning for dry and critically-dry water years will work (citing Scott River Draft EIR text at pp. 2-23), and asserts that CDFG should not rely on a plan that has yet to be developed. First of all, the plan must be prepared and implemented by the RCDs as a mitigation obligation, and hence part of the ITP. Second, since it stipulates the responsible party, approval by CDFG, and standards by which it will be judged adequate, it is an adequate mitigation under CEQA.

11-51 Please see Master Response 6.

11-52 CDFG's determination regarding baseline is in accordance with CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15125(a) and case law. The Programs do not authorize any illegal activities. Instead, one of the primary purposes of the Program is to ensure compliance by Program participants with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA.

The exact numbers or locations of all mitigation activities cannot be precisely identified prior to Program implementation. Similarly, reach-specific mitigations depend on the site-specific and cumulative participation in the Programs. Consequently, targeting all mitigations measures would provide an unwarranted degree of specificity and would be speculative.

11-53 Citing the text at Scott River Draft EIR, page 3.2-18, the commenter questions whether changes in agricultural practices over time, described in the text, are adequately analyzed. These changes have resulted in the baseline condition analyzed in the Draft EIR.

11-54 Any such actions as cited by the commenter would be part of the environmental baseline, and would not be caused by the Program. Therefore, the EIR need not examine the effects of such actions.

11-55 Please see Master Response 1.

11-56 The current status of steelhead, lamprey, and other special-status fish species in the Program Area is part of the environmental baseline and is not caused by the Program. Potential effects of the Program on these species were analyzed, but found to be beneficial. The intent of CEQA is to analyze adverse impacts of the action under consideration.

- 11-57 Comment noted. The Draft EIRs describe the existing conditions in both Program Areas, including the ongoing diversion of water, as part of the baseline. Under ITP (Article XV.A.2.) sub-permittees agree to verify the quantity of water diverted. For those diversions which are watermastered, this verification will be performed on behalf of the sub-permittee by the watermaster. This is required because the Programs only allow the lawful diversion of water.
- 11-58 Please see response to Comment 11-39
- 11-59 Please see response to Comment 6-25.
- 11-60 Please see response to Comment 11-5.
- 11-61 Please see response to Comment 11-11.
- 11-62 Please see Master Response 1.
- 11-63 Please see response to Comment 11-39.
- 11-64 A more quantitative analysis of the potential for the Program to result in indirect impacts, including increased dependence on groundwater and resultant effects on surface water quality and fish habitat, is beyond the scope of the EIR. Establishment of the Water Trust is one among several requirements of the ITP that are intended to enhance streamflows. Please see Article XIII.E.2.(a)(i) of the ITP. These flow enhancement measures, in conjunction with other measures required by the ITP, are expected to be sufficient to avoid, minimize, and mitigate for incidental take of coho salmon, but will need to be evaluated according to the monitoring and adaptive management requirements of the ITP to determine their effectiveness (see the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan in Appendix A, Attachment 3).
- 11-65 The excerpt from Chapter 4, Cumulative Effects and Other Required Topics (page 4-32 in the Shasta DEIR and page 4-31 in the Scott DEIR) is taken out of context. The analysis necessary to support this conclusion precedes the excerpted statement.
- 11-66 Please see response to Comments 11-25, 11-35, and 11-39.
- 11-67 The commenter cites text from Article IV. of the ITP, which states:

*The Department may also include terms and conditions in a sub-permit that are not included in this Permit, if the Department determines that such additional terms and conditions are necessary to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the take of coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity.*

The comment states that this creates a problem under CEQA and CESA because the full range of permit terms and conditions is not disclosed. As required under CEQA, the Draft EIR identifies and analyzes the potentially significant environmental effects of the Program and the mitigation measures that will reduce those effects to less than

significant. It is not anticipated that additional measures would differ qualitatively from those declared in the Draft EIR and its appendices, but in fact, both environmental documents prepared pursuant to CEQA, and ITPs issued pursuant to CESA, allow for supplements or amendments. If CDFG later identifies an impact that was not previously disclosed in the Draft EIR, and that impact can only be addressed by adding a new term or condition to the ITP, CDFG will proceed as required under CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15162 and § 15168. The potential for additional environmental review for specific activities that may occur under the Program is discussed in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR (Section 1.2.3, Scope of the Draft EIR, page 1-4).

### **Comment Letter 11.1: Family Water Alliance**

11.1-1 This comment provides information on the Family Water Alliance provided and does not require a response.

11.1-2 The comment generally declares that the Draft EIRs do not adequately address the economic impacts of Programs on agricultural communities, and states the Programs would add an additional regulation of already permitted activities. Impact 3.1-1 of both Draft EIRs deals with this topic and finds the impact to be less than significant. See also the analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4 (Land Use and Agriculture, Cumulative Effects and Other Required Topics) of each Draft EIR.

11.1-3 Please see response to Comment 1-5.

11.1-4 The Programs do not unfairly target the agricultural sector, as the commenter asserts. In fact, the Programs were developed at the request of the SOSS which consists of agricultural community members. While SOSS actively opposed the listing of coho salmon it made clear to the Fish and Game Commission that, in the event coho salmon were listed, SOSS wanted a permitting framework for diverters to be developed. More recently, SOSS has publicly endorsed the Programs.

The Programs are intended to facilitate compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA for agricultural diverters whose in-stream activities (e.g., push-up dams, grazing) have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources and to take coho salmon. Covered Activities include the diversion of water, but not use of the water itself, e.g., for irrigation.

11.1-5 As described in detail in Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 of the Draft EIRs, agricultural operations are directly linked to aquatic habitat quality, and aquatic habitat quality is directly linked to coho salmon survival and productivity. The adverse effects of water diversions on fish species is documented extensively in the scientific literature, a small fraction of which is presented in the Draft EIRs.

11.1-6 Please see response to Comment 2-10 regarding economic impacts in the county.

11.1-7 Comment noted.

## Comment Letter 12: Kim Austin

- 12-1 Comment noted. The Program was developed at the recommendation of the Shasta-Scott Recovery Team (SSRT) for a Pilot Program to address recovery issues associated with agriculture and agricultural water use in the Shasta and Scott Rivers watersheds. Participants in the SSRT included representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, the tribes, environmental groups and groups representing the interests of the agricultural community. In addition, development of the Program was a collaborative effort between CDFG and the RCDs' board members which include diverters.

## Comment Letter 13: Jerry L. Bacigalupi

- 13-1 CDFG notes that Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.*, as originally enacted required persons conducting operations subject to the newly enacted legislation to notify CDFG on or before December 1, 1961. In other words, the Legislature made it clear that operations existing prior to the original enactment of Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq* were not “grandfathered in.” Also, please see response to Comment 1-5 in regard to the term “substantial.”

## Comment Letter 14: Lee T. Bergeron

- 14-1 This comment is introductory in nature.
- 14-2 This comment raises a legal opinion. CDFG respectfully disagrees with the commenter's assertion that the Programs do not comply with Government Code, § 65030, which states that California policy is to protect California's land resource, to insure its preservation and use in ways which are economically and socially desirable. Further, the Programs are intended to facilitate compliance with other state laws, Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA, which are intended to promote another important State policy: the protection and preservation of the State's fish and wildlife resources. The Programs promote both policies.
- 14-3 Please see response to Comment 3-2.
- 14-4 Please see Master Response 2.
- 14-5 Please see response to Comment 2-19 and 3-19, second paragraph. In further response, there might be times when it is necessary for CDFG or the RCDs to bring with them a consultant to assist with project design or implementation of a minimization or mitigation measure. In those cases, the consultants will be accompanied by CDFG or RCD staff unless special arrangements have been made with the sub-permittee.
- 14-6 Please see response to Comment 3-20 (Recommendations 20 and 21).
- 14-7 Notification under Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* is required for any activity that will substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake. Normally,

- such an activity will be on or within in the bed, channel, or bank, but in some instances, the activity can be outside those features and still cause a change to the bed, channel, or bank. In either case, notification would be required. CESA prohibits the take of a listed species unless the take is authorized by CDFG. The prohibition extends to any location where a listed species might occur. The Programs do not expand CDFG's jurisdiction under these statutes. At the same time, CDFG will exercise its jurisdiction, accordingly.
- 14-8 Please see Master Response 9. In further response, ITP Article XIII.E.2.(a) Flow Enhancement (i) and (ii) includes management measures which would result in increased stream flow for the benefit of fish and habitat. The establishment of local Water Trusts will allow water to be leased or purchased from willing water right holders. Reducing the amount of water delivered to the point of use, water efficiency, and water management improvement projects will allow additional water to remain in streams to benefit fish and wildlife.
- 14-9 Please see response to Comment 2-10, regarding economic impacts in the county, and to Comment 2-41.
- 14-10 Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b)(4) requires an ITP applicant to ensure adequate funding to implement the measures required to minimize and fully mitigate take and it is unclear whether DWR would or could pass the additional cost on to water users. CDFG will not be responsible for any additional costs DWR incurs to participate in the Programs and will not be responsible for those costs if DWR passes them on to sub-permittees.
- 14-11 Please see response to Comment 14-8.
- 14-12 Please see response to Comments 2-10, 2-44, 3-9, 3-22 (paragraph 2), and 6-27.
- 14-13 Please see response to Comment 3-23 regarding stream crossings.
- 14-14 Please see response to Comment 3-24 regarding elk.
- 14-15 Please see response to Comments 3-15 and 3-16.
- 14-16 Please see response to Comment 3-11 and 3-13.
- 14-17 Please see Master Response 10.
- 14-18 Please see response to Comment 3-18 regarding wildlife use of diverted water.
- 14-19 It is not clear in the first instance whether a sub-permittee would be responsible or liable for any negative impacts resulting from implemented projects as dictated by the Program. It would depend on the facts and based on the facts, the applicable law. Also, while CDFG and other regulatory agencies have enforcement discretion, CDFG's authority to hold harmless or indemnify natural persons is very limited.
- 14-20 See response to Comment 3-26.

- 14-21 Please see response to Comment 3-20 (Recommendation 19).
- 14-22 Please see response to Comment 3-25.
- 14-23 Please see response to Comment 3-29.
- 14-24 The commenter supports the In-Stream Flow Alternative, which is analyzed in Chapter 5, Alternatives, of each Draft EIR. Comment noted.

**Comment Letter 15: Jodi Burch**

- 15-1 The Program is intended to facilitate compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA by Agricultural Operators in the Shasta and Scott River watersheds. It provides a much less expensive alternative than complying with these statutes on an individual basis outside the Program. The potential for the Program to affect the ability of Agricultural Operators to continue to operate profitably, and the possibility that such an effect could result in a change of land use from agriculture to a non-agricultural use, is examined in Impact 3.1-1 in Chapter 3.1, Land Use and Agriculture, and found to be less than significant. See also the analysis of cumulative impacts on land use and agriculture in Chapter 5, Cumulative Effects and Other Required Topics, in each Draft EIR.
- 15-2 Coho salmon within the Program Area are listed as a threatened species under CESA, and therefore take is prohibited unless authorized by CDFG. The Program is intended to facilitate Agricultural Operators' compliance with CESA so they can continue their routine agricultural activities.

**Comment Letter 16: Michael Cassady**

- 16-1 This comment is an opinion in rebuttal to Comment Letter 20 and the opinion expressed therein. Comment noted.
- 16-2 Please see response to Comment 16-1.
- 16-3 Please see response to Comment 16-1.
- 16-4 Please see response to Comment 16-1.
- 16-5 Please see response to Comment 16-1.
- 16-6 Please see response to Comment 16-1.
- 16-7 Please see response to Comment 16-1.

**Comment Letter 17: Jack Cowley**

- 17-1 Please see response to 1-5.

- 17-2 This comment is vague, but CDFG has never requested DWR to “arbitrate ITP issues,” and this is not an element of its sub-permit. If this commenter is seeking clarification regarding DWR’s role to help prevent “stranding,” please see response to Comment 6-32.
- 17-3 CDFG is not charging any regulatory fees to agricultural participants participating in the Programs. The RCDs have paid the notification fee on behalf of the participants and will fund the full mitigation measures required under CESA. CDFG has paid the cost of preparing the EIRs for the Programs. However, please see response to Comments 2-10, 2-44, 3-9, 3-22 and 6-27.
- 17-4 Please see response to Comment 3-2 and Master Response 1.
- 17-5 Comment noted. In further response, please see generally the response to Comments 2-10, 2-44, 3-6, 3-9, 3-22 and 6-27 and Master Response 9.

### **Comment Letter 18: Norman Dyche**

- 18-1 The commenter expresses a concern about his observed decline in fish numbers. Comment noted.
- 18-2 Please see response to Comment 18.1.
- 18-3 Please see response to Comment 18.1.

### **Comment Letter 19: Michael Evenson**

- 19-1 Comment noted.
- 19-2 Comment noted. In further response, the watershed-wide approach the Programs represent will facilitate compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA by Agricultural Operators and will contribute to the recovery of coho salmon, but the Programs are not intended or expected to fully recover coho salmon. Hence, CDFG will continue its coho recovery efforts outside the Programs.

### **Comment Letter 20: Brian Favero**

- 20-1 Comment noted.
- 20-2 Please see “Populations Trends” in Section 3.3.1 in the Draft EIRs for the results of coho and Chinook salmon population surveys.
- 20-3 Please see Master Response 9, the response to Comment 2-10, regarding economic impacts in the county, and to Comment 2-41.
- 20-4 Comment noted.



- 20-5 Please see response to Comment 3-2. The ITPs are based on the measures described in the applications that the RCDs submitted to minimize and fully mitigate take of coho salmon under the Programs pursuant to CESA. The SSRT identified a diverse and large set of actions which, if implemented, would assist with recovery of coho salmon. The Programs represent an opportunity to implement some key coho recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy while using those same tasks to minimize or mitigate take of coho salmon that *might* occur incidental to agricultural operations.
- 20-6 Comment noted. In further response, the purpose of the Programs is not to in any way “single out” farmers and ranchers, but instead to facilitate their compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq* and CESA, in part by reducing compliance costs. CDFG anticipates that such compliance will contribute to the recovery goals for coho salmon, but full recovery is not the objective of the Programs, and certainly farmers and ranchers are not responsible for meeting that objective. Indeed, ongoing recovery efforts by a number of federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and individuals are critical to meet that objective (see Draft EIR page 4-14).

### **Comment Letter 21: Sam Hartman**

- 21-1 Comment noted. In further response, the Programs do not in any way transfer or “hand over” CDFG’s permitting or enforcement authority to Program participants, including the RCDs. As to RCDs’ role in the Programs, please see Master Response 6 and the response to Comments 6-13 and 9-2.

### **Comment Letter 22: Patrick Higgins**

- 22-1 Comment noted.
- 22-2 The effects of water diversions on coho salmon and coho salmon habitat are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; and in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, and reflect some of the commenter’s observations.
- 22-3 ITP issuance criteria defined in Fish and Game Code, § 2081 does not establish a requirement for recovery associated with an incidental take permit, only to minimize and fully mitigate the impacts of the authorized take. In further response, please see Master Response 7.
- 22-4 Comment noted. In further response, the issue of proper enforcement of state laws is beyond the scope and purpose of the Draft EIRs. CDFG appreciates receiving the comments on the *Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams*. CDFG’s responses to those comments are below beginning at Comment 22-10.
- 22-5 Comment noted.

- 22-6 Comment noted.
- 22-7 Please see Master Response 1.
- 22-8 CDFG has responded to the commenter's Public Records Act Request.
- 22-9 Comment noted. Regarding the "illegal delegation" of state authority, please see Master Response 6.
- 22-10 Comment noted.
- 22-11/11a Most of the information relevant to the Draft EIRs summarized by the commenter pertaining to the existing hydrologic conditions within the Scott River watershed is also summarized in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality, of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR acknowledges that baseflows in the Scott River watershed have decreased over time, the cause of the decrease can be attributed (in part) to increased consumptive use of water (including an increase in groundwater use), and that such decreases in baseflow have a negative effect on fish habitat.
- 22-12 Environmental baseline conditions and their effects on fall-run Chinook salmon are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.
- 22-13/13a Most of the information relevant to the Draft EIR summarized by the commenter pertaining to the existing hydrologic conditions within the Shasta River watershed is also summarized in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality, of the Draft EIR.
- 22-14 Please see response to Comment 8-12, second paragraph.
- 22-15 An alternative that would include the removal of Dwinnell Dam is considered in Chapter 5, Alternatives, of the Shasta Watershed-wide Permitting Program Draft EIR, but is rejected as infeasible for the reasons stated in that chapter.
- 22-16 Comment noted.
- 22-17 The figure provided in the comment depicts coho salmon presence and absence in streams that are outside of the Program Area. Coho salmon presence and absence within the Program Area are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.
- 22-18 Comment noted.
- 22-19 Hydrologic and biological baseline conditions within the Shasta and Scott River watersheds are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; and in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.
- 22-20 Comment noted.

## **Comment Letter 23: Joyce H. King**

- 23-1 Please see Master Response 6.
- 23-2 Please see Master Response 7. In further response, although not a recovery program, CDFG expects the Program to reduce take and adverse impacts to coho salmon caused by agricultural operations, thereby contributing to recovery of the species. ITP Article XIII.E.2.(a) includes a number of flow enhancement activities to provide for or support the instream needs of coho salmon at specific life-cycle stages. These activities include: development and implementation of water trusts; improvement of baseline instream flows and/or water quality through installation of water efficiency and/or water management improvement projects; development and implementation of a contingency plan for dry and critically-dry water years; and installation of alternative stock water systems.
- 23-3 Please see Master Response 6.
- 23-4 Please see Master Response 5. In further response, CDFG does not have the authority to ensure or allow the general public access to private property.
- 23-5 Please see Master Response 8.
- 23-6 Scaling back the Programs to permit only RCD restoration projects and water diversions activities would eliminate only a few Covered Activities from the Programs, specifically, the movement of livestock and vehicles across flowing streams and the construction of vehicle and livestock crossing and livestock watering lanes and the grazing of livestock within the riparian exclusion zone under specified conditions. ITP Attachment 2 includes the list of the specific Covered Activities.

Please also see response to Comment 25-1.

Please see Master Response 6 regarding monitoring responsibilities and regulatory authority.

## **Comment Letter 24: Scott P. Murphy**

- 24-1 Please see Master Response 7.
- 24-2 Please see Master Response 2.
- 24-3 The commenter asks about the effect of cattle exclusion fencing on other species. Conventional range fencing to exclude cattle does not restrict movement of deer or elk. Please see response to Comment 3-24.
- 24-4 Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b)(4) requires an ITP applicant to ensure adequate funding to implement the measures required to minimize and fully mitigate take. In other words, CESA makes it clear that the applicant is responsible for meeting the minimization and full mitigation requirements without which CDFG could not authorize take. As a general

rule, that is the case in regard to any federal, state, or local permit; the burden is on the permittee to comply with its terms and conditions. Consistent with the CESA requirement mentioned above, ITP Article XIII.E.1.(d) states that a sub-permittee will be

*...solely responsible for any costs the sub-permittee incurs to implement any avoidance or minimization measures required under a sub-permit.*

Of course, as the Draft EIRs explain, the cost to sub-permittees to obtain take authorization under the Programs will be much less because under the Programs, the RCDs will be responsible for meeting the full mitigation requirements on behalf of the sub-permittees.

24-5 Please see Master Response 5.

### **Comment Letter 25: Meighan O'Brien**

25-1 CDFG appreciates the commenter's obvious concern for salmon. However, generally-speaking, CDFG does not have authority under Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* or CESA to simply deny a project. Under those statutes CDFG has the authority to add to a project conditions CDFG determines are necessary to protect fish and wildlife resources through the issuance of a SAA (pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.*) and to minimize and fully mitigate take of a listed species that occurs incidental to the project (pursuant to CESA). If the applicant agrees to and/or meets those conditions, a SAA and/or ITP will be issued. The purpose of the Program is to facilitate compliance with these statutes, which in turn will serve to protect fish and wildlife resources, including coho salmon. The Program is not intended to recover coho salmon, but CDFG anticipates that it will contribute to that goal. Please see Master Response 7.

### **Comment Letter 26: Abigail Proctor**

26-1 Please see Master Response 7. Although the Program is not a coho recovery program, CDFG expects it to reduce take and adverse impacts to coho salmon caused by agricultural operations, and to contribute to recovery of the species. Factors limiting coho salmon are discussed in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, in each Draft EIR. Regarding the comment about enforcement by the RCDs, please see Master Response 6.

26-2 Please see Master Response 6.

26-3 Please see Master Response 5.

26-4 Please see Master Response 8.

26-5 Please see response to Comment 23-6 and Master Response 5.

## **Comment Letter 27: Hellä Sekaisin**

27-1 Comment noted.

## **Comment Letter 28: Rhondal Snodgrass**

28-1 Comment noted.

28-2 The effects of water diversions on coho salmon and coho salmon habitat are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; and in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.

28-3 Please see Master Response 6.

## **Comment Letter 29: Felicia Sobonya**

29-1 Comment noted. Also, please see Master Response 6, which might address the commenter's concern.

## **Comment Letter 30: Form Letter Received From 85 Individuals**

Comment Letters 30.01 through 30.85 were from individuals who signed and submitted a form letter (Please see Table 1.1 for the names of these individuals). While the majority of the letters were exactly the same as 30.01 below, seven commenters submitted a variation of Comment Letter 30.01. Responses to six of these letters (Comment Letters 30.25 and 30.79 were the same) follow CDFG's response to 30.01.

### **Comment Letter 30.01: Lowell Ashbaugh**

30.01-1 This comment goes to the merits of the Program. While the commenter urges CDFG not to approve the Programs, this position appears to be based on incorrect information, assumptions, and conclusions regarding the Programs and the environmental analyses contained in the Draft EIRs. Please see response to Comment 25-1 and the responses to the following comments.

30.01-2 The effects of water diversions on coho salmon and coho salmon habitat are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; and in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, of each Draft EIR. Many aspects of the Program will result in a substantial improvement in stream conditions and habitat for coho salmon and other aquatic species. See, however, Master Response 7 regarding recovery of coho salmon.

30.01-3 Please see Master Response 6.

30.01-4 Please see Master Response 5.

30.01-5 The information in the Draft EIRs is in fact based on exhaustive literature search, personal contacts with regulators and researchers, and field reconnaissance of both watersheds. Please see the reference sections at the end of each chapter in the Draft EIRs. Regarding the Van Kirk and Naman article, please see Master Response 8.

30.1-6 Please see response to Comment 23-6 and Master Response 6.

### **Comment Letter 30.07: Brien Brennan**

30.07-1 Please see response to Comment 30.01-1.

30.07-2 Please see response to Comment 30.01-2.

30.07-3 Please see response to Comment 30.01-3.

30.07-4 Please see response to Comment 30.01-4.

30.07-5 In regard to item 1, please see response to Comment 30.01-5.

In regard to item 2, the commenter does not identify the “environmental consequences” he believes the Draft EIRs failed to consider. Hence, a specific and complete response is not possible. However, the Draft EIRs fully comply with CEQA: they identify the potential significant environmental effects of the Programs and where those effects were determined to be potentially significant, the Draft EIRs identify feasible measures that will reduce those impacts to a less than significant level (See CEQA *Guidelines* § § 15126.2 and 15126.4).

In regard to item 3, The commenter does not describe how the Draft EIRs are inconsistent with CESA and other Fish and Game Code statutes, or the Water Codes. Hence, a specific and complete response is not possible.

In regard to item 4, Alternatives to the Programs are described and analyzed in Chapter 5 of each Draft EIR, as required by CEQA.

In regard to item 5, Chapter 2, the Project Description in each Draft EIR thoroughly describes the proposed Programs as CEQA requires. As stated under Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan Article IX. “Measurement of the Overall Success of the Permit Program,” CDFG has developed priorities for long-term population monitoring of salmonids in the Shasta and Scott River watersheds. Collected data will allow for an analysis of adult to juvenile ratio trends over time to determine if the Programs are resulting in a stable or increased production rate based on the ratio of juveniles per adult in the watershed and whether conditions for coho salmon within the watersheds are improving under the Programs. See Appendix A, Attachment 3, of this volume.

30.07-6 Please see response to Comment 11-24.

30.07-7 Comment noted. In further response, Chapter 3.7, Public Services, Utilities, and Energy, generally describes the likely effects of global climate change.

### **Comment Letter 30.21: Margaret Draper**

30.21-1 Please see response to Comment 25-1.

30.21-2 First bullet: Please see Master Response 6.

Second bullet: Comment noted. In further response, please see Master Response 4.

Third bullet: The Programs include measures to address these issues.

Fourth bullet: The ITP, sub-permits, and SAAs CDFG will be issuing under the Program, and any permits CDFG and other regulatory agencies issue in general, will be subject to all other applicable laws and regulations.

30.21-3 Please see Master Response 5. In further response, CDFG does not have the authority to ensure or allow the general public access to private property.

30.21-4 The Programs include numerous measures to increase flow in the Shasta and Scott Rivers and their tributaries. In further response, please see Master Responses 4 and 7.

30.21-5 The commenter does not identify the reason(s) why she believes the Draft EIRs are “inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with” CEQA. Hence, a specific and complete response is not possible. The Draft EIRs fully comply with CEQA: they identify the potential environmental effects of the Programs and where those effects were determined to be potentially significant, the Draft EIRs identify feasible measures that will reduce those impacts to a less than significant level. (See *CEQA Guidelines*, §§ 15126.2 and 15126.4.)

Limiting factors for coho salmon in the Shasta and Scott River watersheds are discussed in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.

The information in the Draft EIRs is based on an exhaustive literature search, personal contacts with regulators and researchers, and field reconnaissance of both watersheds. With regards to the comment regarding the recent article by Van Kirk and Naman, please see Master Response 8.

30.21-6 Comment noted. Please see Master Response 6.

30.21-7 Please see response to Comment 23-6 and Master Response 6. With regards to the remainder of the comment, the Draft EIRs fully analyze the potential impacts of the Programs pursuant to CEQA.

### **Comment Letter 30.25: P. Gar**

Please note that Marie Wadman submitted the same comments (Comment Letter 30.79).

- 30.25-1 Please see Master Response 7. The ITPs contain numerous provisions to increase flows in the Scott and Shasta Rivers, relative to baseline conditions. Factors limiting coho salmon are discussed in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, in each Draft EIR.
- 30.25-2 Please see Master Response 6.
- 30.25-3 Please see Master Response 5.
- 30.25-4 Please see response to Comment 30.07-5.
- 30.25-5 Please see response to Comment 23-6 and Master Response 6.

### **Comment Letter 30.45: Sam B. King**

- 30.45-1 Please see response to Comment 30.1-2 and Master Response 7.
- 30.45-2 Please see Master Response 6.
- 30.45-3 Please see Master Response 5.
- 30.45-4 Please see response to Comment 30.1-5 and Master Response 8.
- 30.45-5 Please see response to Comment 11-24. CDFG does not typically have authority over the pumping of groundwater and it is not a Covered Activity under the Programs. Please see Master Response 4, last paragraph.
- 30.45-6 Comment noted.

### **Comment Letter 30.53: Saba Malik**

- 30.53-1 Please see Master Response 7. The ITPs contain numerous provisions to increase flows in the Scott and Shasta Rivers, relative to baseline conditions. Factors limiting coho salmon are discussed in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat, in each Draft EIR.
- 30.53-2 Please see Master Response 6.
- 30.53-3 Please see Master Response 5.
- 30.53-4 Please see response to Comment 30.07-5.
- 30.53-5 Please see response to Comment 23-6 and Master Response 6.



30.53-6 Comment noted.

### **Comment Letter 30.62: Amanda Piscitelli**

30.62-1 through 30.62-6

These comments are the same as Comments 30.1-1 through 30.1-6. Please see the responses to those comments.

In regard to the additional comment hand written in the left margin that granting “these permits” will be in violation of public trust, and that water resources need to be protected, the permits will be issued pursuant to CEQA, CESA, and Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and include measures which will improve aquatic conditions within the two watersheds.

## **2.2.2 Responses to Comments Specific to the Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program Draft EIR**

### **Comment Letter 34: Karuk Tribe of California**

34-1 The commenter contends that issues raised in scoping comments were not addressed in the Draft EIR. CDFG reviewed all scoping comments received during circulation of the NOP, including the letter submitted by the Quartz Valley Tribe. CEQA requires the lead agency to address comments on the NOP within the EIR (CEQA *Guidelines*, §§ 15082 and 15083). Several of the issues raised were addressed in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR (page 1-6). The commenter does not specify which issues they believe were not addressed.

The commenter states that the “Draft EIR is driven by the Scott Valley farming community”, and “fails to address the issues of stream flow and groundwater depletion and their associated water quality problems....” The Program is the result of a collaborative effort between CDFG, SQRCD, and SVRCD. The principal purposes of the Program are to implement critical coho recovery tasks while providing a streamlined and comprehensive permitting framework to enable farmers and ranchers throughout the Scott River watershed to continue specific agricultural activities while complying with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA. The Program does address the ongoing impacts of agricultural surface water diversions on coho salmon and other salmonids, by requiring that Program participants adopt and conform to conditions on water diversions and other activities that may result in take of coho salmon or that may substantially alter the bed, bank, or channel of the Scott River and its tributaries.

34-2 Please see Master Response 1.

34-3 The Draft EIR used the best available data and conforms to the standards of CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15151 (standards for Adequacy of an EIR). The research conducted by Quigley and Yokel cited by the commenter is one of many documents CDFG relied upon in preparing the Draft EIR (please refer to the references cited at the conclusion of each

chapter). While it may be true that data collection efforts have been limited only to those areas where private landowners have allowed access to the waterways through their property, SQRCD reports disclose and discuss the implications of limited access. The commenter states that Quigley and Yokel's "QA/QC measures are inadequate" but provides no basis as to why he believes they are inadequate.

CDFG is aware of poor quality aquatic habitat conditions for coho throughout the Scott River watershed. The effects of water quality and instream flows on coho salmon migration and rearing are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat. The Draft EIR includes a discussion on water quality conditions in Shackelford Creek (page 3.3-35) stating that summer water temperatures may be the most significant limiting factor for juvenile coho salmon in the lower reaches of the creek and that dry stream channels in June and July may affect the tail end of smolt outmigration.

CDFG obtained copies of the Klamath National Forest Thermal Refugia Pilot Project, the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report for 2007, and the Klamath National Forest Cold Patch (Thermal Refugia) Investigations in the Scott River Canyon. These reports document the results of surveys to identify summer rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids and monitoring of specific water quality parameters in the Scott River watershed. The documents support the general discussion of the existing baseline conditions provided in Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 of the Draft EIR. Even though CDFG did not have copies of the above named reports during the development of the Draft EIR, the documents have been reviewed by CDFG staff and, pursuant to CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15151, the Draft EIR provides a sufficient degree of analysis against which the potential environmental impacts of approving and implementing the Program were measured.

#### **References**

Bowman, C. 2008. Quartz Valley Indian Reservation Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report for 2007.

Maurer, S. 2007. Klamath National Forest Cold Patch (Thermal Refugia) Investigations in the Scott River Canyon.

Maurer, S. 2004. Klamath National Forest Thermal Refugia Pilot Project.

- 34-4 The connection between surface and groundwater is discussed in the Draft EIR (e.g., see pages 3.2-11, 3.2-25, and 3.2-28 through 3.2-32).
- 34-5 Both SQRCD and the CDFG are public agencies and subject to information or data sharing requests under the Public Records Act (Government Code, § 6250 *et seq.*). All sources of information used in preparation of the Draft EIR are available upon request; much of this information is in electronic format.

- 34-6 Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan Article IX. “Measurement of the Overall Success of the Permit Program” states:

*The Department has developed priorities for long-term population monitoring of salmonids in the Scott River watershed.... One of the primary goals of this effort is to provide sound and statistically defensible data to estimate the number of adult coho returning to the basin and the relationship to juvenile coho production in the Scott River basin.*

The collected data will allow CDFG to determine whether the Scott River population of coho salmon is trending in a positive direction. See Appendix A, Attachment 3.

- 34-7 CDFG coordinated closely with both the SWRCB and the NCRWQCB during the development of the Programs and will continue to do so during the implementation phase of the Programs. The ITP monitoring plan does require water temperature monitoring and CDFG intends to continue to coordinate with both agencies. The TMDLs are not the subject of the Draft EIR. TMDLs are the responsibility of the NCRWQCB and the SWRCB. Where an activity covered by the Program requires a permit from the NCRWQCB, it is likely they will require additional monitoring beyond that required by CDFG

- 34-8 Comment noted.

- 34-9 The comment expresses an opinion about the proper baseline for the Program. Water diversions pursuant to existing water rights are considered in the environmental analysis to be a part of the environmental baseline and CDFG’s baseline determination is well in accord with CEQA and applicable case law.

Van Kirk and Naman (2008) analyze reductions in surface flows over the period of 1942 to 2005 and thus describe baseline conditions, not the potential effects of the Program. The USFS water rights are junior to many of the large diversions in the Scott River watershed. CDFG does not have jurisdiction over water rights under the Scott River Decree. The purpose of an ITP is not to prevent take, but to authorize take if it occurs incidental to an otherwise lawful activity and is fully mitigated, among other requirements.

In response to the concern regarding jeopardy, please see Master Response 1.

In response to the comment regarding ITP Article XXVII., Termination, the clause will apply in the Scott River watershed:

*...if circumstances or new information provides evidence that continued Program implementation ~~may result in jeopardy to~~ would jeopardize coho salmon,...*

Termination will not be invoked unless it can be shown that “jeopardy” is a result of Program implementation.

- 34-10 The Program is intended to facilitate compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA; it does not purport to “solve” existing water allocation and supply issues within the Scott River watershed.

MLTC Condition 26 (Condition 25 in Draft EIR) states:

*Notwithstanding any right the responsible party has to divert and use water, the responsible party shall allow sufficient water to pass over, around, or through any dam the party owns or operates to keep in good condition any fish that may exist below the dam, as required by Fish and Game Code section 5937.*

All SAAs issued for water diversions pursuant to the Program will include MLTC Condition 26 (Condition 25 in the Draft EIR) If an Agricultural Operator does not comply with this provision they may become subject to an enforcement action by CDFG.

Notwithstanding the above, CDFG anticipates that less agricultural water will be diverted in part because to participate in the Program, an agricultural operator may not exceed his or her legal water right. Also, ITP Article XIII.E.2.(a) Flow Enhancement, includes measures which would result in increased stream flow.

- 34-11 Comment noted. In regard to the part of the comment referring to a “private watermaster,” the Draft EIR twice incorrectly refers to the joint Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District as a “private” watermaster service. The District is a “Special District” created through passage of AB 1580 (Chapter 416, Statutes of 2007) which gives the District the power to act as watermaster over decreed water rights, adopt ordinances and regulations, acquire and dispose of property, appoint employees, enter contracts, and charge fees. In February 2008, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors appointed the initial Board of Directors for the District. As stated in the Draft EIR (pages 2-27 and 2-28):

*...the new watermaster would be required to comply with CESA by obtaining authorization from CDFG for incidental take of coho salmon. This authorization would likely be obtained through a sub-permit issued by CDFG under the Program similar to DWR’s or through an ITP outside the Program.*

- 34-12 Development of a groundwater management policy is beyond the scope of the Program and the Draft EIR. Groundwater use is the jurisdiction of Siskiyou County and, in some cases where the groundwater is considered subsurface flow, SWRCB.

The Draft EIR states that many of the westside tributaries are dry in their lower reaches during the summer (page 3.2-41). The Draft EIR does not conclude that such an occurrence is (or was) wholly natural or would manifest even without the many upstream diversions. The Draft EIR is summarizing information presented by Mack (1958). Mack (1958) states that the entire flow of many westside tributaries infiltrated the permeable subsurface by summer or early fall.

- CDFG reviewed Taft and Shapavalov (1935). Taft and Shapavalov write “No surface water from Shackleford Creek was reaching the Scott River on June 9, all of it being taken into irrigation ditches. Some surface water should be allowed to flow into the Scott River at all times of the year.” Taft and Shapavalov did not state that Shackleford Creek had been historically perennial.
- 34-13 The existing and future use of groundwater (other than that proposed as an alternative stock-watering method under the Program) is not a Covered Activity under the proposed Program. However, as discussed in the Draft EIR, the Program would not have a negative, indirect effect (i.e., by increasing use) upon the use of groundwater in the Scott River watershed. From a direct impact perspective, the Draft EIR addresses the potential increase in groundwater use that could be attributable specifically to the Program (i.e., not attributable to factors outside the scope or jurisdiction of the Program) and concludes that this would be a less than significant impact (Impact 3.2-4, page 3.2-60 - 62). As stated above, development of a groundwater management policy is beyond the scope of the Program and the Draft EIR.
- 34-14 Comment noted.
- 34-15 The Program is not intended to substitute for implementation of the full Coho Recovery Strategy. Under Fish and Game Code, § 1602, the SAA is required to include measures necessary to protect existing fish or wildlife resources that the project described in a notification could adversely affect. Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b)(2) requires the impacts of any authorized take to be minimized and fully mitigated. The measures required to meet this obligation shall be roughly proportional in extent to the impact of the authorized taking on the species. Thus, the requirement of the Program is to protect existing fish and wildlife resources and implement avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. In additions, please see Master Response 7.
- Regarding the remainder of the comment, comment noted.
- 34-16 Comment noted.
- 34-17 The commenter is referred to the discussion “Composition and Condition of the Riparian Vegetation – Relationship to Streamflow” in Chapter 3.4, Biological Resources: Botany, Wildlife, and Wetlands, page 3.4-4. While securing easements or making riparian zone acquisitions along the Scott River and its tributaries would likely facilitate riparian recovery, that type of effort is beyond the scope of this Program. Regarding the Tribe’s desire to see a “Salmonid Rescue and Relocate Study” implemented in the Scott River to assess the environmental impacts of fish rescue operations, this is also beyond the scope of the Program. Article XVIII., Stranding, of the ITP is intended to reduce the incidence of stranding, and therefore the need for fish rescue operations.
- 34-18 The Draft EIR makes no assumptions about, nor does it address, historic temperature conditions within Big Slough. The Draft EIR simply states that temperatures in Big

Slough and Lower Kidder Creek likely exceed salmonid tolerance levels prior to going dry in early August.

The Draft EIR does not assert that all conditions west of the Scott River between Etna Creek and Kidder Creek are natural. Rather, the Draft EIR summarizes the conclusions presented by Mack (1958) regarding the influence of historic overbank deposition from the Scott River upon the south-to-north orientation of Big Slough and Lower Kidder Creek (page 3.2-41 – 42). The influence of human-induced changes in the Scott River watershed is discussed at length in the Draft EIR.

- 34-19 The Draft EIR states that, based upon historical data, the mainstem Scott River *may* have experienced excessive summer water temperatures as far back as several decades. However, the Draft EIR is explicit in that it does not make a direct comparison of existing and past temperature conditions, because the available data would not support a definitive conclusion one way or another. For example, from page 3.2-34:

*However, aside from the range of temperatures, the inability to compare potential differences in the persistence of excessive temperatures throughout the course of a year (or multiple years) tempers the above comparison and precludes any conclusions regarding the similarity of the historic and current stream temperature regime.*

Figure 3.2-11 is not intended to show habitat suitability as it relates to coho salmon; it is intended to give a broad generalization of the variance in stream temperatures at a watershed-scale.

Based upon available information, fluvial sediment characteristics and trends are accurately discussed in the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR acknowledges that excessive sedimentation is a major problem with respect to aquatic habitat in the Scott River watershed.

- 34-20 As the commenter suggests, a Draft EIR is required to determine whether a potential cumulative impact is significant pursuant to CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15130. The cumulative impacts analysis presented in Chapter 4 of the Draft EIR is adequate with respect to the requirements of CEQA.

The comment with respect to sedimentation is noted. The information presented in the Draft EIR is not intended to be an exhaustive assessment of the existing hydrologic and geomorphic conditions within each tributary watershed of the Scott River.

The commenter's statement that the potential for success of gravel enhancement and placement of instream structures "is limited when upland rates of disturbance are high and potential for increased peak flows and sediment yield is elevated" is noted. In further responses, Mitigation measure 3.2-3c requires CDFG and SQRCD to establish performance criteria for new and replacement instream structures. These measures include the requirement that:

*Instream structures shall be designed to withstand a given range of flows (e.g., some structures are permanent, such as fish ladders, while other structures are “semipermanent,” such as placement of LWD). The range of flows that a particular structure will be designed to handle shall be quantified and rationalized.*

34-21 Please see Master Response 3.

34-22 CDFG will comply with CEQA and any other applicable law, including the Public Records Act (Government Code, § 6250 *et seq.*) in regard to information disclosure. Also, please see response to Comment 34-5.

34-23 Under Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (MAMP), Article V.A.1.(Photographs) SQRCD is required to provide photographs:

~~*Permanent p*~~ *Photograph sites shall be set up for every conservation measure, for which the SQRCD is responsible, for the purposes of ~~compliance and~~ implementation and effectiveness monitoring.*

This section goes on to state;

*These same sites will be used for qualitative effectiveness monitoring of selected projects. The SQRCD may opt to utilize photographs for additional effectiveness monitoring, when the SQRCD believes photographs will enhance its ability to report on effectiveness of implemented activities and practices.*

The commenter states, “While CDFG sees an increased role for itself in monitoring juvenile and adult coho salmon, the DEIR states that it is contingent on ‘additional funds for equipment, operations, and temporary field personnel.’ The DEIR does not include the words “contingent on.” As stated in MAMP Article IX. “Measurement of the Overall Success of the Permit Program:”

*The Department will conduct this critical monitoring using existing fisheries staff with additional funds necessary for equipment, operations, and temporary field personnel.*

CDFG funding is subject to the vagaries of the State budget process and there are always uncertainties regarding future funding availability. However, CDFG has made a commitment to monitor and will make every effort to be sure this critical monitoring of coho salmon population trends will continue over the life of the Program. The MAMP appears as Appendix A, Attachment 3 in this volume.

34-24 While securing easements or making riparian zone acquisitions along the Scott River and its tributaries would likely facilitate riparian recovery, that type of effort is beyond the scope of this Program.

34-25 Comment noted.

- 34-26 An alternative that would provide incidental take coverage to a broader range of activities is examined in Chapter 5, Alternatives, but rejected for the reasons stated in the Draft EIR. See the description of Rejected Alternative 5: Expanded Range of Covered Activities Alternative (page 5-5).

CDFG has staff dedicated to reviewing Timber Harvest Plans (THP) and working with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and NCRWQCB to incorporate wildlife and habitat protection measures, including protection measures in riparian zones, into THPs.

- 34-27 One of the primary purposes of the Program is to facilitate compliance by Agricultural Operators with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA. Please see Master Response 5.

- 34-28 The commenter states that “The proposed ITP and DEIR lack a process to quantify or measure coho “take” therefore [it] is unclear how protection actions will function or mitigation for “take” can be justified.” Removal of obstructions to passage, effective screens, identification of priority reaches for water trust actions, and improved monitoring and compliance with water rights will each enhance conditions over baseline and contribute to full mitigation. In its simplest form, a determination of full mitigation amounts to a quantitative analysis of the number of individuals proposed to be taken, the number of individuals to be protected through implementation of avoidance and minimization measures, and the number of individuals to be replaced through mitigation. However, such a simplistic arithmetic approach can rarely be applied since it is usually not possible to quantify precisely the number of individuals that are expected to be taken, protected, or replaced. For the Program these numbers cannot be determined with any degree of certainty. In order to determine the amount of mitigation required to meet the full mitigation issuance criteria for the ITP, CDFG looked at the probable risks that individual coho salmon may experience as a result of the Covered Activities and the expected beneficial effects of the proposed avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. Key coho salmon recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy were selected to improve conditions for coho salmon with the goal of increasing the number of fish successfully reared within the watershed and offsetting the impacts to coho salmon due to the implementation of the Program’s Covered Activities.

- 34-29 The linkages between agricultural impacts and coho salmon ecology are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.

To better understand coho salmon ecology in the Shasta and Scott River watersheds, CDFG has awarded over \$1.13 million through the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program for monitoring and research activities over the past 10 years. In addition over \$20,000 has been awarded through other programs for similar activities during this same time frame.

- 34-30 Under the Program, regardless of the level of impact an individual agricultural participant might have on coho salmon, the full mitigation requirements of the ITP will be met by SQRCD through implementation of select key coho recovery tasks identified in the Coho



- Recovery Strategy. This allows full mitigation to be performed on a much larger and more effective scale. Individual agricultural participants are required to implement measures to avoid and minimize their impact on coho salmon. In issuing SAAs and sub-permits, CDFG staff will perform site visits and work with SQRCD and sub-permittees so the measures are implemented appropriately to avoid and minimize the potential for impacts.
- 34-31 As described in detail in Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 of the Draft EIR, impacts from agricultural operations are directly linked to aquatic habitat quality which is directly linked to coho salmon survival and productivity. The benefits of the proposed restoration and mitigation measures have been documented in the scientific literature. There is no information available suggesting that the proposed measures would not benefit coho salmon in the Scott River watershed.
- 34-32 The comment makes an incorrect correlation between the Program and Fish and Game Code, §5937. Compliance with Fish and Game Code, §5937 is required regardless of whether the Program is implemented or not.
- 34-33 The Draft EIR was prepared in accordance with CEQA *Guidelines* and current standards of practice for EIRs, and the potential significant environmental impacts of the Program are analyzed using the best available science. Please refer to the references cited at the conclusion of each chapter. The environmental review process as a whole has complied with or exceeded the public notification, public participation, disclosure, and analysis requirements of CEQA.
- 34-34 CDFG is aware of the risk to Pacific salmon populations from the past, current, and future effects of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation. However, these are existing baseline conditions that are not caused by the Program. Please see Master Response 7.
- 34-35 Comment noted. Also, please see Master Response 7.
- 34-36 CDFG acknowledges the commenter's opposition to the Program. However, CDFG expects that the Program will make real and substantial improvements in conditions for coho salmon and other anadromous fish in the Scott River Watershed.

### **Comment Letter 35: Quartz Valley Indian Reservation**

- 35-1 CDFG acknowledges receipt of this comment letter.

Please note that many of the comments contained in this letter were also contained in comment letter 34, above; therefore, many of the responses to comments in this letter refer to responses to corresponding comments contained in letter 34.

- 35-2 The Draft EIR was prepared in accordance with CEQA and the CEQA *Guidelines*. All Program participants are required to comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws.

- 35-3 Please see response to Comment 34-1.
- 35-4 Please see Master Response 1.
- 35-5 Please see response to Comment 34-3.
- 35-6 Please see response to Comment 34-4.
- 35-7 Please see response to Comment 34-5.
- 35-8 Please see response to Comment 34-6.
- 35-9 Please see response to Comment 34-7.
- 35-10 Comment noted.
- 35-11 Please see response to Comment 34-9.
- 35-12 Please see response to Comment 34-10.
- 35-13 Please see response to Comment 34-11.
- 35-14 Please see response to Comment 34-12.
- 35-15 Please see response to Comment 34-13.
- 35-16 Comment noted.
- 35-17 Please see response to Comment 34-15.
- 35-18 Comment noted.
- 35-19 Please see response to Comment 34-17.
- 35-20 Please see response to Comment 34-18.
- 35-21 Please see response to Comment 34-19.
- 35-22 Please see responses to Comments 34-5 and 34-20.
- 35-23 Please see Master Response 3.
- 35-24 Please see response to Comment 34-22.
- 35-25 Please see response to Comment 34-23.
- 35-26 Please Master Response 1.
- 35-27 Comment noted.

- 35-28 Please see response to Comment 34-26.
- 35-29 Please see response to Comment 34-27.
- 35-30 Please see response to Comment 34-32.
- 35-31 Please see response to Comment 34-33.
- 35-32 Please see response to Comment 34-34.
- 35-33 Comment noted. Also, please see Master Response 7.
- 35-34 Please see response to Comment 34-36.

### **Comment Letter 36: Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program**

- 36-1 The Draft EIR was prepared according to CEQA and the CEQA *Guidelines* and current standards of practice for EIRs. The environmental review process as a whole has complied with or exceeded the public notification, public participation, disclosure, and analysis requirements of CEQA.
- 36-2 This comment urges CDFG to take immediate enforcement action to halt “illegal activities,” including violations of Fish and Game Code, §§ 5931 and 5937. One of the primary purposes of the Program is to facilitate compliance by Agricultural Operators with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA. Program participants will still be required to comply with other provisions in the Fish and Game Code, as will those individuals who elect not to participate.

In regard to the comment that “[t]he DEIR needs to have explicit provisions that ITP prescriptions are subject to future water use determinations and adjudications,” CDFG respectfully disagrees; such a statement is not required under CEQA and precisely what the statement means is not clear.

- 36-3 This is a Program EIR covering individual activities subject to Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and § 2081, which have similar effects and can be mitigated in similar ways. ITP Article XIII.E.2., Mitigation Obligations of SQRCD, requires SQRCD, within a specific number of years, to identify locations and implement projects which will improve instream flow, provide gravel enhancement, install instream habitat improvement structures, plant riparian vegetation, and remove barriers to provide fish passage. The exact numbers or locations of these activities cannot be precisely identified prior to Program implementation. Similarly the reach-specific mitigations depend on the site-specific and cumulative participation in the Programs. Consequently, identification of measurable objectives in any particular reach would provide an unwarranted degree of specificity and would be speculative.

Regarding recovery, please see Master Comment 7.

- 36-4 CDFG acknowledges that there is insufficient information on the relationship between streamflow and habitat in the Scott River and its tributaries upon which to base a full recovery effort for coho salmon. The Watershed-wide Permitting Program and recovery planning for coho salmon would benefit from the types of investigations the commenter proposes. Please see Master Response 7.
- 36-5 Comment noted.
- 36-6 CDFG shares the Yurok Tribe's concern regarding the status of both coho salmon and Chinook salmon in the Scott River watershed. However, CDFG does not have authority to regulate groundwater withdrawal. That authority rests with Siskiyou County and, in some instances, the SWRCB. In much of the Scott Valley, interconnected groundwater is subject to the Scott River Adjudication Decree. The Program is intended to improve river and stream flows within the Scott River and its tributaries, particularly at crucial times of the year, including during spawning migration.
- 36-7 The commenter contends that issues raised in scoping comments were not addressed in the Draft EIR. CDFG reviewed all scoping comments received during circulation of the NOP, including the letters submitted by the Quartz Valley Tribe and the Yurok Tribe. CEQA does not require the lead agency to respond to comments on the NOP, but only to consider comments in the preparation of the EIR (*CEQA Guidelines*, §§ 15082 and 15083). CDFG did consider all comments received on the NOP. Several of the issues raised are generally addressed on page 1-6.
- 36-8 Please see response to Comment 34-3.
- 36-9 Please see response to Comment 34-4.
- 36-10 Please see response to Comment 34-5.
- 36-11 Please see response to Comment 34-6.
- 36-12 Please see response to Comment 34-7.
- 36-13 Comment noted.
- 36-14 Please see Master Response 1 and response to Comment 34-9.
- 36-15 Please see response to Comment 34-10.
- 36-16 Please see response to Comment 34-11.
- 36-17 Please see response to Comment 34-12.
- 36-18 Comment noted.
- 36-19 Comment noted.

- 36-20 Please see response to Comment 34-15.
- 36-21 Comment noted.
- 36-22 Please see response to Comment 34-17.
- 36-23 Please see response to Comment 34-18.
- 36-24 Please see response to Comment 34-19.
- 36-25 Please see response to Comment 34-20.
- 36-26 Please see Master Response 3.
- 36-27 Please see response to Comment 34-22.
- 36-28 Please see response to Comment 34-23.
- 36-29 Please see Master Response 1.
- 36-30 Comment noted.
- 36-31 Please see response to Comment 34-26.
- 36-32 Please see response to Comment 34-32.
- 36-33 Please see response to Comment 34-33.
- 36-34 Comment noted. Also, please see Master Response 7.

### **Comment Letter 37: Native American Heritage Commission**

- 37-1 As discussed in Mitigation Measure 3.5-1f (Draft EIR page 3.5-14), for each ground-disturbing activity proposed under the Program, a records review will be conducted prior to fieldwork at the Northeast Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University, Chico (NE/CHRIS). Alternatively, a professional archaeologist will conduct a watershed-wide records search at NE/CHRIS which will be updated at least every two years.
- 37-2 As discussed in Mitigation Measure 3.5-1a, for each project proposed under this Program, if the records at NE/CHRIS do not show that the area has already had an adequate archaeological survey by a professional archaeologist, an archaeological survey will be conducted and a technical report with all pertinent information will be prepared and submitted to CDFG. If archaeological sites are identified and determined significant, they will be protected as outlined in Mitigation Measure 3.5-1b, or, if a site cannot be protected, then additional work will be conducted to mitigate potential adverse impacts as outlined in Mitigation Measure 3.5-1g or 3.5-1h.

- 37-3 CDFG provided a copy of the Draft EIR to the parties listed on the attached Native American Contacts List at the time the document was released to the public.

In response to this comment, Mitigation Measure 3.5-1f is changed as follows:

***Mitigation Measure 3.5-1f:*** *Prior to carrying out MLTC Condition 111 c. ~~102~~, the archaeologist/paleontologist shall: a.) contact the Native American Heritage Commission for a Sacred Lands File check and a list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site and, if necessary, to assist with the development of mitigation measures; and, b;) make a determination ~~shall first be made~~ as to whether the area has had an adequate archaeological survey by a professional archaeologist and whether any historic or prehistoric sites have been recorded within a 1/4-mile radius of the project area. This records review may be conducted at NE/CHRIS on a case-by-case basis for each project. Alternatively, a professional archaeologist will be contracted to conduct a watershed-wide records search at NE/CHRIS and prepare a map showing the previous surveys and recorded sites. An update of this information would then be prepared at least every two years. This map, which will show the locations of archaeological sites, would be considered confidential and made available only to individuals on an as-needed basis.*

- 37-4 The provisions for protection of accidentally discovered archaeological resources or human remains are discussed in Mitigation Measures 3.5-1d and 3.5-1e. MLTC, Conditions 119, 120, and 122 (Conditions 106, 107, and 108 in the Draft EIR) outline the procedures to follow should human remains be discovered during project activities.

In response to this comment, Mitigation Measure 3.5-1g is changed as follows:

***Mitigation Measure 3.5-1g:*** *If none of the protective measures described in MLTC Condition 112 ~~103~~ can be implemented, then an archaeological data recovery program (ADRP) shall be implemented, unless the professional archaeologist determines that the archaeological resource is of greater interpretive use than research significance and that interpretive use of the resource is feasible. The project archaeologist and CDFG shall meet and consult to determine the scope of the ADRP, and the project archaeologist shall prepare a research design for the project which shall be submitted to CDFG for review and approval. This document shall identify how the proposed data recovery program would preserve the significant information the archaeological resource is expected to contain. The document will specifically identify the scientific/historical research questions being asked, the archaeological resources' expected data classes, and how the expected data classes would address the applicable research questions. Following approval of the plan by CDFG, the ADRP shall be implemented and a report prepared.*

*Data recovery, in general, should be limited to the portions of the historical property that could be adversely affected by the proposed project. Destructive data recovery methods shall not be applied to portions of the archaeological resources if nondestructive methods are practical. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be, as necessary, subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and a report shall be prepared by a qualified archaeologist according to current professional standards. If the recovered artifacts are from a*

*prehistoric site, the local Native American groups will be consulted relative to the disposition of these materials.*

### **Comment Letter 38: Department of Water Resources**

38-1 CDFG recognizes there are merits to DWR's revised Alternative 2 but rejects it for the reasons stated in the Draft EIR under Rejected Alternative 2: Adjudication of Water Rights (page 5-4):

*[R]e-opening the decree would be a very time-consuming and expensive alternative that given the multitude of interested parties would be very controversial and uncertain in its outcome. Any expense would substantially increase if SWRCB conducted the re-adjudication, and in doing so were required to comply with CEQA.*

Also, the commenter's request raises the unsettled legal issue of a watermaster's obligation to implement a decree that in so doing could result in a violation of state law, e.g., CESA. Finally, CDFG, DWR, or some other party may "petition the court to include the appropriate terms and conditions of the ITP, SAA MOU, and MLTC into the appropriate decrees" absent the alternative suggested by the commenter.

38-2 As required under CEQA, the Draft EIR identifies and analyzes the potentially significant environmental effects of the Program and identifies mitigation measures that will reduce those effects to less than significant. CDFG determined the mitigation measures identified are adequate to reduce all significant impacts to less than significant. However, if CDFG later identifies an impact that was not previously disclosed in the Draft EIR, and that impact can only be addressed by adding a new term or condition to a sub-permit, CDFG will proceed as required under CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15162 and § 15168. The potential for additional environmental review for specific activities is discussed in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR (Section 1.2.3, Scope of the Draft EIR, page 1-4).

38-3 It appears the commenter is referring to the ITP Article XIII.E.2., Mitigation Obligations of SQRCD, which requires SQRCD, within a specific number of years, to identify locations and implement projects that will improve instream flow, provide gravel enhancement, install instream habitat improvement structures, plant riparian vegetation, and remove barriers to provide fish passage. Although the location where these projects will be performed is not currently known, the Draft EIR adequately describes these projects and analyzes their potential effects. Prior to implementation of these projects, SQRCD will be required to notify CDFG pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and obtain a SAA. Prior to issuing a SAA, CDFG is required to determine whether all potential impacts of a proposed project have been analyzed in the Final EIR or in another document prepared pursuant to CEQA. If CDFG identifies potential impacts which were not disclosed, CDFG will proceed as required under CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15162 and § 15168. The potential for additional environmental review for specific activities that may occur under the Program is discussed in the Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR (Section 1.2.3, Scope of the Draft EIR, page 1-4).

38-4 The comment does not state what statutory responsibility CDFG is “surrendering” and therefore a specific and complete response is not possible. Under ITP Article XIII.E.2.(ii) SQRCD is required to perform projects to improve baseline instream flows and/or water quality within critical reaches of the Scott River and its tributaries and at critical life stages of coho salmon. In order to do this SQRCD will first develop a list of priority stream reaches for flow enhancement. SQRCD staff have the skills necessary to make this determination. In addition, once SQRCD has developed their priority list, ITP Article XIII.E.2.(ii) requires SQRCD to provide it to CDFG for review and approval. This review will be performed by CDFG Fisheries staff that work in the Scott River watershed and are fully qualified to accurately assess the priority list. It is not clear why the commenter believes CDFG is “surrendering its statutory responsibility” when CDFG will make the final determination regarding which projects will be implemented and their locations.

38-5 The Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (Appendix A, Attachment 3) includes a Compliance Monitoring Table which includes some of the information requested by the commenter.

With regards to who has the responsibility to pay for the deliverables expected from the sub-permittees and SQRCD, ITP Article XIII.E.1.(d) states:

*Each sub-permittee shall be solely responsible for any costs the sub-permittee incurs to implement any avoidance or minimization measures required under a sub-permit and the SQRCD shall be solely responsible for any costs it incurs to implement any mitigation and monitoring measures required under this Permit.*

In the event CDFG determines that SQRCD or a sub-permittee is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Permit or sub-permit or the minimization measures appear to be ineffective, CDFG will work with SQRCD and the sub-permittee to address any problems cooperatively. Where SQRCD or the sub-permittee is unable to comply with the conditions of their Permit or sub-permit, CDFG will take what action it determines is appropriate including termination of the Permit or sub-permit.

38-6 To address the commenter’s concern, CDFG has amended ITP Article XV.A.3. as follows:

- a. *All sub-permittees shall install a locking headgate or valve, sized appropriately for the authorized diversion, that can regulate flow, and a functional measuring device or flow meter, on any structure or facility used to divert water, whether by pumping, through a ditch, pipe, or flume, or by some other means (“diversion”) ~~that meet Department criteria~~ to facilitate better control and monitoring of water delivery within three years of the effective date of the Permit.*
- b. *The designs for headgates or valves and measuring devices in State Watermaster or Special Watermaster District Service areas shall be approved by Department of Water Resources (DWR) or said Special District,*



if applicable, in coordination with the Department. In areas where there is no watermaster service the designs shall be approved by the Department. All measuring devices and methods of water measurement shall be constructed and maintained to meet a  $\pm 5\%$  measuring accuracy criteria.

- c. *SQRCD shall prepare a priority plan that identifies locations where headgate and measuring device installation is a priority and shall submit the list to CDFG for review and approval within one year of the effective date of this Permit.*

Also, MLTC Condition 25 (Condition 24 in the Draft EIR) has been amended as follows:

The responsible party shall install a locking headgate or valve, sized appropriately for the authorized diversion, that can regulate flow, and a functional measuring device or flow meter, on any structure or facility used to divert water, whether by pumping, through a ditch, pipe, or flume, or by some other means (“diversion”) that meet Department criteria ~~on or in all water diversion structures identified in this Agreement.~~ to facilitate better control and monitoring of water delivery within three years of the effective date of the Agreement. The designs for headgates or valves and measuring devices in State Watermaster or Special Watermaster District Service areas shall be approved by DWR or said Special District, if applicable, in coordination with the Department. In areas where there is no watermaster service the designs shall be approved by the Department. All measuring devices and methods of water measurement shall be constructed and maintained to meet a  $\pm 5\%$  measuring accuracy criteria.

- 38-7 The recommendation raises an issue regarding the commenter’s legal obligations under the Program as a Program participant, and reflects the commenter’s understanding as to the priority of those obligations with which CDFG might disagree. However, insofar as the commenter believes that other legal requirements will in some way affect the obligations it must meet as a Program participant, the ITP, sub-permits, and SAAs CDFG will be issuing under the Program, and any permits CDFG and other regulatory agencies issue in general, will be subject to all other applicable laws and regulations regardless of whether those laws and regulations are specified in the Permit itself. For that reason alone, CDFG does not believe the change the commenter recommends is warranted.

ITP Article XX., Compliance With Other Laws, requires participants to comply with all local, state, and federal laws. SAA MLTC General Condition 19 (General Condition 18 in the Draft EIR) states:

*This Agreement does not relieve the responsible party from obtaining any other permits or authorizations that might be required under other federal, state, or local laws or regulations before beginning the project or projects this Agreement authorizes,...*

MLTC General Condition 20 (General Condition 19 in the Draft EIR) requires all participants to comply with the provision of the Fish and Game Code including CESA and sections 5650, 5901, and 5937.

If an Agricultural Operator does not comply with these provisions they may become subject to an enforcement action by CDFG. A person who violates Fish and Game Code, § 1602 is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 and/or a misdemeanor. A person who violates Fish and Game Code, § 2081 is subject to a misdemeanor. The punishment for a misdemeanor is a fine of up to \$1,000 and statutory fees and/or imprisonment in county jail for up to six months.

38-8 Please see response to Comment 38-7.

38-9 Please see response to Comment 38-7. In further response, CDFG presumes that the commenter has been providing watermaster service in compliance with the Water Code and court decrees, which CDFG does not enforce. The focus of the Program in part is to ensure compliance with CESA, notwithstanding other legal obligations DWR might have.

The first sentence of ITP Article XVII.C. has been edited as follows:

*DWR shall meet with the Department in person or by telephone on a weekly basis during the diversion season in order to inform the Department of any points of diversion in the watermastered areas where stranding is probable.*

38-10 Little information was found concerning what impact beaver dams might have had on fish migration historically. Some beaver dams probably hindered or even prevented the upstream migration of fish, yet in most cases this was likely only temporary (i.e., until the dam was abandoned or swept away by a large flood). Historically, the overall ecological impacts of beaver dams on aquatic habitat and water quality in the Scott River watershed were beneficial.

38-11 The figure of the Project Area on page A-42 has been labeled “Attachment 1”.

Sub-Section A - It is CDFG’s intention to cooperate with DWR to arrive at a mutually satisfactory database.

Sub-Section C - A minimum flow discharge rate for each diversion has not been determined. Please see edit to ITP Article XVII.C. shown in the response to Comment 38-9 above

## **Comment Letter 39: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**

39-1 The Draft EIR acknowledges that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is a Responsible Agency for the Program.

39-2 CDFG will provide the water use data required under ITP Article XV.A.2. as requested and will work with the NCRWQCB to determine the best method to facilitate the sharing of these data.

- 39-3 Comment noted. CDFG declines to expand the scope of the Program and reinstate the CEQA process to meet the commenter's request. Please see the final paragraph of Master Response 4.

### **Comment Letter 39.1: Siskiyou Resource Conservation District**

- 39.1-1 Based upon the substantial number of comments received on the Draft EIR, CDFG believes the review period, which exceeded the requirements under CEQA, was sufficient, and for that reason CDFG decided not to extend the review period.

### **Comment Letter 40: Klamath River Keeper, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations, Institute for Fisheries Resources**

- 40-1 As to the first part of this comment, comment noted. In response to the latter part of the comment, the Draft EIR was prepared in accordance with CEQA and the CEQA *Guidelines* and fully meets the requirements for a Draft EIR.
- 40-2 The Draft EIR includes information on historic and recent streamflow conditions in the Scott River watershed. Please refer to Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality. The Program is expected to result in improvements in streamflows and habitat conditions relative to existing conditions. Therefore, the Draft EIR properly concludes that the Program will not result in a significant impact related to reduced streamflow or aquatic habitat conditions.

In response to the comment regarding groundwater pumping and recovery, please see Master Responses 4 and 7.

- 40-3 CDFG does not have authority under Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* or CESA to simply deny a project. Instead, under those statutes CDFG has the authority to add to a project conditions CDFG determines are necessary to protect fish and wildlife resources through the issuance of a SAA (pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.*) and to minimize and fully mitigate take of a listed species that occurs incidental to the project (pursuant to CESA). If the applicant agrees to and/or meets those conditions, a SAA and/or ITP will be issued. The purpose of the Program is to facilitate compliance with these statutes, which in turn will serve to protect fish and wildlife resources, including coho salmon.

ITP Article XIII.E.2., Mitigation Obligations of SQRCD, requires SQRCD, within a specific number of years, to identify locations and implement projects which will improve instream flow, provide gravel enhancement, install instream habitat improvement structures, plant riparian vegetation, and remove barriers to provide fish passage. The exact numbers or locations of these activities cannot be precisely identified prior to Program implementation. Similarly, the reach-specific mitigations depend on the site-specific and cumulative participation in the Programs. Consequently, identification

of measurable objectives in any particular reach would provide an unwarranted degree of specificity and would be speculative.

Although the location where these projects will be performed is not currently known, the Draft EIR adequately describes these projects and analyzes their potential effects. Prior to implementation the SQRCD will be required to notify CDFG pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and obtain a SAA for required restoration projects. Prior to issuing a SAA, CDFG is required to determine whether all potential impacts of a proposed project have been analyzed in the Final EIR or in another document prepared pursuant to CEQA. If CDFG identifies potential impacts which were not disclosed, CDFG will proceed as required under CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15162 and § 15168. The potential for additional environmental review for specific activities that may occur under the Program is discussed in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR (Section 1.2.3, Scope of the Draft EIR, page 1-4).

The Draft EIRs adequately disclose and analyze the impacts associated with the Programs and where those impacts are deemed to be significant, identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce those impacts to less than significant. In sum, the Draft EIRs fully comply with CEQA.

In response to the concern raised regarding biological thresholds, note that ITP Article XXVII, Termination, states

*This Permit may be terminated by the Department at its sole discretion if circumstances or new information provides evidence that continued program implementation ~~may result in jeopardy to~~ would jeopardize coho salmon, or if such termination is required by law or court order. For the purpose of the Permit, “jeopardy” includes, but is not limited to, to the probable extirpation of any coho salmon cohort in the Scott River watershed.*

40-4 Please see Master Response 6.

40-5a The commenter is incorrect that “[t]he Program . . . would allow for . . . data to be withheld from the public through mechanisms to put control over this data in the sole hands of the RCDs.” Please see response to Comments 6-34 and 6-35.

40-5b Please see Master Response 1.

40-5c The Program includes measures to increase flows in the Scott River. The USFS water right in the Scott River is junior to many of the large upstream rights and CDFG does not have authority over implementation or enforcement of any of the decrees in the Scott River watershed. The Scott River TMDL requirements are entirely separate from the Program and will require compliance irrespective of Program implementation.

40-6 Please see Master Response 5.

40-7 Please see Master Response 8.

- 40-8 The effects of water diversions on coho salmon and coho salmon habitat are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality; and in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat.
- 40-9a Please see Master Response 1. Existing agricultural practices are part of the baseline for the purpose of the environmental analysis, and are therefore not impacts of the Programs. CDFG's determination regarding baseline is in accordance with CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15125(a) and case law and is applicable to CESA as well.
- 40-9b This comment is speculative and does not require a response.
- 40-9c Each of the ITP mitigation measures has been previously demonstrated to be capable of successful implementation.
- 40-10 The Program would not authorize any particular land use, but would provide incidental take authorization for specific Covered Activities and would facilitate Agricultural Operators' compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* The program approach is consistent with the Coho Recovery Strategy, and the analysis in the Draft EIR is appropriate and in accordance with CEQA.
- Prior to implementation of most Covered Activities SQRCD and Agricultural Operators will be required to notify CDFG pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and obtain a SAA. Prior to issuing a SAA, CDFG is required to determine whether all potential impacts of a proposed project have been analyzed in the Final EIR or in another document prepared pursuant to CEQA. If CDFG identifies potential impacts which were not disclosed, CDFG will proceed as required under CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15162 and § 15168. The potential for additional environmental review for specific activities that may occur under the Program is discussed in Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR (Section 1.2.3, Scope of the Draft EIR, page 1-4).
- 40-11 Please see response to the previous comment and Master Response 7. In regards to the commenter's statement that the Program seems designed to "allow CDFG to "opt out" of its remediation and enforcement responsibilities," please see Master Response 6.
- 40-12 Please see response to Comment 9-2 and Master Responses 5 and 6.
- 40-13 Please see response to Comment 8-12, first paragraph.
- 40-14 Please see response to Comments 6-34 and 6-35.
- 40-15 ITP Article XV.D.1. states:

*"Livestock and vehicles may not cross a flowing stream from October 15 ~~31~~ through July 1 to avoid any possible damage to coho redds, except on designated lanes where measures to prevent spawning have been taken or where spawning is deemed unlikely, as documented by a Department fisheries biologist or a Department-approved coho spawner surveyor."*

- The Program includes conditions that allow for year-round vehicle crossings within the wetted channel. Crossing will be monitored and if it is found to be contributing to erosion and contributing fine sediment to the stream, ITP Article XV.D.(4.) requires the sub-permittee to implement reasonable measures to correct the problem as soon as practicable.
- 40-16 As stated in the Draft EIR (page 3.4-13), riparian fencing will be approximately 35 feet from the edge of the streambank and sub-permittees will be required to make reasonable efforts to include the existing riparian vegetation within the fenced area although this may not always be the case. The fencing setback of approximately 35 feet from the edge of the stream required in ITP Article XV.E.3. reflects a reasonable buffer in which riparian habitat may become established and/or persist, and a reasonable buffer to provide bio-filtration benefits.
- 40-17 Water diverters who participate in the Program will be required under their sub-permits to “refrain from diverting up to a maximum of 25% of the water the [participant] otherwise would be allowed to divert for a period of up to 12 hours at a time no more frequently than twice a week” if connectivity between Shackleford Creek and the mainstem Scott appears to be at risk prior to June 15 as a condition of their sub-permit. While this measure does not identify an exact amount of water that must be left in the creek, the quantity per diverter will depend on the number of participants in the Program.
- 40-18 The Water Trusts will not store water; instead, they will establish a fund to purchase water at specific times from willing diverters who have a valid water right.
- 40-19 Please see Master Response 7 regarding “recovery goals”.
- 40-20 The East Fork Water Quality Improvement Project will result in the dedication of up to 5 cfs for instream beneficial uses in accordance with Water Code section 1707. The flow will be made available through the implementation of irrigation efficiency projects that require less water for agricultural purposes. The time of year that the flow will be made available is during the irrigation season.
- 40-21 Comment noted.
- 40-22 As stated in the ITP,

*SQRCD in consultation with CDFG and sub-permittees, shall identify locations in the Program Area where instream habitat improvement structures would benefit coho salmon and list those locations in order of priority. SQRCD shall submit the priority list to CDFG for its review and approval within one year of the effective date of this Permit.*

Through this process, CDFG will be able to create criteria for priority locations and through the implementation of the monitoring provisions be able to determine their effectiveness.

- 40-23 Comment noted.
- 40-24 Due to the unpredictable nature of grant cycles, landowner coordination, the length of time it takes to develop suitable engineered drawings, and the challenges of implementation, seven year time frames were identified for these two difficult projects.
- 40-25 Comment noted.
- 40-26 Please see Master Response 6.
- 40-27 CDFG's baseline determination is well in accord with CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15125(a) and case law. In further response, the baseline in the Draft EIR is the baseline under CEQA; it is not and should not be construed as a "baseline" against which take or recovery of coho would be measured. Finally, the commenter's statements regarding the reasons for rejecting the Adjudication of Water Rights Alternative is incorrect. Please see the description of this alternative in Chapter 5. Also note that CDFG does not have authority to administer or enforce decrees.
- 40-28 The ITP and sub-permits are required to meet the issuance criteria required pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 2081 and the Programs in no way foreclose other opportunities and actions to address the issues the comment raises.
- 40-29 Under CEQA social and economic effects are not considered significant environmental effects, unless they would result in a significant physical change in the environment, as is considered in Chapter 3.1, Land Use and Agriculture (CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15131(a)). Furthermore, the Program is not expected to result in a negative impact on the commercial or tribal subsistence fishery, relative to existing conditions; the Program can be expected to provide an overall benefit to the salmon fisheries of the Scott River and Klamath River.
- 40-30 See Master Response 3.
- 40-31 The referenced statement is not inconsistent with earlier parts of Chapter 3.2 of the Draft EIR. The fact that 1) groundwater use is largely unregulated in the Scott River watershed and 2) Agricultural Operators participating in the Program would have their legal water rights verified, monitored, and controlled are, in large part, two different concepts that are compatible with one another.

Both the ITP and the MLTC require verification of the amount of water diverted either by the Watermaster or by some other reliable means, as determined by the CDFG, and the use of a locking headgate or valve that can regulate flow and a functional measuring device or flow meter.

CDFG does not typically have authority over the pumping of groundwater. Authority over groundwater pumping rests with Siskiyou County and in certain circumstances, with the SWRCB. Please see the final paragraph of Master Response 4.

40-32 The two general issues summarized by the commenter, 1) the potential for Agricultural Operators to favor groundwater because of new regulatory burdens and 2) using groundwater in-lieu of surface water, are discussed in the Draft EIR under Impact 3.2-4 (page 3.2-60) as potential environmental impacts of the Program. The Draft EIR then analyzes the potential magnitude of the impact and discloses the reasons for ultimately concluding that the impact is less than significant. There is no contradiction inherent in discussing a potential impact and then concluding that such a potential impact would be less than significant with respect to the statutes and guidelines under CEQA, and to the significance criteria established in the EIR.

The Draft EIR concludes that the potential increase in groundwater use that could be attributable specifically to the Program (i.e., not attributable to factors outside the scope or jurisdiction of the Program) would be a less than significant impact.

40-33 The link between surface water and groundwater, and the importance of this link to the quantity and quality of aquatic habitat in the Scott River watershed, is acknowledged in the Draft EIR (page 3.2-11 and pages 3.2-28 and 29). The existing use of groundwater is not a Covered Activity under the proposed Program. Please see the last paragraph of Master Response 4.

40-34 Groundwater extraction in the Scott River watershed, and the associated effects on coho salmon and other special-status fish species, is a baseline condition that is not caused by the Program. Impact 3.3-2 discusses the potential for the Program to exceed these baseline conditions and cause a significant impact as a result of the requirement to install alternative stockwater systems. The DEIR concludes that the potential impact of additional groundwater extraction from these systems is less than significant because the additional volume would be small and the operation of these systems would occur at a time (October through December) when water temperatures are typically not the primary factor limiting coho salmon and other species. Also, please see Master Response 4.

40-35 While CDFG recognizes that a lead agency may take a different approach in establishing the baseline under the scenario the commenter describes (“[The] environmental setting will *normally* constitute the baseline...” (CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15125(a) (emphasis added)), CDFG’s baseline determination is well in accord with CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15125(a) and applicable case law. The Program does not authorize any illegal activities. Instead, one of the primary purposes of the Program is to ensure compliance by Program participants with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA.

In further response, the baseline in the Draft EIR is the baseline under CEQA; it is not and should not be construed as a “baseline” against which take or recovery of coho would be measured.

40-36 Please see Master Response 1.

40-37 Section 4.4 of the Draft EIR addresses the requirement in CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15126.2(c) for a Lead Agency to identify and discuss significant irreversible environmental changes



which would be caused by a project. As described in the Draft EIR, this section of the *Guideline* states, “[u]ses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as a highway improvement that provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.”

As stated in the Draft EIR (page 4-38):

*Activities implemented by Program participants would not commit future generations to undesirable uses and would not involve a use from which irreversible damage could result.*

The commenter states “Permitting ongoing diversions, dam impoundment, unregulated groundwater use and resultant coho decline without proportionally adequate mitigation does commit future generations to undesirable uses and could potentially cause irreversible damage to the Shasta (sic) River as a viable salmonid-bearing stream.”

The Program is intended to facilitate compliance with CESA and Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* during the performance of specific Covered Activities by issuing to Program participants an ITP, sub-permits, and SAAs. Participation in the Program is voluntary and the Program expires ten years from the effective date of the ITP. It therefore does not commit future generations to the performance of similar Covered Activities. The SAAs issued under the Program include measures necessary to protect existing fish and wildlife resources from adverse affects. The ITP and sub-permits include measures to minimize and fully mitigated the Program’s authorized take of coho salmon. These include ITP Article XIII E.2., Mitigation Obligations of SQRCD, which requires SQRCD, within a specific number of years, to identify locations and implement projects which will improve instream flow, provide gravel enhancement, install instream habitat improvement structures, plant riparian vegetation, and remove barriers to provide fish passage. The Draft EIR identified additional measures required to reduce potential impacts of the Program to less than significant. Implementation of these measures will prevent the Program from causing “irreversible damage to the Scott River as a viable salmonid-bearing stream.”

- 40-38 Because CDFG cannot make a consistency determination absent an incidental take statement (ITS) or ITP from, in this case, NMFS, the presumption underlying the Consistency Determination Alternative is that CDFG would not issue any ITPs under the Program but would wait and issue a Consistency Determination after NMFS issues an ITS or ITP. In the meantime, CDFG would process any individual requests for an ITP and/or SAA and would bring CESA and Fish and Game Code, § 1602 enforcement actions forward on a case by case basis. By contrast, the Program provides an opportunity to bring a large number of water diverters into compliance with CESA in a much shorter

period of time. The Program in no way affects CDFG's ability to enforce CESA and Fish and Game Code, § 1602.

In regard to baseline, please see response to Comment 40-27. Also, CDFG disagrees with the commenter's conclusion that the Draft EIR "thus assumes that CDFG can and *will* do nothing to enforce the law." (Emphasis in original.)

CDFG believes the commenter intended to state, ". . . *re-adjudication* of water rights is infeasible . . ." rather than "*over-appropriation* of water rights is infeasible." (Emphasis added.) Indeed, CDFG rejected the re-adjudication alternative but not entirely on feasibility grounds. As CDFG explained in the Draft EIR (page 5-4),

*[I]t would not meet the Program's basic objectives to implement selected key coho salmon recovery tasks (other than increasing streamflow) and to facilitate compliance by the SQRCD Agricultural Operators, and DWR with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 et seq. and/or CESA, which the Program would accomplish in part by establishing a watershed-wide set of terms, conditions, and mitigation measures for ongoing agricultural operations to ensure that take of coho salmon is avoided, minimized, and mitigated. Also, any readjudication would not apply to any water rights based on riparian claim unless the court or SWRCB agreed to include those claims as part of the re-adjudication. In order to implement this alternative, there must be at least one willing party affected by the decree to petition the court or SWRCB in the first place, but that party has not been identified at this time. As mentioned above, re-opening the decree would be a very time-consuming and expensive alternative that given the multitude of interested parties would be very controversial and uncertain in its outcome. Any expense would substantially increase if SWRCB conducted the re-adjudication, and in doing so were required to comply with CEQA. Finally, it is not certain that any re-adjudication would go far enough to adequately protect public trust resources. For the foregoing reasons, this alternative is rejected from further consideration.*

Further, CDFG's rejection of this alternative in no way precludes an interested party from attempting to "re-open" the decree. Finally, CDFG takes note of the comment that the SWRCB "could, if it wishes and for good cause, impose additional conditions on the existing water rights sufficient to be in compliance with existing law."

The Draft EIR does not state that the No Program Alternative would "allow CESA violations to continue." Instead, it states (on page 5-6),

*Under the No Program Alternative, CDFG would not issue a watershed-wide ITP or enter into a watershed-wide SAA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Master List of Terms and Conditions (MLTC). Instead, SQRCD, DWR, and each Agricultural Operator would need to comply with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 et seq. and/or CESA on an individual basis. (Emphasis added.)*

It goes on to state (also on page 5-6),

*It is likely that many Agricultural Operators could not afford or would choose not to go through with an individual permitting process, potentially resulting in some*

*Agricultural Operators operating either out of compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 et seq. and CESA or terminating their usual operations.*

- 40-39 CDFG has determined that the Program’s “Covered Activities” listed in the comment have the potential to take coho salmon. In issuing incidental take authorization for these activities, CDFG will proceed in accordance with CESA. As to the suggested alternative, the alternatives analysis in the Draft EIR fully complies with the requirements of CEQA, including the requirement to analyze a reasonable range of feasible alternatives. Please refer to Chapter 5, Alternatives, in the Draft EIR.
- 40-40 Comment noted. The referenced letters are responded to separately in this Final EIR.
- 40-41 CDFG acknowledges receipt of PCFFA/IFR’s comments on the Scott River Watershed Sediment and Temperature TMDLs to the SWRCB, dated June 12, 2006. These comments do not address the Draft EIR. Much of the information contained in these comments, and many of the sources cited, were reviewed and summarized in the Draft EIR (see Chapter 3.2 and Chapter 3.3).
- 40-42 Please see the prior response. The Draft EIR also characterizes current conditions of the Scott River Watershed.
- 40-43 This article was reviewed for preparation of Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality. See Master Response 8.

### **Comment Letter 41: Mario Burch**

- 41-1 The Draft EIR used the best available data and conforms to the standards of CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15151 (standards for Adequacy of an EIR), i.e., “An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision-makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in the light of what is reasonably feasible.”
- 41-2 Please see Master Response 9. The Program does discuss different forms of compensation for water users who divert less water. ITP Article XIII.E.2.(a), Flow Enhancement (i) and (ii), includes management measures which would result in increased stream flow for the benefit of fish and habitat. The establishment of local Water Trusts will allow water to be leased or purchased from willing sub-permittees for instream beneficial use in accordance with guidelines prepared by SQRCD and approved by CDFG. Reducing the amount of water delivered to the point of use, water efficiency, and water management improvement projects will allow additional water to remain in streams to benefit fish and wildlife. ITP Article XIII.E.2.(a)(iii), Flow Enhancement, requires SQRCD to develop a Contingency Plan for Dry and Critically-Dry Water Years which will include a process for coordinating with sub-permittees to augment stream flows. In some cases, however, extraordinary measures may be taken to reduce diversion volumes temporarily, in order to avoid and

minimize take of coho salmon, for example through stranding (see ITP Article XVIII). Without such a provision, it is unlikely that CDFG would be able to conclude that the ITP would fully mitigate incidental take, and therefore the permit could not be issued. While ranchers and farmers not participating in the Program may choose to continue to divert water even if it does result in stranding and subsequent take of coho salmon, such an action may expose them to an enforcement action.

In addition, compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 5937 requires the owner of a dam to allow “sufficient water at all times to pass through a fishway, or in the absence of a fishway, allow sufficient water to pass over, around or through the dam, to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam.” ITP Article XX, Compliance with Other Laws, and MLTC Condition 26 (Condition 25 in the Draft EIR) require compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 5937. All SAAs issued for water diversions pursuant to the Program will include MLTC Condition 26.

41-3 Please see Master Response 9.

41-4 Comment noted.

## **Comment Letter 42: Clint Custer**

42-1 CDFG only has jurisdiction over the fishing activities within state waters, i.e., within three nautical miles of the shore. NOAA has jurisdiction over the Exclusive Economic Zone which runs from 3 to 200 nautical miles from the coast. In 2008, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), a regional council established by the federal Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 for the purpose of managing fisheries three to 200 miles offshore of the U.S. coastline, took the unprecedented action of completely closing the salmon fishing season off the California coast.

42-2 The commenter is correct in the assertion that junipers have increased over the past 200 years, a phenomenon usually attributed to the reduction of fires and increased livestock grazing. However, large-scale cutting of trees and brush to increase water yield is impractical and would have other adverse effects. Please see Master Response 2.

42-3 Comment noted. The Draft EIR (page 3.2-18) concludes that water diversions for agricultural purposes contribute to increased stream temperatures. Please see Master Response 10.

42-4 The commenter expresses the opinion that the Program would be more successful if completely voluntary, i.e. no use of SAAs or the issuance of the ITP or sub-permits. Participation in the Program is voluntary. SAAs, the ITP, and sub-permits are required to undertake Covered Activities the Program will cover. The Program is intended to facilitate compliance with these laws. However, any person may decide to undertake the process of coming into compliance with these statutes by following the standard CDFG procedures.

### Comment Letter 43: Jeff Edwards

43-1 The Watershed-wide Permitting Program as described in the Draft EIR does not “delegate” any state authority to another entity. SAAs and the ITP and sub-permits will be issued by CDFG in accordance with Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and § 2081(b) and (c). Please see Master Response 6.

43-2 The effects of low instream flows on salmon are thoroughly described in the Draft EIR (Chapter 3.3). However, these effects are part of the environmental baseline and are not caused by the Program, and thus do not need to be mitigated under CEQA. Nevertheless, several mitigation obligations in the ITP are aimed at improving instream flows.

In addition, anyone who operates a dam must comply with Fish and Game Code, § 5937 which requires the owner of a dam to allow “sufficient water at all times to pass through a fishway, or in the absence of a fishway, allow sufficient water to pass over, around or through the dam, to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam.” ITP Article XX, Compliance With Other Laws, and MLTC Condition 26 (Condition 25 in the Draft EIR) require compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 5937. All SAAs issued for water diversions pursuant to the Program will include MLTC Condition 26.

43-3 The Program is structured in such a way that CDFG is not delegating any regulatory authority to any other party. To the extent that the commenter may be referring to DWR, this agency is included in the Program because it is responsible for implementing certain decreed water rights in the Scott River watershed. DWR is a state agency and is bound by all of the regulations applicable to the general public. Please see Master Response 6.

43-4 CDFG will retain regulatory control and enforcement of the Program. Please see Master Response 6.

### Comment Letter 44: Tom Force

44-1 Comment noted.

44-2 Water efficiency measures are stipulated in the ITP; see the description of Flow Enhancement Mitigation 2 on page 2-22, which reads:

***Flow Enhancement Mitigation 2: Improve Baseline Instream Flows Via Water Efficiency Improvements.*** *The ITP will require SQRCD to improve baseline instream flows and/or water quality within critical reaches of the Scott River and its tributaries and at critical life stages of coho salmon by installing water efficiency improvement projects and/or water management improvement projects on sub-permittees’ properties or by changing or adding points of diversion to keep flows instream to points of use.*

## Comment Letter 45: Jim Harris

- 45-1 Comment noted.
- 45-2 CDFG does not have authority over water rights, and is not attempting to assert such authority through the Program. The Program is intended to enable the continuation of farming and ranching operations in the Scott River watershed by providing incidental take coverage for water diversions and other Program Covered Activities. The ITP includes avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures that, under CESA, are required for issuance of an ITP. In some cases, this will include the reduction in water diversions in order to avoid and minimize take.
- 45-3 The Program does discuss different forms of compensation for water users who divert less water. ITP Article XIII.E.2.(a)(i), Flow Enhancement, requires the establishment of local Water Trusts which will allow water to be leased or purchased from willing sub-permittees for instream beneficial use in accordance with guidelines prepared by SQRCD and approved by CDFG. However, it is a long-established legal principle that water rights are subject to the valid enforcement of other applicable statutes and regulations by government agencies, in addition to the state constitutional limitation of reasonable and beneficial use. CDFG does not believe that any of the conditions that might be imposed on Program participants through the ITP, sub-permits, or SAAs require compensation and CDFG expects Program participants to comply with all conditions in those permits.
- 45-4 The commenter asks whether CDFG “has any supporting data showing how many fish need to return to the rivers for this program to be successful.” With regard to coho salmon, the Program requires full mitigation for any take resulting from implementation of the Covered Activities. To determine whether the full mitigation requirement of CESA is being met, CDFG will perform long-term population monitoring and analyze adult to juvenile ratio trends over time. Under CESA, the Program would be considered “successful” if it results in a stable or increased production of coho salmon with improving aquatic conditions.

If the coho salmon in the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon ESU were deemed fully recovered and removed from the list of threatened species, an ITP would not be necessary. The de-listing process is complex, and data would have to support the contention that self-sustaining populations were restored throughout its range.

- 45-5 Please see response to Comment 3-2. The effects of low instream flows on salmon are thoroughly described in the Draft EIR (Chapter 3.3).
- 45-6 Under Fish and Game Code, § 857(a), CDFG non-enforcement staff may not enter private property without the landowner’s consent unless they are accompanying a warden for law enforcement purposes (Fish and Game Code, § 857(b)(2)). However, to participate in the Program a sub-permittee must provide non-enforcement CDFG personnel permission to access the sub-permittee’s property (MLTC Conditions 17) to verify compliance with, or the effectiveness of, the avoidance and minimization measures

required by their sub-permit and for fish population monitoring; SQRCD personnel must also be provided permission to access the sub-permittee's property where necessary to inspect sub-permittee's screens, headgates, measuring devices, diversion structures and livestock and vehicle crossings annually; and/or to allow SQRCD to complete the mitigation obligations required in ITP Article XIII.E.2 and for CDFG and SQRCD to monitor the effectiveness of those measures.

45-7 Comment noted.

### Comment Letter 46: Rick Hayden

46-1 The commenter states "The charging of uneconomical fees & permits... to get your water right is a taking of property!" This is a legal opinion. A response to this opinion is beyond the scope of this analysis. However, Impact 3.1-1 of the Draft EIR (page 3.1-25) deals with this topic and finds the economic impact to be Less than Significant. Also, please see Master Response 9.

46-2 The Program does not unfairly target agricultural users, as the commenter asserts. The Program was developed at the request of the SOSS which consists of agricultural community members. While SOSS actively opposed the listing of coho salmon it made clear to the Fish and Game Commission that, in the event coho salmon were listed, SOSS wanted a permitting framework for diverters to be developed. More recently, SOSS has publicly endorsed the Programs.

The Programs are intended to facilitate compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA (Fish and Game Code § 2050 *et seq.*) for a large group of water users whose water diversions and in-stream activities (e.g., push-up dams, grazing) have potential impacts on coho salmon. Restricting the numbers of people moving to the Scott Valley would not be a practicable way to achieve the Program objectives.

46-3 Bacterial and parasitic infections of anadromous salmonids in the Program Area are not an impact of the Program. They are part of the existing physical setting and therefore part of the baseline for purposes of the environmental analysis in the Draft EIRs. DFG is fully aware of the concern.

In sum, increasing water temperatures in the Scott River may cause some juvenile coho salmon to move into the Klamath River. Once they enter the Klamath River, the potential to become infected by a variety of pathogens increases. Juvenile coho salmon experience a high incidence of infection with the myxosporean parasites *Ceratomyxa shasta* and *Parvicaqsula minibicorni* during the spring and summer outmigration period. *C. shasta* has been identified as one of the most significant diseases for juvenile salmon in the Klamath Basin. Studies performed in the Klamath River in 2007, detected *C. shasta* in 48% of the non-hatchery young-of-the-year coho sampled with the majority of the infected coho being captured in the Klamath River reach between the confluence of the Shasta and Scott Rivers.

## References

Nichols K, K True, R Fogerty and L Ratcliff. 2008. FY 2007 Investigational Report: Klamath River Juvenile Salmonid Health Monitoring, April-August 2007. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service California – Nevada Fish Health Center, Anderson, CA. <http://www.fws.gov/canvfhc/reports.asp>.

Nichols K, K True, R Fogerty and L Ratcliff. 2009. FY 2008 Investigational Report: Myxosporean Parasite (*Ceratomyxa shasta* and *Parvicapsula minibicornis*) Incidence and Severity in Klamath River Basin Juvenile Chinook and Coho Salmon, April-August 2008. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service California – Nevada Fish Health Center, Anderson, CA. <http://www.fws.gov/canvfhc/reports.asp>.

- 46-4 The fact that, to some degree, the drying-up of the tributaries (i.e., surface flow becoming completely subsurface flow) is a natural process is acknowledged in the Draft EIR. However, in many cases water diversions accelerate this process, resulting in larger stretches of channel remaining dry for longer periods of time, compared to what might be expected without the presence of diversions.
- 46-5 The most recent National Marine Fisheries Service status report (NMFS, 2005a) reports that coho salmon harvest by the Yurok tribe (which were the only tribal harvest data available to NMFS at the time), ranged from 42 to 135 fish per year between 1997 and 2000 and increased to 895 fish in 2001. However, the majority of this catch (63-86 percent) were hatchery fish. Furthermore, tribal salmon harvest is a baseline (and historic) condition and is not caused by the Program.
- 46-6 In 2008, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), a regional council established by the federal Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 for the purpose of managing fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone, which runs from three to 200 miles offshore of the U.S. coastline, took the unprecedented action of completely closing the salmon fishing season off the California coast. Please note that CDFG only has jurisdiction over the fishing activities within state waters, i.e., within three nautical miles of the shore.
- 46-7 The commenter asks how the mitigation measures will be deemed successful and whether permittees will be compensated if they are not. In accordance with their sub-permits and SAAs, sub-permittees will be implementing avoidance and minimization measures. Effectiveness monitoring of these measures will be performed as stated in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (Appendix A, Attachment 3). In the event an avoidance or minimization measure appears to be ineffective, CDFG will work with the sub-permittee to address any problems. The Adaptive Management component of the Program addresses this issue (Draft EIR Section 2.3.4, page 2-25). Adaptive management is a way of improving the Program over time for the benefit of all stakeholders (and coho salmon), but neither penalizes nor compensates permittees.
- 46-8 Comment noted.



## Comment Letter 47: Caroline Santos Luis

- 47-1 The analysis of potential hydrology and water quality impacts of the Program did take into consideration the natural variability of precipitation in this part of California.
- 47-2 The Scott River watershed lies within the scientifically recognized distribution range of coho salmon. Snyder (1931) notes records of “silver salmon” (aka coho salmon) in the Klamath River Basin as early as 1919. Furthermore, Snyder (1931) states that “no statistics of the silver salmon were kept prior to 1919,” strongly suggesting that the species was present prior to that time, but that it was simply not studied until then. We are not aware of any studies that suggest coho salmon are not native to the Scott River watershed. Regardless of their origin, coho salmon in the Scott River are state and federally listed as threatened. Thus, take of the species requires incidental take authorization.
- 47-3 Please see the discussion of the costs of compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA in the Draft EIR, page 3.1-26. CDFG is not charging any regulatory fees to agricultural participants participating in the Programs. SQRCD has paid the § 1602 notification fee required by CDFG on behalf of the participants and will fund the full mitigation measures required under CESA. CDFG has paid the cost of preparing the EIRs for the Programs. SQRCD will require a fee from Agricultural Operators to offset Program administrative and monitoring costs, which will result in some financial burden on Agricultural Operators. The amount of this fee will depend in part on the number of participants. However, the Program encumbers permittees with costs that are much less than would result from obtaining incidental take authorization or a SAA through the individual permit processes.
- 47-4 All diverters within the Scott River watershed who perform the Program’s Covered Activities are required to obtain incidental take authorization and SAAs and may do so by participating in the Program or individually outside the Program. The Program is intended to facilitate compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA for a large group of water users whose water diversions and in-stream activities (e.g., push-up dams, grazing) have potential impacts on coho salmon.

## Comment Letter 48: Anne Marsh

- 48-1 The comment is noted.
- 48-2 The commenter is concerned that SQRCD may use the Program to restrict property owners/well owner’s water usage. ITP Article XV.A.2. states:

*Each sub-permittee shall verify that the quantity of water the sub-permittee is diverting or using is in accordance with a valid water right. Verification shall be performed by the watermaster for diversions that are controlled by a watermaster. In the absence of a watermaster, verification shall be performed by some other reliable means as determined by the Department. The quantities diverted at each*

*diversion shall be reported to the Department on at least a monthly basis in the form of a database or in some other form approved by the Department.*

- SQRCD does not and will not have the authority to ration or restrict water use.
- 48-3 Authority over groundwater pumping rests with Siskiyou County and in certain circumstances, with the SWRCB. Population increase and subsequent water demands are not considered a potential impact of the Program.
- 48-4 The Program does not put water resources in the hands of farmers and ranchers. SWRCB has the ultimate authority over how surface water is allocated. Authority over groundwater pumping rests with Siskiyou County and, in certain circumstances, with the SWRCB.
- 48-5 Existing groundwater conditions and general aquifer characteristics are discussed in multiple sections within the Draft EIR.
- 48-6 CDFG received a notification pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 1602 for the Tschopp commercial gravel operation on Kidder Creek in 2008. CDFG has not issued a SAA and no instream work has been authorized.
- 48-7 Page 1-3 of the Draft EIR states,
- “The Covered Activities could affect the beds of navigable waters and other “state owned ‘sovereign’ land,” which are within the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission (CEQA Guidelines, § 15386(b)).”*
- 48-8 The commenter requests that the State of California maintain strict control over SQRCD. Regarding regulatory authority, please see Master Response 6.
- 48-9 ITP Articles XV.D and XV.E, Avoidance and Minimization Obligations, address livestock access to stream channels.
- 48-10 The commenter requests that the State of California makes sure that SQRCD or any other entity is banned from weather modification such as cloud seeding. The CDFG has no authority over cloud seeding and such action is beyond the scope of the Program.

## **Comment Letter 49: Felice Pace**

- 49-1 The commenter states he is attaching his letter dated November 5, 2006, and NOP Scoping Comments, which he states CDFG failed to include with the other NOP letters in Appendix E of the Draft EIR. CDFG has no record of receiving the November 5, 2006, correspondence.

The commenter also states that the Draft EIR fails to adequately address some of his NOP comments. After reviewing the comments we disagree with this statement. We find his substantive comments to be similar to other NOP comments received and considered

- in the preparation of the EIR. The comments re-submitted with Letter 49 are regarded as comments on the Draft EIR and responded to below.
- 49-2 The comment submits information on the relationship between groundwater pumping for irrigation and streamflow. Use of groundwater is in most cases outside of CDFG's jurisdiction; also please see Master Response 4.
- 49-3 The Initial Study issued with the NOP included a detailed discussion of the activities to be authorized under the ITP and the potential impacts of the Program. A specific and complete response is not possible without clarification of the alleged legal, procedural and practical flaws in the Program.
- 49-4 Fish and Game Code, § 2081 does not establish a requirement for recovery associated with an incidental take permit. The ITP requires permittees to avoid, minimize, and mitigate take that may occur while engaging in Covered Activities. The mitigation requirements of CESA will be met by SQRCD through implementation of select key coho recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy. While there is no guarantee grant funding will be available, it is anticipated that many of these measures will be paid through federal, state, and private grants. However, ultimately SQRCD is financially responsible for the measures it is required to implement, as are the sub-permittees. Please see Master Responses 1 and 7.
- 49-5 The Program is not intended to substitute for the Coho Recovery Strategy, nor is it intended to be a vehicle for implementation of the full Coho Recovery Strategy. It was developed at the recommendation of the Shasta-Scott Recovery Team (SSRT) for a Pilot Program to address recovery issues associated with agriculture and agricultural water use in the Shasta and Scott Rivers watersheds. Participants in the SSRT included representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, environmental groups and groups representing the interests of the agricultural community. The avoidance, minimization, and selected mitigation measures included in the ITP, and the sub-permits that will be issued in accordance with the ITP, are consistent with the recovery tasks identified by the SSRT.
- 49-6 Please see response to Comment 49-2. Use of groundwater is not a Covered Activity under the Program. The list of Covered Activities may be found in Attachment 2 of the ITP.
- 49-7 Please see Master Response 6.
- 49-8 The comment that CDFG has "ignored the Coastal Commission" is vague. Also, the Coastal Commission is not defined under CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15386 as a "trustee agency." In response to the assertion that the Coastal Commission is a "required CEQA reviewer," CDFG fully complied with CEQA in circulating the Draft EIR for review by state agencies. Finally, it is CDFG's understanding that the Coastal Commission does not have regulatory authority for projects outside the coastal zone.

- 49-9 All participants in the Program will be required to comply with Fish and Game Code, § 5937. ITP Article XX, Compliance With Other Laws, states:

*The Permit authorizes SQRCD to take coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity in accordance with CESA. The Permit does not satisfy any other local, state, or federal laws or necessarily entitle SQRCD to complete any Covered Activity. SQRCD is responsible for complying with all other applicable local, state, and federal laws that apply to a Covered Activity, including the following provisions in the Fish and Game Code: section 1600 et seq., 5901, and 5937. Any sub-permit issued by the Department will likewise authorize a sub-permittee to take coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity in accordance with CESA, will not satisfy any local, state, or federal laws, other than CESA, or necessarily entitle the sub-permittee to complete any Covered Activity. The sub-permittee will be responsible for complying with all other applicable local, state, and federal laws, including the following provisions in the Fish and Game Code: section 1600 et seq., 5901, and 5937.*

In addition, MLTC Condition 26 (Condition 25 in the Draft EIR) states:

*Notwithstanding any right the responsible party has to divert and use water, the responsible party shall allow sufficient water to pass over, around, or through any dam the party owns or operates to keep in good condition any fish that may exist below the dam, as required by Fish and Game Code section 5937.*

All SAAs issued for water diversions pursuant to the Program will include MLTC Condition 26.

A specific and complete response to the remainder of the comment is not possible without clarification as to how the commenter believes that the ITP would violate CESA, CEQA, case law, and the Scott River Adjudication Decree.

- 49-10 The ITP was developed in consultation with the ITP applicant. In addition, meetings were held with both potential Program participants and other interested parties including representatives from the Yurok and Karuk tribes. CDFG has provided opportunities for public input into the CEQA process including the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation; scoping meetings on the initial study; public hearings on the Draft EIR which included the ITP; and a 60-day comment period for the Draft EIR. Comment letters on the Draft EIR received by CDFG included letters from Tribes, fisherman, coastal and river communities, and counties.
- 49-11 Comment noted.
- 49-12 Please see response to Comment 49-10.
- 49-13 This is a summary of topics the commenter intends to address. Please see the responses below.
- 49-14 Comment noted.

- 49-15 The effects of low instream flows on salmon are thoroughly described in Chapter 3.3, Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat. However, these effects are part of the environmental baseline and are not caused by the Program, and thus do not need to be mitigated under CEQA. Nevertheless, several mitigation obligations in the ITP are aimed at improving instream flows.
- 49-16 Comment noted.
- 49-17 Full disclosure of all ITP terms and conditions, and an opportunity for public comment, is part of the CEQA process. Please see response to Comment 49-10 (first paragraph).
- 49-18 Recovery of the species is not a goal or requirement of the ITP, and permittees are not responsible for recovery. The ITP requires permittees to avoid, minimize, and mitigate take that may occur while engaging in Covered Activities. Many of the avoidance, minimization, and selected mitigation measures included in the ITP, and the sub-permits that will be issued in accordance with the ITP, are select key coho recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy. Please see Master Response 7.
- 49-19 Please see Master Response 4.
- 49-20 The Program is not intended to be a vehicle for implementation of the full Coho Recovery Strategy and SQRCD is not being relied upon to meet the Coho Recovery Strategy goals. The comment gives an opinion on the past performance of the SQRCD relative to coho salmon protection or restoration. The opinion is noted, but it is beyond the scope of the CEQA document to address the topic. Certainly, CDFG's objective for the Program is to protect and conserve the species. The commenter goes on to assert that the role of the SQRCD in the Program is inappropriate given its history. Please note the changes in the monitoring responsibilities from what was originally described in the Initial Study. CDFG is responsible for monitoring compliance of the sub-permittees with their sub-permit and SAA requirements. Please see Master Response 6 for a discussion of regulatory responsibilities and accountability.
- 49-21 Comment noted. Under the Program, SQRCD will be implementing key coho recovery tasks identified in the Coho Recovery Strategy. Normally, such projects are funded by grants and other public monies. That will likely be the case for the restoration projects SQRCD implements under the Programs, as well. Hence, even though these projects will serve to fully mitigate any take of coho salmon that might occur incidental to a Covered Activity authorized under the Program, CDFG does not view the grants and public monies SQRCD receives to fund their restoration projects as "public funding for mitigation." It is more accurate to characterize it as public funding for restoration.
- 49-22 ITP Article XX, Compliance With Other Laws and MLTC, Condition 26 (Condition 25 in the Draft EIR) requires compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 5937. All SAAs issued for water diversions pursuant to the Program will include MLTC Condition 26.

- 49-23 The commenter questions whether CESA enforcement can be delegated. Please see Master Response 6. The comment includes reference to groundwater issues (please see Master Response 4) and project funding (please see response to Comment 49-21).
- 49-24 Comment noted.
- 49-25 Please see response to Comment 49-8.
- 49-26 The commenter asserts that disclosure is at the heart of the CEQA process. In all respects, CDFG exceeded the requirements of the applicable statutes. Public scoping meetings at initiation of the environmental analysis and public hearings during the review of the Draft EIR, in Fort Jones and Yreka exceeded legal requirements. The public comment period was longer than required. The subsequent point raised, that CEQA must reduce all impacts to insignificance, is incorrect. Per *CEQA Guidelines*, § 15121, “an EIR is an informational document which will inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effect of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to the project.” However, mitigation under CESA, i.e. for issuance of an ITP, is different from mitigation under CEQA, in that CESA requires the authorized take to be fully mitigated.

To determine whether the full mitigation requirement of CESA is being met, CDFG has developed priorities for long-term population monitoring of coho salmon in the Scott River watershed. As stated under Article IX “Measurement of the Overall Success of the Permit Program” in the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan, the data collected will allow for an analysis of adult to juvenile ratio trends over time to determine if the Programs are resulting in a stable or increased production rate based on the ratio of juveniles per adult in the watershed and whether conditions for coho salmon within the watersheds are improving under the Programs.

Regarding the comment that the “mitigations proposed in the Initial Study do nothing to address this dewatering” of various sections of the Scott Valley creeks, ITP Article XIII.E.2.(a) includes a number of flow enhancement activities to provide for or support the instream needs of coho salmon at specific life-cycle stages. These activities include: development and implementation of water trusts; improvement of baseline instream flows and/or water quality through installation of water efficiency and/or water management improvement projects; development and implementation of a contingency plan for dry and critically-dry water years; and installation of alternative stock water systems. Each of the ITP mitigation measures has been previously demonstrated to be capable of successful implementation.

Regarding the comment on the application of Fish and Game Code, § 5937, please see response to Comment 49-22.

- 49-27 The majority of this comment deals with using best available information. The Draft EIR used the best available data and conforms to the standards of *CEQA Guidelines* §15151 (Standards for Adequacy of an EIR).

The last bullet of this comment and Comment 49-28 suggests that dependence on future planning is inconsistent with CEQA. This is a Program EIR covering individual activities subject to Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and § 2081, which have similar effects and can be mitigated in similar ways. Mitigation Obligations of SQRCD (ITP Article XIII E.2.) requires SQRCD, within a specific number of years, to identify locations and implement projects which will improve instream flow, provide gravel enhancement, install instream habitat improvement structures, plant riparian vegetation, and remove barriers to provide fish passage. The exact numbers or locations of these activities cannot be precisely identified prior to Program implementation. Similarly, the reach-specific mitigations depend on the site-specific and cumulative participation in the Programs. Consequently, identification of measurable objectives in any particular reach would provide an unwarranted degree of specificity and would be speculative.

Although the location where these projects will be performed is not currently known, the Draft EIR adequately describes these projects and analyzes their potential effects. Prior to implementation of these projects, the SQRCD will be required to notify CDFG pursuant to Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and obtain a SAA. Prior to issuing a SAA, CDFG is required to determine whether all potential impacts of a proposed project have been analyzed in the Final EIR or in another document prepared pursuant to CEQA. If CDFG identifies potential impacts which were not disclosed, CDFG will proceed as required under CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15162 and § 15168. The potential for additional environmental review for specific activities that may occur under the Program is discussed in the Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR (Section 1.2.3, Scope of the Draft EIR, page 1-4).

- 49-28 Please see the second and third paragraphs of response to Comment 49-27.
- 49-29 CDFG cannot provide a focused or complete response without knowing the specific agreements to which the commenter refers. Generally however, restoration funding priorities, government to government relationships, and water rights are not expected to change. CDFG expects that the Program will reduce take and adverse impacts to coho salmon caused by agricultural operations and contribute to recovery of the species. CDFG views that outcome as beneficial to the people of the State of California, including residents of the listed counties.
- 49-30 The final comment in this letter summarizes comments made and responded to above.

## **Comment Letter 50: Danielle Yokel**

- 50-1 This comment is introductory in nature. The EIR preparers thank Ms. Yokel for her comment on the thoroughness of the Draft EIR.
- 50-2 The establishment of the Scott Valley Community Groundwater Monitoring Program is noted. At the time the Draft EIR was being written, no data from this monitoring program were made available to CDFG.

- 50-3 The numbers reported by DWR (and subsequently referenced in the Draft EIR) were based upon Well Drillers Reports filed with DWR. On the Well Drillers Report form there is a section in which to indicate (i.e., checking a box) the nature of the drilling work (e.g., new well, deepening an existing well, reconstruction, destruction, etc.). Granted, not everyone actually “checks the box” or even files a Well Drillers Report.
- 50-4 The referenced statement attributes *some* of the decrease in baseflow volume to stream diversions and groundwater extraction. We feel this statement is accurate and supported by other independent research in the Scott River watershed (see Van Kirk and Naman, 2008).
- 50-5 Data concerning the relative amounts of surface water and groundwater used for irrigation are limited, particularly for any time earlier than the mid 1980s. Though limited in scope, the groundwater use data presented in the Draft EIR are accurate. The general point and conclusion remains: the amount of groundwater used for irrigation in the Scott Valley has increased over time.
- 50-6 The referenced statement restates a conclusion from Quigley et al. (2001).
- 50-7 The commenter raises a valid concern regarding the description in the Draft EIR of the observed outmigration of age 0+ coho salmon from the Scott River watershed. Responding first to the final statement in the comment, we notice that (1) a lead-up paragraph was inadvertently omitted from the Draft EIR, and (2) the order of the included paragraphs was inadvertently reversed. The Draft EIR is hereby revised to (1) move the only paragraph on p. 3.3-13 between third and fourth paragraph on p. 3.3-10, and (2) to add the following lead-up sentence to the moved paragraph:

*In addition to coho salmon smolts (age 1+ fish) migrating out of the watershed, CDFG has also observed distinct emigrations of age 0+ juveniles from the watershed (Chesney and Yokel, 2003; Chesney et al., 2007) (Table 3.3-3).*

Regarding the commenter’s assertion that streamflow in the Scott River does not typically drop significantly until after the outmigrant trapping operations are completed, we point to Chesney et al. (2007), who show that (1) in 2006, flows in the Scott River dropped significantly after week 21 and dropped further after week 23; (2) water temperatures recorded at the trap began approaching the upper limits of the suitable range for juvenile coho salmon beginning in week 25; and (3) the vast majority of age 0+ coho salmon migrated out of the watershed beginning in week 25.

While these data suggest a strong correlation between reduced flows, increased temperatures, and age 0+ coho salmon outmigration, we do acknowledge that other factors may influence this observed outmigration. For example, unlike age 1+ coho salmon, age 0+ fish probably only reach a size suitable for extensive migration by the later part of the trapping season. Also, much of the scientific literature noting the relative scarcity of age 0+ outmigrants (e.g., Shapovalov and Taft, 1954) is based on trapping studies conducted close to the ocean. As such, these studies only support the theory that few coho salmon enter the ocean at less than one year of age. The Scott River studies, on



the other hand, provide evidence that age 0+ fish entered the Klamath River; intra-basin dispersals of age 0+ fish may be far more common than premature emigration to the ocean. The eventual fate of age 0+ coho salmon exiting one tributary of the Klamath River and then entering another tributary to rear are currently being investigated. In short, we acknowledge that insufficient data are currently available to definitively establish what causes “premature” emigration or what the ultimate fate of these outmigrants is.

Shapovalov, L. and A. C. Taft, *The Life Histories of the Steelhead Rainbow Trout (Salmo gairdneri gairdneri) and Silver Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch) with Special Reference to Waddell Creek, California, and Recommendations Regarding Their Management*. State of California, Department of Fish and Game, Fish Bulletin No. 98, 1954.

### **Comment Letter from Dave Webb**

Mr. Webb provided comments to the Shasta River Watershed-wide Permitting Program Draft EIR in which he stated that several of his comments may also apply to the Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program Draft EIR. The comments were not specific in this regard; therefore, his letter has not been included in the responses to comments on the Scott document. His letter, Number 50.1, and CDFG’s response to his comments, are included in the Final DEIR for the Shasta River Watershed-wide Permitting Program.

## **2.2.3 Responses to Oral Comments Received at the Public Hearing, Fort Jones Public Library, November 18, 2008**

### **Comment 51.1: Marcia Armstrong**

51.1-1 Please see response to Comment 2-2.

51.1-2 The commenter requests an extension of the comment deadline. Based upon our receipt of a substantial number of comments we believe the 60 day review period, which exceeded the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, was sufficient and we decided not to extend the review period.

51.1-3 Please see responses to Comments 2-10 and 2-11.

51.1-4 Comment noted. CDFG will institute an outreach program, including a question/answer fact sheet, to provide information to the agricultural community.

### **Comment 51.2: Mark Baird**

51.2-1 Comment noted. CDFG will institute an outreach program, including a question/answer fact sheet, to provide information to the agricultural community.

51.2-2 The commenter expresses frustration at the burdens imposed by laws, regulations, and permits. The comment is noted.

- 51.2-3 Please see response to Comment 47-2, above.
- 51.2-4 CDFG does not have jurisdiction over the fishing activities of other nations.
- 51.2-5 The commenter believes the ITP to be coercive, given the choice between the Program and the costs of complying as an individual permittee. It is not the intent of CDFG to coerce anyone into Program participation, but rather to provide a streamlined means of complying with CESA and Fish and Game Code §1600.
- 51.2-6 Please see response to Comment 3-18.
- 51.2-7 CDFG is responsible for enforcing the Fish and Game Code on a statewide basis, including Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and CESA. Agricultural diverters in the Scott River watershed will have three options: 1) participate in the Programs, and by doing so comply with Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* and obtain coverage for any take of coho salmon that might result from a “Covered Activity”; 2) obtain a SAA and ITP through the standard permitting process outside the Programs, which will be more costly and time-consuming than obtaining the same authorizations through the Programs; or 3) elect not to participate in the Programs or obtain a SAA and/or ITP outside the Programs thereby risking prosecution for non-compliance with Fish and Game Code, § 1602 and CESA.
- 51.2-8 Fish screens are required to have bypass flows and a means for fish entering the diversion channel to return to the stream from which they came.
- 51.2-9 The comment is noted; however, CDFG disagrees with this statement.

### **Comment 51.3: Jeff Fowle**

- 51.3-1 This comment is introductory in nature.
- 51.3-2 This comment is introductory in nature.
- 51.3-3 Evapotranspiration of instream flows is a natural phenomenon that coho salmon have evolved with. Please also see response to Comment 3-2, above.
- 51.3-4 Under the ITP sub-permits, a sub-permittee must provide non-enforcement CDFG personnel permission to access the sub-permittee’s property (MLTC Condition 17) to verify compliance with, or the effectiveness of, the avoidance and minimization measures required by their sub-permit and for fish population monitoring; SQRCD/SVRCD personnel must also be provided permission to access the sub-permittee’s property where necessary to inspect sub-permittee’s screens, headgates, measuring devices, diversion structures and livestock and vehicle crossings annually; and/or to allow SQRCD/SVRCD to complete the mitigation obligations required in ITP Article XIII.E.2 and for CDFG and SQRCD/SVRCD to monitor the effectiveness of those measures.

CDFG and the SQRCD/SVRCD must notify the sub-permittee at least 48 hours in advance, whether verbally or in writing. Nothing in the Program restricts the sub-permittee from accompanying CDFG or the SQRCD/SVRCD on their property; in fact, sub-permittee participation is encouraged. Insofar as the commenter is primarily concerned about obtaining landowner permission, as stated above, CDFG and SQRCD/SVRCD will not enter private property without the landowner's permission. On the other hand, the sub-permittee must grant such permission as a condition of participating in the Programs. In further response, please see Master Response 5.

51.3-5 The commenter finds the Program is inconsistent with respect to grazing. ITP Covered Activity 10, Grazing Livestock, includes the grazing of livestock adjacent to the channel or within the riparian exclusion zone of the Scott River or its tributaries in accordance with a grazing management plan approved by CDFG. The commenter also notes that grazing is a tool for managing riparian vegetation. This, under certain circumstances, is acknowledged to be true. With regards to accepting other grazing plans please see response to Comment 3-20 (Recommendation 20).

The second part of the comment requests clarification that grazing plans associated with the Program do not control nor restrict grazing outside of the riparian fenced corridors. The Program places no restriction on grazing outside this area. Further, CDFG will not assume regulatory authority for grazing management on land outside the riparian exclusion zone.

51.3-6 Notification under Fish and Game Code, § 1600 *et seq.* is required for any activity that will substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake. Normally, such an activity will be on or within the bed, channel, or bank, but in some instances, the activity can be outside those features and still cause a change to the bed, channel, or bank. In either case, notification would be required. CESA prohibits the take of a listed species unless the take is authorized by CDFG. The prohibition extends to any location where a listed species might occur. The Programs do not expand CDFG's jurisdiction under these statutes. At the same time, CDFG will exercise its jurisdiction, accordingly.

51.3-7 Please see response to Comment 3-21 (Recommendation 24).

51.3-8 Comment noted. Agriculture retains open space and can be consistent with coho recovery. The Program accepts this premise as part of its most basic assumptions.

51.3-9 and 51.3-10

The Draft EIR is not a document written to satisfy the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and is not required to provide a cost-benefit analysis or other requirements of NEPA that are not also required by CEQA. In further response, please see response to Comment 2-10 regarding economic impacts in the County.

51.3-11 Fish and Game Code, § 2081(b)(2) requires an ITP applicant to ensure adequate funding to implement the measures required to minimize and fully mitigate take and it is unknown whether DWR would or could pass any potential additional expense on to water

users. CDFG will not be responsible for any additional expenses DWR may incur to participate in the Programs and will not be responsible for those expenses should DWR pass them on to sub-permittees.

51.3-12 Please see response to Comment 3-21.

51.3-13 Please see response to Comment 3-20, (Recommendation 18).

51.3-14 Please see response to Comment 3-23

51.3-15 The effects of elk on riparian areas can admittedly be deleterious when elk are present in large numbers, but that is not the case here. Moreover, analysis of impacts which are part of baseline conditions are beyond the scope of a CEQA analysis.

51.3-16 The commenter is incorrect in asserting that Caltrans was relied on for information on agricultural commodities grown and crop values. As noted in Chapter 3.1 of the Draft EIRs, information presented in Table 3.1-1 and 3.1-2 was gleaned from the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture. Information on farmland classification and conversion came from the California Department of Conservation (Tables 3.1-3, 3.1-4, and 3.1-5), information on irrigation methods and acreage was taken from the California Department of Water Resources and SQRC (Table 3.1-6, 3.1-7, and 3.1-8). Caltrans was relied upon as a source of information on long-term socioeconomic forecasting for Siskiyou County, including future population growth and economic activity. Please see also the response to Comment 3-15.

51.3-17 Please see response to Comment 3-11 and 3-13.

51.3-18 Please see response to Comment 3-18.

51.3-19 This comment raises a legal issue. In further response, CDFG's authority to hold harmless or indemnify natural persons is very limited.

51.3-20 Please see response to Comments 3-27 and 3-20, (Recommendation 19).

51.3-21 Please see response to Comment 3-25.

51.3-22 Summary comments are noted.

#### **Comment 51.4: Doug T. Jenner**

51.4-1 The commenter believes the ITP Program to be coercive, given the choice between the Program and the costs of complying as an individual permittee. It is not the intent of CDFG to coerce anyone into Program participation.

### **Comment 51.5: Caroline Luiz**

51.5-1 The commenter agrees with the preceding comments and finds the document, and the Program as a whole, vague, incomplete and confusing. CDFG regrets that the EIR process has not provided greater clarity.

### **Comment 51.6: Erica Terence**

51.6-1 The commenter identifies herself as familiar with the local communities and their resources. The comment is noted.

51.6-2 Please see responses to Comment 3-20, (Recommendation 18), and Master Response 6.

51.6-3 CDFG and SQRCD are aware of this potential problem and are working with the various federal agencies in an attempt to resolve this issue. According to the SVRCD, NRCS and USFWS have determined that they will be able to fund mitigation projects under the Program. While there is no guarantee of funding, it is anticipated that many of the agricultural participants' avoidance and minimization projects may be paid through federal, state, and private grants.

51.6-4 The ITP will require verification that participants are complying with the limits of their existing water rights (see MLTC Exhibit 1, Attachment A: Water Right Verification Form). CDFG lacks regulatory authority over groundwater and the Programs do not cover groundwater withdrawal for irrigation. Please see Master Response 4.

51.6-5 Comment noted.

51.6-6 Please see Master Response 6 for a discussion of regulatory responsibilities under the Program.

51.6-7 Comment noted.

### **Comment 51.7: Nick Jenner**

51.7-1 Water diversions pursuant to existing water rights are considered in the environmental analysis to be a part of the environmental baseline and not analyzed as impacts of the Program. The Draft EIRs evaluate the potential for the Program to result in new environmental impacts, above and beyond what is currently occurring, and where such impacts are found to be significant, additional mitigation measures are specified. Continuation of baseline activities do not require mitigation under CEQA but may require mitigation under CESA and Fish and Game Code, § 1602. Historical information on water diversions and irrigation practices in the Scott Valley are presented in Chapter 3.2, Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality.

51.7-2 Although the impacts which might occur from performance of Covered Activities at specific site are unknown, the Draft EIR adequately describes the activities and analyzes

their potential effects. In issuing SAAs and sub-permits, CDFG staff will perform site visits to determine any site specific impacts and will work with the sub-permittees so the avoidance and minimization measures required by the SAA and sub-permit are implemented in an appropriate manner.

- 51.7-3 The commenter states that actually visiting the headgate sites would be necessary to understand how they operate. Many sites were visited by CDFG and consultant staff during the preparation of the Draft EIR. Program implementation will involve more specific evaluation of each diversion site.
- 51.7-4 The commenter wonders how a piece of paper can make it OK to kill a fish. The ITP guarantees that take of fish will be avoided and minimized to the extent possible, and that any residual take will be fully mitigated. The difference between “having a piece of paper” and not is a legal liability and the risk of coho extirpation.
- 51.7-5 The commenter suggests that CDFG could help landowners clear out channels, which would improve stream flows. The comment is noted.

### **Comment 51.8: John Jenner**

- 51.8-1 The commenter expresses opposition to any fencing, taking of water, or future costs. The comment is noted.
- 51.8-2 Please see response to Comment 51.7-3.
- 51.8-3 The commenter doubts that comments will be heard or responded to. Responses to comments are a required part of the Final EIR. The commenter requests additional informational meetings. CDFG will institute an outreach program, including a question/answer fact sheet, to provide information to the agricultural community.

### **Comment 51.9: Jim Harris**

- 51.9-1 Under Fish and Game Code, § 857(a), CDFG non-enforcement staff may not enter private property without the landowner’s consent. However, under Fish and Game Code, § 857(b)(2) CDFG non-enforcement staff may accompany a warden on private land for law enforcement purposes without first obtaining the consent of the landowner.

### **Comment 51.10: Carl Hammond**

- 51.10-1 The commenter considers that many restoration projects are not well planned and sometimes fail, and requests that there be greater accountability. The Programs do require effectiveness monitoring. Please see the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan in Appendix A, Attachment 3 in this volume.

51.10-2 Please see response to Comment 3-24 regarding elk in streams. The commenter compares the proposed Program to the Ford (Motor Company) bailout, and asserts that CDFG should take action against predators in the streams eating fish. The comment is noted.

**Comment 51.11: Mark Baird**

51.11-1 The commenter asserts that ranchers are not the only ones causing loss of habitat for the fish. No such assertion is made in the Draft EIRs.

51.11-2 The commenter asserts that maintaining land in agricultural open space is better for the fish than real estate development. The potential for the Programs to result in a change of land use from agricultural to other uses is examined in Impact 3.1-1 in Chapter 3.1 of the Draft EIR.

**Comment 51.12: Nick Jenner**

51.12-1 Please see response to Comment 6-37.

**2.2.4 Responses to Oral Comments Received at the Public Hearing, Siskiyou County Courthouse, Yreka, California, November 19, 2008**

**Comment 52.1: Blair Smith**

52.1-1 Comment noted.

52.1-2 Please see response to Comment 49-1.

**Comment 52.2: Richard Kuck**

52.2-1 Comment noted.

52.2-2 Please see response to Comment 40-2.

52.2-3 Please see response to Comment 40-3.

52.2-4 Grazing management plans approved through the ITP will be required to demonstrate that grazing will result in improved riparian function and enhance aquatic habitat, and the scientific burden of demonstrating this will be developed by the person proposing grazing activities. Regarding the remainder of the comment, please see response to Comment 40-4.

52.2-5 CDFG has worked with the SVRCD and SQRCDC to resolve this issue. Please see Master Response 6.

### **Comment 52.3: Jack Roggenbuck**

52.3-1 Please see response to Comment 48-9.

52.3-2 Please see response to Comment 48-2.

52.3-3 Please see response to comment as Comment 44-8.

52.3-4 Please see response to Comment 48-4.

### **Comment 52.4: Brian Favero**

52.4-1 Comment noted.

### **Comment 52.5: Malena Marvin**

52.5-1 Comment noted.

52.5-2 Comment noted.

52.5-3 In regard to removal of Dwinnell Dam as an alternative to the Shasta Program, this alternative is examined, but rejected as infeasible for the reasons stated in Chapter 5 of the Shasta Draft EIR (page5-7).

In regard to groundwater in the Scott River watershed, the existing and future use of groundwater is not a Covered Activity under the proposed Program and, other than being proposed as an alternative stock-watering mitigation measures, not part of the Program therefore developing a groundwater management policy as part of the Programs is beyond the scope of the Programs.

52.5-4 Comment noted. In further response, please see response to Comment 44-8.

52.5-5 Comment noted. Data collected by CDFG would be available by request through the Public Records Act (Government Code, § 6250 et seq.). In further response, please see response to Comment 8-12.

52.5-6 Comment noted.

### **Comment 52.6: Tom Wetter**

52.6-1 Mr. Wetter did not provide oral testimony. His comments regarding the Shasta River Watershed-wide Permitting Program (Comment Letter 50) and CDFG's responses are included in the Shasta River Watershed-wide Permitting Program Final EIR.

### **Comment 51.7: County Supervisor Jim Cook**

52.7-1 Comment noted.



52.7-2 Comment noted.

52.7-3 Please see response to Comment 2-2.

52.7-4 Comment noted.

## **CHAPTER 3**

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# Comment Letters Received and Public Hearing Testimony



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

CYNTHIA BRYANT  
DIRECTOR

December 10, 2008

Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game, Region 1  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program  
SCH#: 2006102095

Dear Bob Williams:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Draft EIR to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on December 9, 2008, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

0-1

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures  
cc: Resources Agency

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

**SCH#** 2006102095  
**Project Title** Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program  
**Lead Agency** Fish & Game #1

**Type** EIR Draft EIR

**Description** The primary purpose of the Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program is to facilitate compliance by Program participants with Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. and with respect to coho salmon, the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish and Game Code, 2050 et seq.) while conducting specific routine agricultural activities the Program covers.  
 The Program area is the Scott River watershed, including the Scott River and its tributaries, in Siskiyou Co. Farmers and ranchers in the Program area may participate in the Program. Other participants include the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR will participate in the Program because it provides watermaster service in the Program area, and as part of the responsibility delivers water to farmers and ranchers.

**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Bob Williams  
**Agency** Department of Fish and Game, Region 1  
**Phone** (530) 225-2300 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 601 Locust Street  
**City** Redding **State** CA **Zip** 96001

**Project Location**

**County** Siskiyou  
**City**  
**Region**  
**Lat / Long**  
**Cross Streets**  
**Parcel No.**  

<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Base</b>

**Proximity to:**

**Highways**  
**Airports**  
**Railways**  
**Waterways** Scott River and tributaries  
**Schools**  
**Land Use** Primarily Agriculture

**Project Issues** Archaeologic-Historic; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Toxic/Hazardous; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife; Cumulative Effects; Agricultural Land; Biological Resources

**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Department of Boating and Waterways; Department of Conservation; Cal Fire; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 2; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 1; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Redding); Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission

**Date Received** 10/10/2008 **Start of Review** 10/10/2008 **End of Review** 12/09/2008



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cont.

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

# Comment Letter 0

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

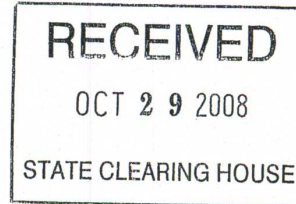
## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 653-4082  
(916) 657-5390 - Fax



October 17, 2008

Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001



Clear  
H-21-2 12-9-08  
e

RE: SCH#2006102095 Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program; Siskiyou County.

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has reviewed the Notice of Completion (NOC) referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, which includes archeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines 15064(b)). To comply with this provision the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on historical resources within the area of project effect (APE), and if so to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess and mitigate project-related impacts to archaeological resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

- ✓ Contact the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center for a record search. The record search will determine:
  - If a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
  - If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
  - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
  - If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present
- ✓ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
  - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
  - The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.
- ✓ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for:
  - A Sacred Lands File Check. **USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle name, township, range and section required.**
  - A list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in the mitigation measures. **Native American Contacts List attached.**
- ✓ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.
  - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
  - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
  - Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

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cont.

Sincerely,

Katy Sanchez  
Program Analyst

CC: State Clearinghouse



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



CYNTHIA BRYANT  
DIRECTOR

December 10, 2008

Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game, Region 1  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Shasta River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program  
SCH#: 2006102093

Dear Bob Williams:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Draft EIR to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on December 9, 2008, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

0-1

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures  
cc: Resources Agency

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

**SCH#** 2006102093  
**Project Title** Shasta River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program  
**Lead Agency** Fish & Game #1

**Type** EIR Draft EIR  
**Description** The primary purpose of the Shasta River Watershed-wide Permitting Program (Program) is to facilitate compliance by Program participants with Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. and, with respect to coho salmon, the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish and Game Code, section 2050 et seq.) while conducting specific routine agricultural activities the Program covers. The Program area is the Shasta River watershed, including the Shasta River and its tributaries, in Siskiyou County. Farmers and ranchers in the Program area may participate in the Program. Other participants include the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR will participate in the Program because it provides watermaster service in the Program area, and as part of that responsibility delivers water to farmers and ranchers.

**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Bob Williams  
**Agency** Department of Fish and Game, Region 1  
**Phone** 530-225-2306 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 601 Locust Street  
**City** Redding **State** CA **Zip** 96001

**Project Location**

**County** Siskiyou  
**City** Redding  
**Region**  
**Lat / Long**  
**Cross Streets**  
**Parcel No.**  

Township	Range	Section	Base

**Proximity to:**

**Highways**  
**Airports**  
**Railways**  
**Waterways** Shasta River and its tributaries  
**Schools**  
**Land Use** Primarily agricultural

**Project Issues** Agricultural Land; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Toxic/Hazardous; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife; Cumulative Effects

**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 2; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 1; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission

**Date Received** 10/10/2008 **Start of Review** 10/10/2008 **End of Review** 12/09/2008

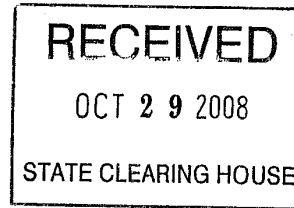
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 653-4082  
(916) 657-5390 - Fax



Clear  
11-21-08  
e 129-08

October 17, 2008

Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

RE: SCH#2006102093 Shasta River Watershed-wide Permitting Program; Siskiyou County.

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has reviewed the Notice of Completion (NOC) referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, which includes archeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines 15064(b)). To comply with this provision the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on historical resources within the area of project effect (APE), and if so to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess and mitigate project-related impacts to archaeological resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

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  - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
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  - A Sacred Lands File Check. USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle name, township, range and section required.
  - A list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in the mitigation measures. Native American Contacts List attached.
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  - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
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0-1  
cont.

Sincerely,  
*Katy Sanchez*  
Katy Sanchez  
Program Analyst

CC: State Clearinghouse





# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

## County Administrative Office

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 750, YREKA, CA 96097  
Physical Address: 201 - 4<sup>th</sup> STREET, YREKA, CA 96097

**Brian McDermott**  
County Administrator  
(530) 842-8005

**Rose Ann Herrick**  
Assistant County  
Administrator  
(530) 842-8003

**Ann Waite**  
Personnel Manager  
(530) 842-8017

**Phyllis Gibbons**  
Personnel Assistant  
(530) 842-8006

**Ric Costales**  
Natural Resource  
Policy Specialist  
(530) 842-8012

**Amy Detrick**  
Secretary to the CAO  
(530) 842-8005

Fax (530) 842-8013

**FAX**

**Date:** 12-9-08  
**To:** Bob Williams  
**Fax No.:** (530) 225-2381  
**No. of Pages:** 20 including this cover

**From:**  Brian McDermott  
 Rose Ann Herrick  
 Ann Waite  
 Amy Detrick  
 Phyllis Gibbons  
 Ric Costales

Original documents will be mailed.  
 Original documents will not be mailed.

**Subject:** Scott/Stanley DEIR

**Message:**  Please review and comment.  
 Pursuant to your request  
 For your information  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify \_\_\_\_\_ at (530) 842-8005 if there is any problem with this transmission.

*"The document being faxed is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and contains information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under state and federal law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of the communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us at the address above via the United States Postal Service."*



# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Ric Costales, Natural Resource Policy Specialist  
P.O. Box 750 • 201 Fourth Street, Yreka, CA 96097  
Phone: (530) 842-8012, Fax Number: (530) 842-8013  
Email: rcostales@co.siskiyou.ca.us

December 9, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Subject: DEIR on the Scott and Shasta Rivers Watershed-wide Permitting Program

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am the Natural Resource Policy Specialist for Siskiyou County. As such, innumerable and diverse issues associated with natural resources affecting County citizens require my attention and effort. Among them all, the Watershed-wide Permitting Program (Program) for the Scott and Shasta rivers is one of the most important that has yet come across my desk. The potentially damaging impacts to Siskiyou County of the listing of the coho salmon under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) were apparent from the time the petition to add coho to the list was first bandied about. At this point, it is clear that all the concerns were well-placed. If ever there were any doubt, the DEIR on the Program has put an end to that debate!

The notion of an understandable, expedited, and affordable way to allow agricultural operators to continue to do business while complying with CESA and Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code was something essential to all parties concerned about the fate of the coho and the human communities sharing their range. This pilot project received blessing from the state's Coho Recovery Strategy, the Scott and Shasta Recovery Team, and local and statewide ag operators and organizations. Even Sonoma County, seeing the value of such an approach, contributed grant money to Siskiyou to help iron out a something that might be exported to other areas similarly affected by the listing.

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Unfortunately, the sense is rapidly emerging among many in the agriculture community in Siskiyou County that the "cure" may be worse than the "disease." Certainly the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has statutory obligations under CESA and the Code that, while onerous and in some cases probably pointless, cannot be ignored. The mitigation in the DEIS for paleontological and archaeological resources is one such example. There are other burdensome mitigations in the DEIR, however, that do not appear to be requirements associated with CEQA or 1602. For example, the Shasta DEIR specifies a commitment by the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) to see that 8 miles per year of stream banks get planted. Since the Program is designed to avoid take on diversions, ag operations, crossings and restoration projects, what is it about these activities that require the whole Shasta River to be planted to shade trees? The spawning gravel enhancement mandate is a similar case in point for the Scott River Program. Lack of spawning gravel is not the result of ag operations.

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What all such mandates do, whether truly beneficial or not, is increase the labor and financial burdens of agricultural operators and the RCDs. The DEIR makes it abundantly clear in its socioeconomic analysis that agriculture, while a critical component of Siskiyou County's custom, culture and economy, is under extreme pressure from market and regulatory challenges. The RCDs, being the primary coordinator for projects ameliorating much regulatory pressure are also operating on the fringes of capacity. The DEIR needs to take particular care to keep requirements at the absolute minimum to prevent take and comply with CESA and Section 1602.

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Finally, Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code is being used as the main reason that agricultural operators need to enroll in the Program since a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) accompanies the Incidental Take Permit. DFG is interpreting the "substantial diversion" language in the Code to include all agricultural water diversions. Agricultural diversions should only require a SAA if they involve the modification of the channel (push up dams), a physical change in the diversion or the diversion truly is a "substantial diversion of the natural flow."

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As previously stated, I am enclosing a copy of Supervisor Armstrong's comments. The purpose is to underscore the fact that I, too, support her comments and criticisms relative to the DEIR.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIR.

Sincerely,



Ric Costales, Natural Resource Policy Specialist  
County of Siskiyou

Attachments: Copy of District 5 Supervisor Marcia Armstrong comments on DEIR

1-7

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:12 FAX

004/021

December 7, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
Dept. of Fish and Game  
601 Locust St.  
Redding, CA 96001

As Siskiyou County Supervisor for the Fifth District, the following are my initial comments on the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and for the Shasta, (insofar as DEIR statements and provisions are similar to the Scott.) These comments are submitted in the context of general support for the concept and program. I am commenting in my capacity as an individual County Supervisor.

### General Comments and Authorities:

(1) Siskiyou County Code – Title 10 Planning and Zoning, Chapter 12. County Participation in State and Federal Agencies Land Transactions, Sec. 10-12.01 Findings states:

“(b) In order to protect the customs, culture, economy, resources, and environment of the County of Siskiyou, it is critical that federal and state agencies recognize and address the effects of any actions proposed within the County which may affect matters, including, but not limited to, economic growth, public health, safety and welfare, land use, the environment, conservation of natural resources, such as timber, water, fish, wildlife, mineral resources, agriculture, grazing, and recreational opportunities.

(c) The coordination and consideration of the County's interest is required by law, such as in those requirements set forth in the National Environmental Protection Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Federal Administrative Procedures Act, the State of California Public Resources Code, the California Environmental Quality Act, and numerous other federal and state statutes and administrative procedures.

(d) These various state and federal laws provide for participation by Siskiyou County and the public through opportunities for comment on proposed projects and actions.”

Sec. 10-12.02 Notification, referral, and consultation procedures states:

“(a) All federal and state agencies shall inform the County of Siskiyou, or its designee, of all pending, contemplated or proposed actions affecting local communities, citizens, or affecting County policy, and shall, if requested by the County, coordinate the planning and implementation of those actions with the County or its designee(s). Such notification shall include a detailed description of the proposed plan, procedure, rule, guideline, or amendment sufficient to fully inform lay persons of its intent and effects, including the effects on the resources, environment, customs, culture, and economic stability of the County of Siskiyou.

(b) **The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors shall be consulted in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of California and the United States regarding**

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:12 FAX

005/021

**any pending, contemplated, or proposed actions affecting local communities and citizens.**

(c) All federal and state agencies shall, to the fullest extent permissible by law, comply with all applicable procedures, policies, and practices issued by the County of Siskiyou.  
(d) When required by law or when requested by the County of Siskiyou, all federal and state agencies proposing actions that may impact citizens of the County of Siskiyou shall prepare and submit in writing, and in a timely manner as soon as is practicable, report(s) on the purposes, objectives and estimated impacts of such actions, including environmental, health, social, customs, cultural and economic impacts, to the County of Siskiyou. Those reports shall be provided to the County of Siskiyou for review and coordination with sufficient time to prepare a meaningful response for consideration by the federal or state agency.

(e) Before federal and state agencies can alter land use(s), environmental review of the proposed action shall be conducted by the lead agency and mitigation measures adopted in accordance with policies, practices, and procedures applicable to the proposed action and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. Impact studies shall, as needed, address the effects on community and economic resources, the environment, local customs and public health, safety, and welfare, culture, grazing rights, flood prone areas and access and any other relevant impacts.”

**COMMENT:** As of this date, the CA Dept. of Fish and Game has failed to come before the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors to present the DEIR or the Shasta and Scott Recovery Team recommendations referenced in the DEIR as mitigation measures. Only one hearing was held on the Scott River DEIR in Scott Valley and this was to gather comments only. No meeting has ever been held where the Board or the public could freely ask questions about the program itself. I now understand that CDFG has scheduled a Board presentation on Dec. 9, (the same day that comments are due.) This will be the very first opportunity for the Board to find out more about the program and to ask questions. The public also needs an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed program itself. I would respectfully request that the deadline for comments be extended to allow for additional analysis by the staff and public.

(2) As outlined in this year's Resolution of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors “Asserting Legal Standing and Formally Requesting Coordination with All State and Federal Agencies Maintaining Jurisdiction Over Lands And/Or Resources Located in Siskiyou County.” the County directs that “state agencies shall inform the Board of Supervisors of all ending or proposed actions affecting local communities and citizens within Siskiyou County and coordinate with the Board of Supervisors in the planning and implementation of those actions;” citing:

- The California Constitution has recognized Siskiyou County's authority to exercise its local, police and sanitary powers, and the California Legislature has recognized and mandated exercise of certain of those powers in specific statutes; and;

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:12 FAX

008/021

- The California Legislature has mandated in Government Code Section 65300 that each county shall prepare a comprehensive plan, and stated legislative intent in Section 65300.9 that the county planning shall be coordinated with federal and state program activities, and has mandated in Section 65103 that county local plans and programs must be coordinated with plans and programs of other agencies; and,
- The California Legislature has mandated in Section 65040 that the State Office of Planning and Research shall "coordinate, in conjunction with ... local agencies with regard to matters relating to the environmental quality of the state; and,
- Water Code §§ 8125-8129, the California Legislature has placed planning for non-navigable streams within the authority of county supervisors, and since such planning activities must be coordinated with natural resource planning processes of federal and state agencies; and
- Public Resources Code § 5099.3, the California Legislature has mandated coordination by the state with Siskiyou County since it is a county "having interest in the planning, development, and maintenance of outdoor recreation resources and facilities,"

(3) Siskiyou County has local natural resource planning authority. Government Code 65302 states:

(d) A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources. The conservation element shall consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on natural resources located on public lands, including military installations.

That portion of the conservation element including waters shall be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency and with all district and city agencies that have developed, served, controlled or conserved water for any purpose for the county or city for which the plan is prepared. Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any water supply and demand information described in Section 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency to the city or county. The conservation element may also cover the following:

- (1) The reclamation of land and waters.
- (2) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters.
- (3) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.
- (4) Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores.
- (5) Protection of watersheds.
- (6) The location, quantity and quality of the rock, sand and gravel resources.
- (7) Flood control.

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:12 FAX

007/021

Siskiyou County's Conservation Element - Page 18 establishes the intent to coordinate with the CA Department of Fish and Game. On page 101, the Conservation Element outlines the County's jurisdiction as relates to fisheries habitat and land use planning. Page 112 outlines some of our jurisdiction over watersheds and water recharge lands.

**COMMENT:** The CA Dept. of Fish and Game does not appear to have formally consulted Siskiyou County Planning Agencies, County Agricultural Dept. and coordinated with County Natural Resource Specialist Ric Costales or the Board of Supervisors, in the preparation of the DEIR and CEQA process. It appears to have taken the liberty on its own of interpreting and applying provisions of the General Plan and Scott Valley Plan for the County.

(4) The 1996 Siskiyou County Comprehensive Land and Resource Management Plan specifies:

Introduction and Statement of Purpose

... "Accordingly, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Siskiyou declares that it is the policy of the county to require each and every federal (see Appendix I) and state agency administering, managing or regulating lands or natural resources within the county to fully coordinate with the county at the initiation and throughout the planning process, whenever proposed plans, actions, regulations, restrictions or establishment of productivity levels are being considered."

General Processes, Methods And Goals Of An Analysis By Agencies

"Plans or actions by agency, inter-agency or other decision-making groups shall contain information and discussion to facilitate a coordinated planning effort between the agency and county government. Participation by the county in multi-interest planning, advisory or decision-making processes does not replace, abridge or satisfy the requirements for coordinated consultation and coordination between county government and the decision making agency(s).

"This information for a coordinated planning effort shall include effects on the physical, social and economic environment. This includes the physical environment, historic customs, culture, useage, property rights, economic welfare, general prosperity and economic stability of communities in Siskiyou County. Actions or plans with non-significant impacts or negative impacts on the physical environment shall also be included since those actions or plans may have significant social and/or economic implications, including cumulative impacts.

"Since the majority of land in Siskiyou County is non-private land, and the County's major industries livestock, farming, timber, mining and recreation - are

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 18:12 FAX

008/021

ted to that land and pertinent resources either directly or indirectly, then all economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects are interrelated..."

"Discussions of effects on the County's natural resources and environmental quality should include but are not limited to:

1. fisheries and wildlife resources
2. forest and timber resources
3. range resources
4. dryland crops
5. watershed resources
6. private surface and ground water rights and irrigated cropland
7. mineral resources
8. recreational opportunities
9. environmental quality of air, water, and soils
10. integrated resource planning and management in which county private parties and/or public interests are involved
11. multiple use, sustained yield and range resource laws
12. private investments, property interests and regulations into public land resources
13. impacts on privately owned land, improvements and resources or adjacent to federal or state managed land where the plan, program or project is proposed
14. Discussions of effects on the County's culture, governance, schools, social services and other local programs include but are not limited to:
  15. The culture of the county due to potential population loss.
  16. The culture of the county from possible limitations and restrictions on cultural beliefs and practices, diversity and choice of lifestyle, and maintenance of cultural, community, generational and familial cohesion and kinship.
  17. Cultural and community aesthetics, including historic sites, natural resource vistas, river ways and landscapes.
  18. The County's ability to protect and provide services for the health, safety, and social and cultural well-being of its citizens
  19. The County's ability to finance public programs and services through bonding, lending and other financing mechanisms
20. Local governments (towns, etc.) and schools from identified tax revenue loss
21. Local emergency medical services, law enforcement, fire (and wildfire) protection and nuisance abatement
22. The local infrastructure, including transportation, community water, sewer, power, electric power generation and transmission systems, (including irrigation and reclamation districts), service districts, and landfill services.
23. Local community well-being, stability of governance, and the education and welfare of children from cumulative and long-term impacts
24. Pest and predation control, and weed abatement.

Discussions of effects on the County's economy, customs, useages, services and businesses to include but are not limited to:

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 18:12 FAX

009/021

1. Economic diversity
2. Private investment backed expectations
3. Direct, indirect and cumulative employment (including those who are self-employed) and wages
4. The industries of cattle, farming, timber, mining and recreation - specifying unit cost effects (e.g. economic value of animal unit months (AUMs), million board feet (MMBF), measurements of cubic feet per second (cfs) or acre feet of water, yield per acre, acres in production), recreational user days or other units of measurement as appropriate.
5. Local businesses directly and indirectly related to the resource decision or plan.
6. Housing, real estate values, residential energy, water, sewer and sanitation needs.
7. Variable thresholds for business demand and markets.
8. Marketability of workforce skills
9. Business and financial planning and the ability to obtain financing dependent upon continued availability and productive use of a natural resource.
10. The level of manufacturing or processing technology required of local industry, dependent upon the availability of suitable raw materials.
11. Local community well-being, stability and ability to maintain current and future debt service by long-term and cumulative impacts.

"Direct and indirect impacts on economics, and ramifications of planned activities on local economics shall use appropriate multipliers.

"Discussions shall include any effects on property rights and protectable interests in the County. In addition to these requirements, there shall be an evaluation of the impacts on property rights, as subject under California Executive Order D-78-89 on Regulatory Takings, the United States Presidential Executive Order No. 12630, entitled "Government Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights", and the Attorney General's guidelines entitle "Evaluation of Risks and Avoidance of Unanticipated Takings", mandating that the following tests or criterion be used in assessing possible taking of private property rights:

1. Whether the plan, program or project constitutes an actual physical intrusion or actual taking
2. Whether the plan, program or project constitutes a regulatory taking
3. Potential for partial or full loss of economic value or investment backed expectation
4. Related effects on custom, culture and usage
5. Whether the agency action conforms to constitutionally protected property rights and commonly accepted notions of fairness and due process
6. Cost of compliance.

"Discussions shall include cumulative, long-term effects on the County's economy, culture, usage, services and businesses. Plans, programs or actions may have insignificant impacts when analyzed individually, however, cumulative long-term impacts when combined with plans that have similar direct or indirect impacts may be significant.

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:13 FAX

010/021

Infrastructure of economic sectors, culture, customs, usage, services and community stability must be evaluated and protected from cumulative effects.”

**COMMENT:** (This is informational)

(5) **COMMENT:** Under Baldwin v. County of Tehama (1994) and In re Maas (1933,) Siskiyou County has clearly asserted jurisdiction over groundwater management through the passage of Siskiyou County Code Title 3, Public Safety, Chapter 13 Groundwater Management. Recently, as part of the TMDL Action Plan by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB), Siskiyou County submitted a groundwater study plan to the NCRWQCB prepared by Dr. Thomas Harter, Ph.D. of University of California Extension Dept. of Land and water Management for the Scott Valley. Historically, Siskiyou County has also helped to fund a static well study in the area.

(6) **COMMENT:** Under Water Code §§ 8125-8129, the California Legislature has placed planning for non-navigable streams within the authority of county supervisors. The code states that:

“Non-navigable streams,” as used in this article, means streams and washes in a county which are not declared by law to be navigable and which are not in fact navigable for commercial purposes. 8126. The board of supervisors may provide for widening, deepening, straightening, removing obstructions from, and otherwise improving non-navigable streams the overflow of which interferes with highways, and for protecting the banks and adjacent lands from overflow of non-navigable streams. 8127. The board may make regulations for the use of the streams and the repair and control of the works. 8128. No regulations of the board nor improvements directed by it to be made shall in any manner interfere with the private rights or privileges of riparian owners, miners, or others. 8129. Whenever, in the opinion of the board of supervisors, the general fund is insufficient to defray the cost of the improvements provided for under this article, the board may levy a tax or contract a bonded indebtedness therefore in the manner provided by Title 3 of the Government Code.”

Historically, (150 years) Siskiyou County has considered the Scott River and its tributaries to be non-navigable and the bed and banks of these rivers in vested private ownership. Lux v Hagin (1886); Scott v. Lattig (1913); United States v. State of Utah (1931). (It is a long established principle that a vested right cannot be resumed, annulled or later modified by the grantor through legislation or otherwise. Further, States are barred from impairing the obligation of contracts, including these vested rights Hughes v. Washington (1967).)

In 1913, Donnelly v. U.S. established the navigability of the Klamath River. This is reflected in the California Codes – Harbors and Navigation Code Section 103. The Klamath is the only river so listed for the County of Siskiyou.

Absent a definitive judicial determination that the Scott River is, indeed, navigable, the question arises as to the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission over the river. The

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:13 FAX

011/021

State Lands Commission appears to have no jurisdiction over non-navigable streams: California Public Resources Code Section 29300-29308.

(7) **COMMENT:** The Proposed ITP appears to include the redirection of water from private use for irrigation to instream uses for fish and habitat. Many of the water use rights in Scott Valley are either riparian or were established by appropriation and continuous beneficial use in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century - well before 1914 when the People of the State claimed surplus water beyond vested rights. (In San Bernardino v. Riverside (1921) and Palmer v. Railroad Commission (1914) the Court specifically stated that the 1911 statute declaring water the “property of the people” did not apply to private water use rights already vested.) Most water use rights in the Scott are vested, privately owned and valuable property, and not revocable “permitted” or licensed water use subject to conditions from the state.

In the recent United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit case – Casitas Municipal Water District v. United States (2008), it was reinforced that a physical invasion of privately owned property (water use right) by government appropriation, or a regulatory action which causes “an owner to suffer a permanent invasion of her property – however minor,” or a regulatory action that “completely deprive[s] an owner of ‘all economically beneficial use’ constituted a compensable property taking under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution. Restrictions on water use rights for the public use of protection of endangered species – including instream use was recognized as a “taking” of property. The case further denies claims that appropriation of natural resources for environmental use is not for government use under the Fifth Amendment: “...preservation of an endangered species is for government and third party use – the public- which serves a public purpose.” In addition, Casitas makes a distinction between the ruling in Tahoe-Sierra on the basis that the Tahoe decision did not physically appropriate anything, change or diminish the property.

Under the ITP, it appears that the Water Master would be required to reduce water diversion for instream flow needs of fish. Will compensation for reallocation of this valuable property to public use be provided through the Water Trust? There are also questions regarding the Dry Year plan and connectivity requirements. The ITP also seems to require conversions of an undefined corridor of riparian lands to lands planted in trees for the benefit of endangered species habitat. In addition, it appears to recognize the CA DFG as land use authority in regard to grazing in this undefined area of land.

In January 1993, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors Passed Resolution 93-19 requesting that the state evaluate possible takings of the private property or private property rights of the citizens of Siskiyou County prior to the implementation of any action, decision or regulation effecting said citizens; to formally evaluate and avoid the risk of unanticipated private property takings and investment backed expectations; and that the property owner shall be justly compensated for losses as mandated by the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the State of California without undue delay.

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 18:13 FAX

012/021

I am concerned about the potential in many of the mitigations being imposed for the creation of "unconstitutional conditions," which would require the surrender of rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States in exchange for a valuable discretionary privilege which the state threatens otherwise to withhold. This includes the right to privacy (property access,) the right to receive just compensation when property is taken for a public use.

I am concerned that a "permit" (1602) requirement is being categorically imposed on the exercise of a long vested and valuable property right (pre-1914 water use right) - making it, essentially a discretionary conditional privilege. Many of these early appropriative water rights were granted as an invasion of riparian rights on federal lands under the federal Act of 1866. It is a long established principle that a vested right cannot be resumed, annulled or later modified by the grantor through legislation or otherwise. Further, States are barred from impairing the obligation of contracts, including these vested rights Hughes v. Washington (1967.) It is also established in law that whenever a grant is made, it also included whatever was necessary for taking and enjoying the property, (diversion of an appropriative right.)

The DEIR appears to indicate that a 1602 permit is required to operate all diversions, even if no physical disruption of the channel occurs. The California Farm Bureau has indicated that no where else in California has the CDFG interpreted the 1602 provisions to categorically require a conditional permit on all water diversions for irrigation. The code originated from a need to control land disturbing activities - not exercise of water use rights as simple as lifting a headgate:

1602 - (a) "An entity may not substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, unless all of the following occur:"

This raises the question of equal treatment under the law. If Scott Valley residents are required to obtain a permit to use their water use right (divert,) then everyone in California should also be required to do so.

I am also concerned about the "rough proportionality" of the conditions being imposed in relationship to the reasonable impact and actual risk of "kill" from the individual covered activity. (Dolan v. City of Tigard, 1994). (For instance, does the risk of sediment and foraging in riparian areas proportionately justify the conversion of land to trees and the imposition of an entire regulatory scheme to permit grazing on an undefined amount of "riparian" land?)

(8) **COMMENT:** Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Agencies are directed to avoid, minimize

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 18:13 FAX

013/021

or mitigate: (1) disproportionate health, environmental, social and economic effects on low-income populations; and (2) barriers to participation in the decision-making process and self-determination by low income populations.

Obviously, the DEIR clearly establishes Scott Valley and the entirety of Siskiyou County as an economically depressed area (Long Term Economic Distress page 3.1-4 DEIR.) With a median household income of \$32,531 and the average net cash profitability of local farms and ranches at \$29,747, those engaged in agriculture in the County constitute a low income population. In addition, the ranching and farming families of Siskiyou County represent a unique cultural heritage as the descendants of pioneer California families. Many operate Century ranches that have been in existence since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 1996 Siskiyou County Comprehensive Land and Resource Management Plan chronicles the custom, culture and history of this significant cultural group in Siskiyou County.

Considerations should be made to ensure that financial implications from implementing measures in the 1602 and ITP are minimized for individual family farms and the County agricultural population as a whole. (This includes indirect costs from additional Water Master service, replacement costs of fences and fish screens after flood and other events.) The proposed measures essentially benefit endangered species, (a "public purpose,") and costs should not be born by the individual alone. The value of preserving the culture and heritage of farming and ranching, which is of great significance to Siskiyou County and California, must be weighed in balancing costs to benefits for coho.

In addition, I am very concerned about the unknown financial costs to and liability of the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District, which serves this population in Scott Valley. Care must be given to ensure that exposure is minimized and that they are protected from the inability to acquire expected grant funding for anticipated projects to address cumulative watershed effects and mitigate claimed species "take." A hold harmless off-ramp should be provided if grant funding is found to be unavailable.

(9) **COMMENT:** As a County suffering from "Long Term Economic Distress" (page 3.1-4 DEIR,) particular care must be taken to eliminate any additional damage to a fragile local economy and social fabric. The social and economic impacts of the proposal and cumulative effects of water quality, air quality and other regulations on agriculture and the economy of Siskiyou County as a whole have been inadequately analyzed in the DEIR.

According to the new 2007 California County Data Book, Siskiyou County is now dead last in all California Counties in family economic well-being, having the lowest median income. 65% of households with children ages 0-17 are low income, compared with a California average of 43%. The report notes that 27% of Siskiyou County's children live in official poverty, compared to 19% for the state. Since the Northwest Forest Plan, average unemployment in the county has been 12.3%. In 2003, only 39.5% of the population was in the labor force. This is projected to decline another 8.7% by 2015. Between 1990 and 2002, official poverty rose 32.9% to 18.6% of the total population.



## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:13 FAX

014/021

Several farming communities have higher poverty rates: 26% in Fort Jones (Scott Valley); and 24.2% in Montague (Shasta Valley.) These conditions will only worsen in the current statewide economic downturn.

The deterioration of the economy in the past two decades has caused dramatic demographic changes, such as an overall decrease in the population aged 30-39, (as well as school aged children,) and an increase in the population aged 50-59, with those aged 60 making up a higher percentage of the population than the state average. School enrollment since 1990 has declined from 25-30%. This aging trend is projected to steadily increase over the next 20 years.

Other than two plywood veneer mills, Siskiyou County has almost no manufacturing industry. There is very little economic diversity, with almost the entire economy based upon continued access to natural resources. Agriculture produces \$170 million in revenue that is said to circulate in the local economy about 5 times. Tourism (mostly in the south county - Sacramento River Region) is valued at \$60 million. What is left of our timber industry brings in about \$48 million in revenues to be circulated.

(The DEIR page 3.1-9) indicates that in 2002, average annual sales per farm were approximately \$137,000 per farm, but input costs were \$107,386. The County determined in its 1999 comments regarding a proposed federal 300 foot critical habitat designation for coho, that 21% of the irrigated agriculture land base in the Shasta Valley (9,817 acres) and 35% (11,215 acres) in the Scott would be implicated and largely converted from production ag. (Currently proposed buffers and probable land conversions are indicated but not quantified in the DEIR.) A decade ago at that proposed level of involvement, the combined loss of annual ag production was estimated to be \$4,420,766. Using the multiplier effect of an income/output model by UCE, this was estimated to result in lost sales in other economic sectors of the county of \$5,913,173, losses in income of \$1,847,079 and 132 lost jobs.

It was also estimated at that time that weed infestation from projected management prohibitions in the buffer areas would amount to another \$1,225,095 in ag loss. Loss in annual timber stumpage value from riparian buffer strips was estimated at \$4,941,695. No "multiplier effect" on local economy was calculated for these projected losses. Loss in ag land value from prohibitions was estimated at \$40 million.

According to Cal. D.O.T. Siskiyou County Economic Forecast, since 1995, Siskiyou County's agriculture industries have experienced substantial job loss at about 586 jobs, declining almost 45%. For instance, since 1996, county vegetable crops have declined in their contribution to the economy from \$18.9 million to \$11.8 million - or 38 percent. Much of this is due to regulatory pressures, such as the water crisis in the Upper Klamath Basin.

The advent of the Northwest Forest Plan saw the closure of several local saw mills. Logging jobs have steadily decreased from 951 jobs in 1989, to 331 in 1995, to 186 in 2004. In recent years, under regulatory restrictions, the Klamath National Forest has

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:14 FAX

015/021

annually been allowed to harvest only 15 million board feet of timber, when it grows 654 million board feet in a year.

Poverty and other stressors contribute to local family problems. Siskiyou County has a very high child abuse referral rate compared to national statistics. For instance, in a total population of only 44,000, in December 2007 there were 36 referrals and three children had to be removed from their home. In that month, 83 children were in permanent foster care or a group home, 20 were in non-relative guardianship, 23 were supported by a voluntary family maintenance plan, and 69 children were in a temporary foster or other care working toward family reunification. The 2004 report entitled "Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk for Siskiyou County" (CA Dept. of Alcohol and Drug) indicates that from 2000-2002 in Siskiyou County, there were 132.1 emergency responses per 1,000 population under the age 18 for child endangerment/abuse. This compares with a statewide average of 68.6 per 1,000. County Foster care placements were 18.9 per 1,000, compared with a statewide average of 10.3.

According to an October 2008 study by Meredith Bailey CPA, Inc. entitled "A Review of Intimate Partner Violence in Siskiyou County," the rate of Type I crimes (aggravated assault, robbery and forcible rape,) is much greater in Siskiyou County than in Los Angeles. In fact aggravated assault is about five times greater. Siskiyou County also dominates the surrounding counties of Humboldt, Shasta, Lassen and Del Norte County in the rate of these crimes. The report points to "social strain" fueled by alcohol and drug use as the cause.

The report entitled "Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk for Siskiyou County" states that from 1999-2001 the annual rate of DUI arrests for Siskiyou County was 13.3 per 1000 people aged 18-69, while the average for the State of California is only 8.4. The total arrests for alcohol-related offenses (excluding DUI) was per 13.2 per 1000 people aged 18-69 in Siskiyou County, while the rate for California is only 5.9. In 1998-2000, the rate of alcohol related fatalities was 149.4 per 100,000 drivers in Siskiyou County and an average of in the entire State was 98.1.

The deterioration of the economy and social well-being of the county parallels ever increasing Endangered Species Act, Northwest Forest Plan, water quality (TMDL,) air quality and global warming regulatory schemes. Such regulations limit access to resources, inflict emotional stress from worry and frustration about compliance, eliminate jobs, increase costs of operation and allocate needed resources to environmental uses of little economic benefit to the area. This has increased stress on families and communities. CA DFG must realistically and carefully consider the direct and cumulative impact of the ITP and 1602 programs on Siskiyou County and the further harm they might cause.

This proposed regulatory scheme is not going to occur in a vacuum. I have repeatedly asked for an adequate economic/social impact statement and cumulative effects analysis from the many regulatory agencies that have imposed new layers of regulations on natural resource users in Siskiyou County. Given the current dire state of economy and social straits that this County finds itself in, I must insist that the CDFG seriously proceed

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:14 FAX

018/021

with such an analysis. We will not survive as a county if these regulations continue to destroy the fabric of our families, communities and local economy. Crafting a plan to limit the steps a landowner or irrigator must take to protect coho that is realistic, simple, affordable and does not affect land and water available for production, family income and local economies is vital. Programs that bring in financial and technical resources to put people to work in restoration and make operations more efficient and productive would be desirable.

(10) **COMMENT:** According to the Draft Quadrennial Fire Review for 2009, "most experts calculate that the nation is still in the first decade of what is expected to be a 25-30 year cycle." "[D]rought will create competition for water on ecosystems, increasing the stress on biomass and drying out vegetation." Conditions will be such that "a month should be added to the front and back of the traditional fire season. Fires will continue to be large and of high intensity. There will be shorter wetter winters and warmer, drier summers.

In light of the above assessment, what consideration is being made so that farmers and ranchers will not be expected to mitigate for climate change and its impact on temperature, hydrology, vegetation and sedimentation from fire, in addition to their own discrete impacts?

### Specific Comments on the DEIR text:

- Page S-3 - *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (SSRT)* - The SSRT strategy was created as a series of actions to be taken voluntarily by agriculturalists and others to help achieve recovery of coho in the Scott and Shasta River valleys. It appears that this "voluntary" approach has now morphed into a menu of mitigation measures to be forcibly implemented through the regulatory umbrella of the ITP and 1602. The likelihood that any discrete action of a farmer or rancher could be tied directly by proximate cause to the death of a coho does not appear to be that great. Yet the actions being required to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts appear extraordinary and disproportionate to the risk of provable taking (kill.) It is as though the decline in coho populations is being attributed entirely to agricultural operations or that the ITP is being used to implement the recovery strategy, not to "fully mitigate" kill.

I would also like to point out that the final SSRT recommendations were never presented to the Board of Supervisors, even though personally I requested this several times from Mr. Craig Martz.

- S-12 to 15 - "ground disturbing activities" requiring professional special status plant surveys, archaeological and paleontological surveys; beginning a "covered activity" requiring professional surveys for sandhill cranes, Swainson's hawk and willow flycatchers. It appears that expensive surveys may be required in order to engage in normal farming activities, such as plowing/tilling.
- S-14 - *Grazing in the "riparian zone"* to be subject to a grazing management plan approved by CDFG. 2-13 *Grazing adjacent to the channel requiring a CDFG approved grazing management plan. 2-19 and 24 Riparian Fencing and Planting -*

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:14 FAX

017/021

*requirement for revegetation and exclusion fencing. 3.2-19 Grazing "adjacent to the channel" may only occur with and approved grazing management plan.* It appears that the ITP page 26 establishes that a livestock exclusion fencing requirement of 35 feet would be required. Exceptional use of this fenced riparian area for grazing to reduce noxious weeds, etc., would require a special grazing management plan. In some areas (particularly the Shasta River,) tight meanders create conditions where the fence would have to follow the river contours, as a straight line would substantially reduce available land for productive use. The question also arises about those who currently have a 20 foot fence. Would these have to be moved and more land taken out of production? It is assumed that riparian stock watering access would be provided. Otherwise, exclusion for five years or more could amount to a physical takings of a water right. As other provisions appear to require planting of trees in riparian areas, it would seem that this could result in a substantial conversion of land use into non-use "buffer" areas and a reduction of highly productive soils available for agriculture and economic use. Please include these considerations in an economic impact analysis.

- 1-3 *Covered Activities could affect the beds of navigable waters.* Please see previous comments on non-navigable status.
- 2-13 *Requirement to provide written consent for non-enforcement CDFG representatives to access sub-permittees' property to verify compliance with 48 hour pre-notification.* As with prior salmon survey permission forms, the landowner should be allowed to limit access to CDFG employees only. The landowner should be allowed to accompany the employee and receive a copy of any data gathered, if the landowner so desires. Liability insurance for the employee should also be guaranteed.
- 2-15 *The sub-permittee and SJRCD should be solely responsible for any costs they incur in implementing avoidance, minimization, mitigation and monitoring measures.* As previously explained, many agriculturalists in Siskiyou County are in a low income group. Necessity and environmental justice require that measures for sub-permittees be reasonable and affordable. Permittees should not be required to bear an unreasonable burden for the public benefit to the point of destruction of their small business and family income. RCDs have no income, so they are dependent upon receiving grant funding in order to implement measures. As expressed previously, I have concerns about unrealistic expectations to the contrary.
- 2-16 - *Fish Screens* - originally, it was the CDFG's statutory responsibility to install fish screens on diversions that had been in place prior to a certain date. CDFG had done only a handful in the Scott, so the RCD took up an ambitious voluntary plan to accelerate the program and acquired grants to install fish screens throughout the valley. I believe almost all diversions within coho range have now been installed. The ITP, however, seems to shift the burden of fish screens to the individual irrigator. I am concerned that in the event of one of our serious periodic floods, irrigators will be expected to replace out of pocket fish screens that range from \$10,000 to more than \$100,000 in cost.
- 2-10 *Tailwater Capture systems.* It is my understanding that the Scott River Adjudication decree specifically allocates tailwater. CDFG may encounter some legal difficulties with the adjudication in implementing measures for reduction and capture. At the very least, there should be a provision that no one should be harmed in the receipt of water due them under the adjudication from such measures.

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 18:14 FAX

018/021

- *2-21 Maintaining Connectivity of the Tributaries in the Mainstem.* This provision should be reviewed for potential property takings implications.
- *2-21 and 2-23 Contingency Plan for Dry and Critically-Dry Water Years, Diversion Ramp Up Management Plan, Stranding and reducing or cessation of diversions.* This provision should be reviewed for potential property takings implications.
- *2-22 Water efficiency programs.* There is a very real concern that so called "water efficiency" measures may affect the timing of river flows. Rather than storing water not used for evapotranspiration in the subsurface soil profile like a sponge, allowing it to be cooled as it travels into the summer through soils to the river, super efficient delivery systems will deliver only what is evaporated or transpired by the plant, allow unused spring flows to rapidly leave the system to the Klamath, leaving little stored in the soil profile to linger and feed summer flows. Flood irrigation, although thought to be inefficient, may actually evaporate less because of less exposure to wind. It also recharges the aquifer and allows for surface storage to feed later summer flows. "Efficiency" is a factor in late summer for flows, but at other times of the year may be a detriment. Also, many of the so-called "leaky ditches" provide hydration for wetlands and other ecosystems that have grown to depend upon them. Piping or replacement delivery systems could significantly affect that.
- *2-23 Alternative Stock Water systems.* See prior comments about loss of habitat from efficiency and property takings. Ditch leakage may currently supply domestic wells along the route. Loss of that water could be problematic. There are also the design concerns regarding the creation of a system that will adequately operate in freezing conditions.
- *2-27 Watermaster* – The issue of property takings for actions required of the Watermaster (outside of administering the adjudication) that may shut off water from a water rights owner and reallocate that water to a public purpose should be analyzed and discussed. The Watermaster is an agent of the court whose purpose is to administer the adjudication in the field, where so directed by the Court. The CDFG appears to be requiring expensive Watermaster Service or something similar for those not currently required by the court to have it. The ITP appears also to be coopting the duties of an official Watermaster to implement reductions in water allocations outside of the court decree. Also, the State Legislature passed a law allowing for the establishment of a local Watermaster service and district on the Scott River system. This district was created and representatives appointed by the Board of Supervisors. I believe they are in the process of obtaining court recognition. The local service was initiated because of the astronomical future rate increases indicated by the Watermaster. It has not yet been fully implemented. The ITP fails to address any additional costs that would be passed on to the water user from new Watermaster duties and only assumes that the DWR Watermaster will be providing the service. ITP Coverage needs to include the new local option as well.
- *3-2 Mitigation* - The third and fourth paragraphs appear to indicate that historic and ongoing activities of farmers and ranchers in Scott Valley would not require mitigation. (Presumably they would still require avoidance and minimization, which is what the ITO "Conditions" are all about.) The mitigation is for the physical changes the actual 1602 and ITP requirements would cause, in order to bring them to less than significant impact levels. Is this correct? As the RCD would be held responsible for

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 18:14 FAX

018/021

- mitigation under the ITP and as the program is largely beneficial to the environment, then the mitigations expected of the RCD would appear to be negligible. Please clarify further.
- *Page 3-4 Physical Changes Likely to Result from Program* – I am concerned that less agricultural water is expected to be diverted. Is this from defacto property takings? As any analysis been done on how this will affect the productivity of the land and the local economy? I am concerned that "conditions placed on ground-disturbing activities" for various studies may be a very expensive permit to farm.
- *3.1-7 Nurseries* - An extensive nursery operation does exist in Scott Valley (Cal Forest Nurseries.)
- *3.1-12 and 3.1-27 Zoning and Subdivision* - As set forth in our new Five Year Strategic Plan, the County will be reviewing its General Plan elements and zoning for possible revision. It will also be considering new area plans. I assume that land use and trends will be considered in the process. Should land currently zoned for agriculture lose access to irrigation or be tied up in such expensive and onerous regulations that the agriculture ceases to be an economically viable use of the land, it is possible that changes will be made. There are currently areas in the Shasta Valley where there is considerable developmental pressure and at least one owner has already tried to opt out early from their Williamson Act contract in order to subdivide.
- *3.1-6 Williamson Act* - Due to the State Budget and proposals to discontinue the Williamson Act subvention payments to the County, many contracts now contain the following wording:

"If in any year the State fails to make any of the subvention payments to the County required under the provision of the Open Space Subvention Act, then this Contract, at the option of, and in the sole and absolute discretion of the County, may be terminated by the County."
- *3.1-17 Efficiencies and Groundwater.* (See Prior Comments made.) According to Dr. Thomas Harter, the average annual discharge in the Scott Valley watershed is 615,000 acre feet of water. This is more than the groundwater basin can hold (400,000 acre ft. – U.S. Geological Survey.) The Department of Water Resources has estimated that agriculture uses only 70-90,000 acre ft. It would seem to be that storage of peak flows, conjunctive use and other management options could be honed to meet the needs of both agriculture and fish. The Scott Valley is definitely NOT in an overdraft situation. The water just isn't where it is needed at certain times of the year. Water that has left the system in the winter and spring might be better stored in high mountain lakes (as it was historically,) aquifers or other storage for later release.
- *3.1-25 and 26 Significant "Physical Effects" such as Land Conversion.* Page 3.1-9 discussed the "low profitability of existing local agricultural production" and the current average net profit. Expensive regulatory schemes that add to costs and decrease that limited margin of profit are likely to push operations over the threshold to not profitable – resulting in land conversion. Regulatory schemes that expect to reallocate water from agriculture in any way that effects productivity reduces the profitability margin and pushes operations over the threshold to non-profitable – resulting in land conversion.

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:15 FAX

020/021

The 1996 Siskiyou County Comprehensive Land and Resource Management Plan states that: "Since the majority of land in Siskiyou County is non-private land, and the County's major industries livestock, farming, timber, mining and recreation - are tied to that land and pertinent resources either directly or indirectly, then all economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects are interrelated..." Considering the long term state of economic distress that Siskiyou County continues to experience, costs, loss of productivity and land conversion from productivity have the potential for serious impacts on the county and should be analyzed.

- 3.2-5 *Sediment* It should be considered that the Scott River is an unstable system. Past large mining operations (Yuba dredges, Hydraulic Mining) - particularly close to the headwaters of the Scott River (Callahan,) Oro Fino and Moffett Creek (Cherry Creek) have caused ongoing instability in the sediment regime. In addition, fires up Kidder Creek and down in the Scott River Canyon have caused mass land movement. The Army Corps of Engineers also straightened rivers, removing meanders and access of the river to the floodplain. This has caused downcutting and widening of the rivers. Youngs dam and its removal has caused head cutting up the river. In addition, periodic large flooding events tend to erode huge areas of land and redistribute gravel onto agricultural fields. In the past, this has ripped out restoration work intended to help mitigate the erosion problem. It would be entirely unreasonable and it would show a huge lack of perspective to expect farmers and ranchers to cure this instability by merely planting trees and excluding livestock from riparian areas. They have tried this for decades with minimum success.
- 3.2-25 *Draw down of the water table* - Findings from the static well monitoring study shows regular annual recharge of wells with the exception of one or two in a particular area (Eastside?) that appear to be on a slower recharge cycle. Scott Valley does not have an overdraft problem.
- 3.2-32 *Decline in Scott River baseflow* Attributed to an increase of consumptive use and groundwater extraction. I understand that the figures attributing decreases in baseflow to agriculture in the recent Van Kirk report do not reconcile with the DWR figures since 1954 and complaints have been filed about the report's quality. Dr. Thomas Harter is the researcher closest to the field work actually being done in the Scott River area.
- 3.3-41 *Channel Dewatering* - I attended a meeting where the previous DWR Water Master (I believe it may have been Mr. Dicks) indicated that it was his professional opinion that if everyone stopped irrigating in the Valley, that it would only delay dewatering in some stretches by - one to two weeks. I feel it is disingenuous to lay the blame for dewatering on agriculture. Dr. Dan Drake and others have done studies to show the recent decline in snowpack in the area. The Scott River Watershed Council has done studies that show that water supplies vary from year to year according to when snowmelt occurs. Also refer to my comment #9 on climate change trends. One would need to be able to show that the action of the diverter was directly responsible for killing the fish (proximate cause.)
- 3-3-42 *Habitat availability, habitat reductions, available summer rearing habitat, affects on fish growth, migration barriers, fish densities* do not reach the level of avoiding the "kill" standard of CESA. Beyond that, water adjustments move across the threshold into cutting off a diverter's water and reallocating it to fish, which would

## Comment Letter 1

12/09/2008 16:15 FAX

021/021

appear to be a compensable property taking (Casitas Municipal Water District v. United States.)

- 3-2-50 *State Regulation and Oversight of Water Rights* (Please see prior comments on pre-1914 water use rights as privately owned property which is not permitted or licensed.) The Water Use Rights as decreed under the Scott River Adjudication are under the jurisdiction of the Siskiyou County Superior Court.
- 3.2-57 *Mitigations* - instream equipment operation limited to July 1-October 15 How will this apply to irrigators with "push up dams" at the start of irrigation season?
- 3.2-57 *Instream structures* - Under flood conditions, who would be responsible for damage incurred to downriver landowners or County infrastructure - roads and bridges - from movement of these structures? Who would be responsible for replacing these structures if lost?
- 4.2 *et al Cumulative Effects*. As indicated previously, "Since the majority of land in Siskiyou County is non-private land, and the County's major industries livestock, farming, timber, mining and recreation - are tied to that land and pertinent resources either directly or indirectly, then all economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects are interrelated..."(SC Comp. Lnd. and Res. Mgt. Pln.) Cumulative effects analysis should include and consider, not just physical effects, but effects on the social and economic environment as well.

This concludes my initial comment. In summary, I have significant concerns about the apparent reallocation of water to instream use by the Watermaster and whether this constitutes a property taking. There are some serious concerns about the new interpretation of CA Fish and Game Code 1602 and its application to diverters that do not physically change the bank or channel in the process of diverting. I was disappointed to see that there are so many measures required under the 1602 and ITP that could be expensive to implement and would take land out of agricultural production. Although an attempt was made to look at impacts on agriculture, no serious analysis has been done about the cumulative effects of regulation and specific effects of this program on the economic and social fabric of Siskiyou County.

Sincerely,

Marcia H. Armstrong, Fifth District Supervisor  
Siskiyou County  
P.O. Box 750  
Yreka, CA 96097



**COUNTY OF SISKIYOU**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

Ric Costales, Natural Resource Policy Specialist  
P.O. Box 750 • 201 Fourth Street, Yreka, CA 96097  
Phone: (530) 842-8012, Fax Number: (530) 842-8013  
Email: rcostales@co.siskiyou.ca.us

December 9, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Subject: DEIR on the Scott and Shasta Rivers Watershed-wide Permitting Program

Dear Mr. Williams:

At its Board meeting today, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution asking for an extension of the comment period. Unfortunately, today was the first time the Department of Fish and Game made a presentation to the Board since the DEIR was released in October. It also happens to be the last day of the comment period.

The Board has increasingly heard from constituents that people really don't understand what they are being asked to comment on. The perception has developed that it is important that more time is given to let people know what is being proposed so that they can make comments that might substantively affect the final EIR.

Due to the lack of time to get a certified copy of this resolution, I have been authorized to fax you this signed copy of it so that you might receive it before the end of the comment period. A copy of the certified resolution will be faxed to you as soon as the County Clerk has completed the certification process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ric Costales, Natural Resource Policy Specialist  
County of Siskiyou

1.1-1

**RESOLUTION OF THE SISKIYOU COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF THE COMMENT PERIOD FOR  
THE SCOTT AND SHASTA RIVERS  
WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is the decision-making body responsible for many issues affecting the citizens of Siskiyou County; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to their decision-making ability that the Supervisors be apprised and informed to the greatest degree possible on all issues; and

WHEREAS, state and federal agencies are required by numerous state and federal laws to insure that local governments are as knowledgeable as possible with regard to state and federal initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed-wide Permitting Programs for the Scott and Shasta rivers are critical to the sustainability of agriculture in Siskiyou County; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a critical component of the custom, culture and economy of Siskiyou County; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed-wide Permitting Programs for the Scott and Shasta rivers are complex documents requiring considerable explanation to be able to interpret and comment upon; and

WHEREAS, the appearance of the California Department of Fish and Game before the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on the Watershed-wide Permitting Programs for the Scott and Shasta rivers is coming on the last date of the comment period; and

WHEREAS, such short time to digest the results of this presentation leaves little opportunity for the Board to develop substantive comments; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors requests the California Department of Fish and Game to extend the comment period on the Watershed-wide Permitting Programs for the Scott and Shasta rivers for 60 days.

1.1-1  
cont.

Passed and adopted this December 9, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Overman, Erickson, Armstrong, Kobse and Cook  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE

  
W.R. Overman, Chair  
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
Colleen Setzer, County Clerk

3/Wendy Wingham  
Deputy

December 7, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
Dept. of Fish and Game  
601 Locust St.  
Redding, CA 96001

As Siskiyou County Supervisor for the Fifth District, the following are my initial comments on the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and for the Shasta, (insofar as DEIR statements and provisions are similar to the Scott.) These comments are submitted in the context of general support for the concept and program. am commenting in my capacity as an individual County Supervisor.

2-1

**General Comments and Authorities:**

(1) Siskiyou County Code – Title 10 Planning and Zoning, Chapter 12. County Participation in State and Federal Agencies Land Transactions, Sec. 10-12.01 Findings states:

“(b) In order to protect the customs, culture, economy, resources, and environment of the County of Siskiyou, it is critical that federal and state agencies recognize and address the effects of any actions proposed within the County which may affect matters, including, but not limited to, economic growth, public health, safety and welfare, land use, the environment, conservation of natural resources, such as timber, water, fish, wildlife, mineral resources, agriculture, grazing, and recreational opportunities.

(c) The coordination and consideration of the County's interest is required by law, such as in those requirements set forth in the National Environmental Protection Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Federal Administrative Procedures Act, the State of California Public Resources Code, the California Environmental Quality Act, and numerous other federal and state statutes and administrative procedures.

(d) These various state and federal laws provide for participation by Siskiyou County and the public through opportunities for comment on proposed projects and actions.”

2-2

Sec. 10-12.02 Notification, referral, and consultation procedures states:

“(a) All federal and state agencies shall inform the County of Siskiyou, or its designee, of all pending, contemplated or proposed actions affecting local communities, citizens, or affecting County policy, and shall, if requested by the County, coordinate the planning and implementation of those actions with the County or its designee(s). Such notification shall include a detailed description of the proposed plan, procedure, rule, guideline, or amendment sufficient to fully inform lay persons of its intent and effects, including the effects on the resources, environment, customs, culture, and economic stability of the County of Siskiyou.

**(b) The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors shall be consulted in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of California and the United States regarding**



**any pending, contemplated, or proposed actions affecting local communities and citizens.**

(c) All federal and state agencies shall, to the fullest extent permissible by law, comply with all applicable procedures, policies, and practices issued by the County of Siskiyou.

(d) When required by law or when requested by the County of Siskiyou, all federal and state agencies proposing actions that may impact citizens of the County of Siskiyou shall prepare and submit in writing, and in a timely manner as soon as is practicable, report(s) on the purposes, objectives and estimated impacts of such actions, including environmental, health, social, customs, cultural and economic impacts, to the County of Siskiyou. Those reports shall be provided to the County of Siskiyou for review and coordination with sufficient time to prepare a meaningful response for consideration by the federal or state agency.

(e) Before federal and state agencies can alter land use(s), environmental review of the proposed action shall be conducted by the lead agency and mitigation measures adopted in accordance with policies, practices, and procedures applicable to the proposed action and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. Impact studies shall, as needed, address the effects on community and economic resources, the environment, local customs and public health, safety, and welfare, culture, grazing rights, flood prone areas and access and any other relevant impacts.”

2-2  
cont.

**COMMENT:** As of this date, the CA Dept. of Fish and Game has failed to come before the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors to present the DEIR or the Shasta and Scott Recovery Team recommendations referenced in the DEIR as mitigation measures. Only one hearing was held on the Scott River DEIR in Scott Valley and this was to gather comments only. No meeting has ever been held where the Board or the public could freely ask questions about the program itself. I now understand that CDFG has scheduled a Board presentation on Dec. 9, (the same day that comments are due.) This will be the very first opportunity for the Board to find out more about the program and to ask questions. The public also needs an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed program itself. I would respectfully request that the deadline for comments be extended to allow for additional analysis by the staff and public.

(2) As outlined in this year’s Resolution of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors “Asserting Legal Standing and Formally Requesting Coordination with All State and Federal Agencies Maintaining Jurisdiction Over Lands And/Or Resources Located in Siskiyou County,” the County directs that “state agencies shall inform the Board of Supervisors of all ending or proposed actions affecting local communities and citizens within Siskiyou County and coordinate with the Board of Supervisors in the planning and implementation of those actions;” citing:

2-3

- The California Constitution has recognized Siskiyou County's authority to exercise its local, police and sanitary powers, and the California Legislature has recognized and mandated exercise of certain of those powers in specific statutes; and;



- The California Legislature has mandated in Government Code Section 65300 that each county shall prepare a comprehensive plan, and stated legislative intent in Section 65300.9 that the county planning shall be coordinated with federal and state program activities, and has mandated in Section 65103 that county local plans and programs must be coordinated with plans and programs of other agencies; and,
- The California Legislature has mandated in Section 65040 that the State Office of Planning and Research shall "coordinate, in conjunction with ... local agencies with regard to matters relating to the environmental quality of the state; and,
- Water Code §§ 8125-8129, the California Legislature has placed planning for non-navigable streams within the authority of county supervisors, and since such planning activities must be coordinated with natural resource planning processes of federal and state agencies; and
- Public Resources Code § 5099.3, the California Legislature has mandated coordination by the state with Siskiyou County since it is a county "having interest in the planning, development, and maintenance of outdoor recreation resources and facilities,"

2-3  
cont.

(3) Siskiyou County has local natural resource planning authority. Government Code 65302 states:

(d) A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources. The conservation element shall consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on natural resources located on public lands, including military installations.

That portion of the conservation element including waters shall be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency and with all district and city agencies that have developed, served, controlled or conserved water for any purpose for the county or city for which the plan is prepared. Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any water supply and demand information described in Section 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency to the city or county. The conservation element may also cover the following:

2-4

- (1) The reclamation of land and waters.
- (2) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters.
- (3) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.
- (4) Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores.
- (5) Protection of watersheds.
- (6) The location, quantity and quality of the rock, sand and gravel resources.
- (7) Flood control.

Siskiyou County’s Conservation Element - Page 18 establishes the intent to coordinate with the CA Department of Fish and Game. On page 101, the Conservation Element outlines the County's jurisdiction as relates to fisheries habitat and land use planning. Page 112 outlines some of our jurisdiction over watersheds and water recharge lands.

**COMMENT:** The CA Dept. of Fish and Game does not appear to have formally consulted Siskiyou County Planning Agencies, County Agricultural Dept. and coordinated with County Natural Resource Specialist Ric Costales or the Board of Supervisors, in the preparation of the DEIR and CEQA process. It appears to have taken the liberty on its own of interpreting and applying provisions of the General Plan and Scott Valley Plan for the County.

(4) The 1996 Siskiyou County Comprehensive Land and Resource Management Plan specifies:

Introduction and Statement of Purpose

...“Accordingly, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Siskiyou declares that it is the policy of the county to require each and every federal (see Appendix I) and state agency administering, managing or regulating lands or natural resources within the county to fully coordinate with the county at the initiation and throughout the planning process, whenever proposed plans, actions, regulations, restrictions or establishment of productivity levels are being considered.”

General Processes, Methods And Goals Of An Analysis By Agencies

“Plans or actions by agency, inter-agency or other decision-making groups shall contain information and discussion to facilitate a coordinated planning effort between the agency and county government. Participation by the county in multi-interest planning, advisory or decision-making processes does not replace, abridge or satisfy the requirements for coordinated consultation and coordination between county government and the decision making agency(s).

“This information for a coordinated planning effort shall include effects on the physical, social and economic environment. This includes the physical environment, historic customs, culture, useage, property rights, economic welfare, general prosperity and economic stability of communities in Siskiyou County. Actions or plans with non-significant impacts or negative impacts on the physical environment shall also be included since those actions or plans may have significant social and/or economic implications, including cumulative impacts.

**“Since the majority of land in Siskiyou County is non-private land, and the County's major industries livestock, farming, timber, mining and recreation - are**

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**tied to that land and pertinent resources either directly or indirectly, then all economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects are interrelated...”**

“Discussions of effects on the County’s natural resources and environmental quality should include but are not limited to:

1. fisheries and wildlife resources
2. forest and timber resources
3. range resources
4. dryland crops
5. watershed resources
6. private surface and ground water rights and irrigated cropland
7. mineral resources
8. recreational opportunities
9. environmental quality of air, water, and soils
10. integrated resource planning and management in which county private parties and/or public interests are involved
11. multiple use, sustained yield and range resource laws
12. private investments, property interests and regulations into public land resources
13. impacts on privately owned land, improvements and resources or adjacent to federal or state managed land where the plan, program or project is proposed
14. Discussions of effects on the County’s culture, governance, schools, social services and other local programs include but are not limited to:
  15. The culture of the county due to potential population loss.
  16. The culture of the county from possible limitations and restrictions on cultural beliefs and practices, diversity and choice of lifestyle, and maintenance of cultural, community, generational and familial cohesion and kinship.
  17. Cultural and community aesthetics, including historic sites, natural resource vistas, river ways and landscapes.
  18. The County's ability to protect and provide services for the health, safety, and social and cultural well-being of its citizens
  19. The County's ability to finance public programs and services through bonding, lending and other financing mechanisms
  20. Local governments (towns, etc.) and schools from identified tax revenue loss
  21. Local emergency medical services, law enforcement, fire (and wildfire) protection and nuisance abatement
  22. The local infrastructure, including transportation, community water, sewer, power, electric power generation and transmission systems, (including irrigation and reclamation districts), service districts, and landfill services.
  23. Local community well-being, stability of governance, and the education and welfare of children from cumulative and long-term impacts
  24. Pest and predation control, and weed abatement.

Discussions of effects on the County’s economy, customs, usages, services and businesses to include but are not limited to:



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1. Economic diversity
2. Private investment backed expectations
3. Direct, indirect and cumulative employment (including those who are self-employed) and wages
4. The industries of cattle, farming, timber, mining and recreation - specifying unit cost effects (e.g. economic value of animal unit months (AUMs), million board feet (MMBF), measurements of cubic feet per second (cfs) or acre feet of water, yield per acre, acres in production), recreational user days or other units of measurement as appropriate.
5. Local businesses directly and indirectly related to the resource decision or plan.
6. Housing, real estate values, residential energy, water, sewer and sanitation needs.
7. Variable thresholds for business demand and markets.
8. Marketability of workforce skills
9. Business and financial planning and the ability to obtain financing dependent upon continued availability and productive use of a natural resource.
10. The level of manufacturing or processing technology required of local industry, dependent upon the availability of suitable raw materials.
11. Local community well-being, stability and ability to maintain current and future debt service by long-term and cumulative impacts.

“Direct and indirect impacts on economics, and ramifications of planned activities on local economics shall use appropriate multipliers.

“Discussions shall include any effects on property rights and protectable interests in the County. In addition to these requirements, there shall be an evaluation of the impacts on property rights, as subject under California Executive Order D-78-89 on Regulatory Takings, the United States Presidential Executive Order No. 12630, entitled "Government Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights", and the Attorney General’s guidelines entitle "Evaluation of Risks and Avoidance of Unanticipated Takings", mandating that the following tests or criterion be used in assessing possible taking of private property rights:

1. Whether the plan, program or project constitutes an actual physical intrusion or actual taking
2. Whether the plan, program or project constitutes a regulatory taking
3. Potential for partial or full loss of economic value or investment backed expectation
4. Related effects on custom, culture and usage
5. Whether the agency action conforms to constitutionally protected property rights and commonly accepted notions of fairness and due process
6. Cost of compliance.

“Discussions shall include cumulative, long-term effects on the County’s economy, culture, usage, services and businesses. Plans, programs or actions may have insignificant impacts when analyzed individually, however, cumulative long-term impacts when combined with plans that have similar direct or indirect impacts may be significant.



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## Comment Letter 2

Infrastructure of economic sectors, culture, customs, usage, services and community stability must be evaluated and protected from cumulative effects.”

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**COMMENT:** (This is informational)

(5) **COMMENT:** Under Baldwin v. County of Tehama (1994) and In re Maas (1933,) Siskiyou County has clearly asserted jurisdiction over groundwater management through the passage of Siskiyou County Code Title 3. Public Safety, Chapter 13 Groundwater Management. Recently, as part of the TMDL Action Plan by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB), Siskiyou County submitted a groundwater study plan to the NCRWQCB prepared by Dr. Thomas Harter, Ph.D. of University of California Extension Dept. of Land and water Management for the Scott Valley. Historically, Siskiyou County has also helped to fund a static well study in the area.

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(6) **COMMENT:** Under Water Code §§ 8125-8129, the California Legislature has placed planning for non-navigable streams within the authority of county supervisors. The code states that:

"Non-navigable streams," as used in this article, means streams and washes in a county which are not declared by law to be navigable and which are not in fact navigable for commercial purposes. 8126. The board of supervisors may provide for widening, deepening, straightening, removing obstructions from, and otherwise improving non-navigable streams the overflow of which interferes with highways, and for protecting the banks and adjacent lands from overflow of non-navigable streams. 8127. The board may make regulations for the use of the streams and the repair and control of the works. 8128. No regulations of the board nor improvements directed by it to be made shall in any manner interfere with the private rights or privileges of riparian owners, miners, or others. 8129. Whenever, in the opinion of the board of supervisors, the general fund is insufficient to defray the cost of the improvements provided for under this article, the board may levy a tax or contract a bonded indebtedness therefore in the manner provided by Title 3 of the Government Code.”

2-7

Historically, (150 years) Siskiyou County has considered the Scott River and its tributaries to be non-navigable and the bed and banks of these rivers in vested private ownership. Lux v Hagin (1886); Scott v. Lattig (1913); United States v. State of Utah (1931). (It is a long established principle that a vested right cannot be resumed, annulled or later modified by the grantor through legislation or otherwise. Further, States are barred from impairing the obligation of contracts, including these vested rights Hughes v. Washington (1967.)

In 1913, Donnelly v. U.S. established the navigability of the Klamath River. This is reflected in the California Codes – Harbors and Navigation Code Section 103. The Klamath is the only river so listed for the County of Siskiyou.

Absent a definitive judicial determination that the Scott River is, indeed, navigable, the question arises as to the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission over the river. The

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## Comment Letter 2

State Lands Commission appears to have no jurisdiction over non-navigable streams: California Public Resources Code Section 29300-29308.

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(7) **COMMENT:** The Proposed ITP appears to include the redirection of water from private use for irrigation to instream uses for fish and habitat. Many of the water use rights in Scott Valley are either riparian or were established by appropriation and continuous beneficial use in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century - well before 1914 when the People of the State claimed surplus water beyond vested rights. (In San Bernardino v. Riverside (1921) and Palmer v. Railroad Commission (1914) the Court specifically stated that the 1911 statute declaring water the “property of the people” did not apply to private water use rights already vested.) Most water use rights in the Scott are vested, privately owned and valuable property, and not revocable “permitted” or licensed water use subject to conditions from the state.

In the recent United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit case –Casitas Municipal Water District v. United States (2008), it was reinforced that a physical invasion of privately owned property (water use right) by government appropriation, or a regulatory action which causes “an owner to suffer a permanent invasion of her property – however minor,” or a regulatory action that “completely deprive[s] an owner of ‘all economically beneficial use’ constituted a compensable property taking under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution. Restrictions on water use rights for the public use of protection of endangered species – including instream use was recognized as a “taking” of property. The case further denies claims that appropriation of natural resources for environmental use is not for government use under the Fifth Amendment: “...preservation of an endangered species is for government and third party use – the public- which serves a public purpose.” In addition, Casitas makes a distinction between the ruling in Tahoe-Sierra on the basis that the Tahoe decision did not physically appropriate anything, change or diminish the property.

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Under the ITP, it appears that the Water Master would be required to reduce water diversion for instream flow needs of fish. Will compensation for reallocation of this valuable property to public use be provided through the Water Trust? There are also questions regarding the Dry Year plan and connectivity requirements. The ITP also seems to require conversions of an undefined corridor of riparian lands to lands planted in trees for the benefit of endangered species habitat. In addition, it appears to recognize the CA DFG as land use authority in regard to grazing in this undefined area of land.

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In January 1993, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors Passed Resolution 93-19 requesting that the state evaluate possible takings of the private property or private property rights of the citizens of Siskiyou County prior to the implementation of any action, decision or regulation effecting said citizens; to formally evaluate and avoid the risk of unanticipated private property takings and investment backed expectations; and that the property owner shall be justly compensated for losses as mandated by the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the State of California without undue delay.

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I am concerned about the potential in many of the mitigations being imposed for the creation of “unconstitutional conditions,” which would require the surrender of rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States in exchange for a valuable discretionary privilege which the state threatens otherwise to withhold. This includes the right to privacy (property access,) the right to receive just compensation when property is taken for a public use.

I am concerned that a “permit” (1602) requirement is being categorically imposed on the exercise of a long vested and valuable property right (pre-1914 water use right) - making it, essentially a discretionary conditional privilege. Many of these early appropriative water rights were granted as an invasion of riparian rights on federal lands under the federal Act of 1866. It is a long established principle that a vested right cannot be resumed, annulled or later modified by the grantor through legislation or otherwise. Further, States are barred from impairing the obligation of contracts, including these vested rights Hughes v. Washington (1967.) It is also established in law that whenever a grant is made, it also included whatever was necessary for taking and enjoying the property, (diversion of an appropriative right.)

The DEIR appears to indicate that a 1602 permit is required to operate all diversions, even if no physical disruption of the channel occurs. The California Farm Bureau has indicated that no where else in California has the CDFG interpreted the 1602 provisions to categorically require a conditional permit on all water diversions for irrigation. The code originated from a need to control land disturbing activities – not exercise of water use rights as simple as lifting a headgate:

1602 - (a) “An entity may not substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, unless all of the following occur:”

This raises the question of equal treatment under the law. If Scott Valley residents are required to obtain a permit to use their water use right (divert,) then everyone in California should also be required to do so.

I am also concerned about the “rough proportionality” of the conditions being imposed in relationship to the reasonable impact and actual risk of “kill” from the individual covered activity. (Dolan v. City of Tigard, 1994). (For instance, does the risk of sediment and foraging in riparian areas proportionately justify the conversion of land to trees and the imposition of an entire regulatory scheme to permit grazing on an undefined amount of ‘riparian’ land?)

(8) **COMMENT:** Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Agencies are directed to avoid, minimize



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or mitigate: (1) disproportionate health, environmental, social and economic effects on low-income populations; and (2) barriers to participation in the decision-making process and self-determination by low income populations.

Obviously, the DEIR clearly establishes Scott Valley and the entirety of Siskiyou County as an economically depressed area (Long Term Economic Distress page 3.1-4 DEIR.) With a median household income of \$32,531 and the average net cash profitability of local farms and ranches at \$29,747, those engaged in agriculture in the County constitute a low income population. In addition, the ranching and farming families of Siskiyou County represent a unique cultural heritage as the descendants of pioneer California families. Many operate Century ranches that have been in existence since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 1996 Siskiyou County Comprehensive Land and Resource Management Plan chronicles the custom, culture and history of this significant cultural group in Siskiyou County.

Considerations should be made to ensure that financial implications from implementing measures in the 1602 and ITP are minimized for individual family farms and the County agricultural population as a whole. (This includes indirect costs from additional Water Master service, replacement costs of fences and fish screens after flood and other events.) The proposed measures essentially benefit endangered species, (a “public purpose,”) and costs should not be born by the individual alone. The value of preserving the culture and heritage of farming and ranching, which is of great significance to Siskiyou County and California, must be weighed in balancing costs to benefits for coho.

In addition, I am very concerned about the unknown financial costs to and liability of the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District, which serves this population in Scott Valley. Care must be given to ensure that exposure is minimized and that they are protected from the inability to acquire expected grant funding for anticipated projects to address cumulative watershed effects and mitigate claimed species “take.” A hold harmless off-ramp should be provided if grant funding is found to be unavailable.

(9) **COMMENT:** As a County suffering from “Long Term Economic Distress” (page 3.1-4 DEIR,) particular care must be taken to eliminate any additional damage to a fragile local economy and social fabric. The social and economic impacts of the proposal and cumulative effects of water quality, air quality and other regulations on agriculture and the economy of Siskiyou County as a whole have been inadequately analyzed in the DEIR.

According to the new 2007 California County Data Book, Siskiyou County is now dead last in all California Counties in family economic well-being, having the lowest median income. 65% of households with children ages 0-17 are low income, compared with a California average of 43%. The report notes that 27% of Siskiyou County’s children live in official poverty, compared to 19% for the state. Since the Northwest Forest Plan, average unemployment in the county has been 12.3%. In 2003, only 39.5% of the population was in the labor force. This is projected to decline another 8.7% by 2015. Between 1990 and 2002, official poverty rose 32.9% to 18.6% of the total population.



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Several farming communities have higher poverty rates: 26% in Fort Jones (Scott Valley); and 24.2% in Montague (Shasta Valley.) These conditions will only worsen in the current statewide economic downturn.

The deterioration of the economy in the past two decades has caused dramatic demographic changes, such as an overall decrease in the population aged 30-39, (as well as school aged children,) and an increase in the population aged 50-59, with those aged 60 making up a higher percentage of the population than the state average. School enrollment since 1990 has declined from 25-30%. This aging trend is projected to steadily increase over the next 20 years.

Other than two plywood veneer mills, Siskiyou County has almost no manufacturing industry. There is very little economic diversity, with almost the entire economy based upon continued access to natural resources. Agriculture produces \$170 million in revenue that is said to circulate in the local economy about 5 times. Tourism (mostly in the south county – Sacramento River Region) is valued at \$60 million. What is left of our timber industry brings in about \$48 million in revenues to be circulated.

(The DEIR page 3.1-9) indicates that in 2002, average annual sales per farm were approximately \$137,000 per farm, but input costs were \$107,386. The County determined in its 1999 comments regarding a proposed federal 300 foot critical habitat designation for coho, that 21% of the irrigated agriculture land base in the Shasta Valley (9,817 acres) and 35% (11,215 acres) in the Scott would be implicated and largely converted from production ag. (Currently proposed buffers and probable land conversions are indicated but not quantified in the DEIR.) A decade ago at that proposed level of involvement, the combined loss of annual ag production was estimated to be \$4,420,766. Using the multiplier effect of an income/output model by UCE, this was estimated to result in lost sales in other economic sectors of the county of \$5,913,173, losses in income of \$1,847,079 and 132 lost jobs.

It was also estimated at that time that weed infestation from projected management prohibitions in the buffer areas would amount to another \$1,225,095 in ag loss. Loss in annual timber stumpage value from riparian buffer strips was estimated at \$4,941,695. No "multiplier effect" on local economy was calculated for these projected losses. Loss in ag land value from prohibitions was estimated at \$40 million.

According to Cal. D.O.T. Siskiyou County Economic Forecast, since 1995, Siskiyou County's agriculture industries have experienced substantial job loss at about 586 jobs, declining almost 45%. For instance, since 1996, county vegetable crops have declined in their contribution to the economy from \$18.9 million to \$11.8 million - or 38 percent. Much of this is due to regulatory pressures, such as the water crisis in the Upper Klamath Basin.

The advent of the Northwest Forest Plan saw the closure of several local saw mills. Logging jobs have steadily decreased from 951 jobs in 1989, to 331 in 1995, to 186 in 2004. In recent years, under regulatory restrictions, the Klamath National Forest has



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annually been allowed to harvest only 15 million board feet of timber, when it grows 654 million board feet in a year.

Poverty and other stressors contribute to local family problems. Siskiyou County has a very high child abuse referral rate compared to national statistics. For instance, in a total population of only 44,000, in December 2007 there were 36 referrals and three children had to be removed from their home. In that month, 83 children were in permanent foster care or a group home, 20 were in non-relative guardianship, 23 were supported by a voluntary family maintenance plan, and 69 children were in a temporary foster or other care working toward family reunification. The 2004 report entitled "*Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk for Siskiyou County*" (CA Dept. of Alcohol and Drug) indicates that from 2000-2002 in Siskiyou County, there were 132.1 emergency responses per 1,000 population under the age 18 for child endangerment/abuse. This compares with a statewide average of 68.6 per 1,000. County Foster care placements were 18.9 per 1,000, compared with a statewide average of 10.3.

According to an October 2008 study by Meredith Bailey CPA, Inc. entitled "*A Review of Intimate Partner Violence in Siskiyou County*," the rate of Type I crimes (aggravated assault, robbery and forcible rape,) is much greater in Siskiyou County than in Los Angeles. In fact aggravated assault is about five times greater. Siskiyou County also dominates the surrounding counties of Humboldt, Shasta, Lassen and Del Norte County in the rate of these crimes. The report points to "social strain" fueled by alcohol and drug use as the cause.

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The report entitled "*Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk for Siskiyou County*" states that from 1999-2001 the annual rate of DUI arrests for Siskiyou County was 13.3 per 1000 people aged 18-69, while the average for the State of California is only 8.4. The total arrests for alcohol-related offenses (excluding DUI) was per 13.2 per 1000 people aged 18-69 in Siskiyou County, while the rate for California is only 5.9. In 1998-2000, the rate of alcohol related fatalities was 149.4 per 100,000 drivers in Siskiyou County and an average of in the entire State was 98.1.

The deterioration of the economy and social well-being of the county parallels ever increasing Endangered Species Act, Northwest Forest Plan, water quality (TMDL,) air quality and global warming regulatory schemes. Such regulations limit access to resources, inflict emotional stress from worry and frustration about compliance, eliminate jobs, increase costs of operation and allocate needed resources to environmental uses of little economic benefit to the area. This has increased stress on families and communities. CA DFG must realistically and carefully consider the direct and cumulative impact of the ITP and 1602 programs on Siskiyou County and the further harm they might cause.

This proposed regulatory scheme is not going to occur in a vacuum. I have repeatedly asked for an adequate economic/social impact statement and cumulative effects analysis from the many regulatory agencies that have imposed new layers of regulations on natural resource users in Siskiyou County. Given the current dire state of economy and social straits that this County finds itself in, I must insist that the CDFG seriously proceed

with such an analysis. We will not survive as a county if these regulations continue to destroy the fabric of our families, communities and local economy. Crafting a plan to limit the steps a landowner or irrigator must take to protect coho that is realistic, simple, affordable and does not affect land and water available for production, family income and local economies is vital. Programs that bring in financial and technical resources to put people to work in restoration and make operations more efficient and productive would be desirable.

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(10) **COMMENT:** According to the Draft Quadrennial Fire Review for 2009, “most experts calculate that the nation is still in the first decade of what is expected to be a 25-30 year cycle.” “[D]rought will create competition for water on ecosystems, increasing the stress on biomass and drying out vegetation.” Conditions will be such that “a month should be added to the front and back of the traditional fire season. Fires will continue to be large and of high intensity. There will be shorter wetter winters and warmer, drier summers.

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In light of the above assessment, what consideration is being made so that farmers and ranchers will not be expected to mitigate for climate change and its impact on temperature, hydrology, vegetation and sedimentation from fire, in addition to their own discrete impacts?

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**Specific Comments on the DEIR text:**

- Page S-3 - *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (SSRT)* – The SSRT strategy was created as a series of actions to be taken voluntarily by agriculturalists and others to help achieve recovery of coho in the Scott and Shasta River valleys. It appears that this “voluntary” approach has now morphed into a menu of mitigation measures to be forcibly implemented through the regulatory umbrella of the ITP and 1602. The likelihood that any discrete action of a farmer or rancher could be tied directly by proximate cause to the death of a coho does not appear to be that great. Yet the actions being required to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts appear extraordinary and disproportionate to the risk of provable taking (kill.) It is as though the decline in coho populations is being attributed entirely to agricultural operations or that the ITP is being used to implement the recovery strategy, not to “fully mitigate” kill.

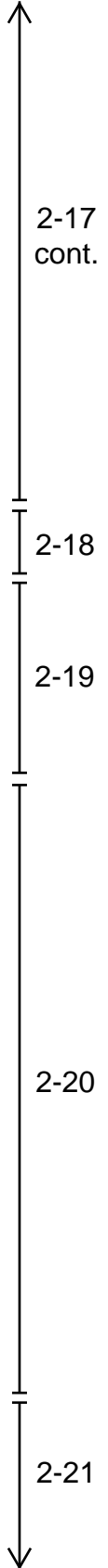
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I would also like to point out that the final SSRT recommendations were never presented to the Board of Supervisors, even though personally I requested this several times from Mr. Craig Martz.

- S-12 to 15 - “ground disturbing activities” requiring professional special status plant surveys, archaeological and paleontological surveys ; beginning a “covered activity” requiring professional surveys for sandhill cranes, Swainson’s hawk and willow flycatchers. It appears that expensive surveys may be required in order to engage in normal farming activities, such as plowing/tilling.
- S-14 – *Grazing in the “riparian zone” to be subject to a grazing management plan approved by CDFG.* 2-13 *Grazing adjacent to the channel requiring a CDFG approved grazing management plan.* 2-19 and 24 *Riparian Fencing and Planting –*

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requirement for revegetation and exclusion fencing. 3.2-19 Grazing “adjacent to the channel” may only occur with and approved grazing management plan. It appears that the ITP page 26 establishes that a livestock exclusion fencing requirement of 35 feet would be required. Exceptional use of this fenced riparian area for grazing to reduce noxious weeds, etc., would require a special grazing management plan. In some areas (particularly the Shasta River,) tight meanders create conditions where the fence would have to follow the river contours, as a straight line would substantially reduce available land for productive use. The question also arises about those who currently have a 20 foot fence. Would these have to be moved and more land taken out of production? It is assumed that riparian stock watering access would be provided. Otherwise, exclusion for five years or more could amount to a physical takings of a water right. As other provisions appear to require planting of trees in riparian areas, it would seem that this could result in a substantial conversion of land use into non-use “buffer” areas and a reduction of highly productive soils available for agriculture and economic use. Please include these considerations in an economic impact analysis.



- *1-3 Covered Activities could affect the beds of navigable waters.* Please see previous comments on non-navigable status.
- *2-15 Requirement to provide written consent for non-enforcement CDFG representatives to access sub-permittees’ property to verify compliance with 48 hour pre-notification.* As with prior salmon survey permission forms, the landowner should be allowed to limit access to CDFG employees only. The landowner should be allowed to accompany the employee and receive a copy of any data gathered, if the landowner so desires. Liability insurance for the employee should also be guaranteed.
- *2-15 The sub-permittee and SJRCD should be solely responsible for any costs they incur in implementing avoidance, minimization, mitigation and monitoring measures.* As previously explained, many agriculturalists in Siskiyou County are in a low income group. Necessity and environmental justice require that measures for sub-permittees be reasonable and affordable. Permittees should not be required to bear an unreasonable burden for the public benefit to the point of destruction of their small business and family income. RCDs have no income, so they are dependent upon receiving grant funding in order to implement measures. As expressed previously, I have concerns about unrealistic expectations to the contrary.
- *2-16 – Fish Screens -* originally, it was the CDFG’s statutory responsibility to install fish screens on diversions that had been in place prior to a certain date. CDFG had done only a handful in the Scott, so the RCD took up an ambitious voluntary plan to accelerate the program and acquired grants to install fish screens throughout the valley. I believe almost all diversions within coho range have now been installed. The ITP, however, seems to shift the burden of fish screens to the individual irrigator. I am concerned that in the event of one of our serious periodic floods, irrigators will be expected to replace out of pocket fish screens that range from \$10,000 to more than \$100,000 in cost.
- *2-10 Tailwater Capture systems.* It is my understanding that the Scott River Adjudication decree specifically allocates tailwater. CDFG may encounter some legal difficulties with the adjudication in implementing measures for reduction and capture. At the very least, there should be a provision that no one should be harmed in the receipt of water due them under the adjudication from such measures.

## Comment Letter 2

- *2-21 Maintaining Connectivity of the Tributaries in the Mainstem.* This provision should be reviewed for potential property takings implications.
  - *2-21 and 2-23 Contingency Plan for Dry and Critically-Dry Water Years, Diversion Ramp Up Management Plan, Stranding and reducing or cessation of diversions.* This provision should be reviewed for potential property takings implications.
  - *2-22 Water efficiency programs.* There is a very real concern that so called “water efficiency” measures may affect the timing of river flows. Rather than storing water not used for evapotranspiration in the subsurface soil profile like a sponge, allowing it to be cooled as it travels into the summer through soils to the river, super efficient delivery systems will deliver only what is evaporated or transpired by the plant, allow unused spring flows to rapidly leave the system to the Klamath, leaving little stored in the soil profile to linger and feed summer flows. Flood irrigation, although thought to be inefficient, may actually evaporate less because of less exposure to wind. It also recharges the aquifer and allows for surface storage to feed later summer flows. “Efficiency” is a factor in late summer for flows, but at other times of the year may be a detriment. Also, many of the so-called “leaky ditches” provide hydration for wetlands and other ecosystems that have grown to depend upon them. Piping or replacement delivery systems could significantly affect that.
  - *2-23 Alternative Stock Water systems.* See prior comments about loss of habitat from efficiency and property takings. Ditch leakage may currently supply domestic wells along the route. Loss of that water could be problematic. There are also the design concerns regarding the creation of a system that will adequately operate in freezing conditions.
  - *2-27 Watermaster* – The issue of property takings for actions required of the Watermaster (outside of administering the adjudication) that may shut off water from a water rights owner and reallocate that water to a public purpose should be analyzed and discussed. The Watermaster is an agent of the court whose purpose is to administer the adjudication in the field, where so directed by the Court. The CDFG appears to be requiring expensive Watermaster Service or something similar for those not currently required by the court to have it. The ITP appears also to be coopting the duties of an official Watermaster to implement reductions in water allocations outside of the court decree. Also, the State Legislature passed a law allowing for the establishment of a local Watermaster service and district on the Scott River system. This district was created and representatives appointed by the Board of Supervisors. I believe they are in the process of obtaining court recognition. The local service was initiated because of the astronomical future rate increases indicated by the Watermaster. It has not yet been fully implemented. The ITP fails to address any additional costs that would be passed on to the water user from new Watermaster duties and only assumes that the DWR Watermaster will be providing the service. ITP Coverage needs to include the new local option as well.
  - *3-2 Mitigation* - The third and fourth paragraphs appear to indicate that historic and ongoing activities of farmers and ranchers in Scott Valley would not require mitigation. (Presumably they would still require avoidance and minimization, which is what the ITO “Conditions” are all about.) The mitigation is for the physical changes the actual 1602 and ITP requirements would cause, in order to bring them to less than significant impact levels. Is this correct? As the RCD would be held responsible for
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## Comment Letter 2

mitigation under the ITP and as the program is largely beneficial to the environment, then the mitigations expected of the RCD would appear to be negligible. Please clarify further.

- Page 3-4 *Physical Changes Likely to Result from Program* – I am concerned that less agricultural water is expected to be diverted. Is this from defacto property takings? As any analysis been done on how this will affect the productivity of the land and the local economy? I am concerned that “conditions placed on ground-disturbing activities” for various studies may be a very expensive permit to farm.

- 3.1-7 *Nurseries* - An extensive nursery operation does exist in Scott Valley (Cal Forest Nurseries.)

- 3.1-12 and 3.1-27 *Zoning and Subdivision* - As set forth in our new Five Year Strategic Plan, the County will be reviewing its General Plan elements and zoning for possible revision. It will also be considering new area plans. I assume that land use and trends will be considered in the process. Should land currently zoned for agriculture lose access to irrigation or be tied up in such expensive and onerous regulations that the agriculture ceases to be an economically viable use of the land, it is possible that changes will be made. There are currently areas in the Shasta Valley where there is considerable developmental pressure and at least one owner has already tried to opt out early from their Williamson Act contract in order to subdivide.

- 3.1-6 *Williamson Act* - Due to the State Budget and proposals to discontinue the Williamson Act subvention payments to the County, many contracts now contain the following wording:

“ If in any year the State fails to make any of the subvention payments to the County required under the provision of the Open Space Subvention Act, then this Contract, at the option of, and in the sole and absolute discretion of the County, may be terminated by the County.”

- 3.1-17 *Efficiencies and Groundwater*. (See Prior Comments made.) According to Dr. Thomas Harter, the average annual discharge in the Scott Valley watershed is 615,000 acre feet of water. This is more than the groundwater basin can hold (400,000 acre ft. – U.S. Geological Survey.) The Department of Water Resources has estimated that agriculture uses only 70-90,000 acre ft. It would seem to be that storage of peak flows, conjunctive use and other management options could be honed to meet the needs of both agriculture and fish. The Scott Valley is definitely NOT in an overdraft situation. The water just isn't where it is needed at certain times of the year. Water that has left the system in the winter and spring might be better stored in high mountain lakes (as it was historically,) aquifers or other storage for later release.

- 3.1-25 and 26 *Significant “Physical Effects” such as Land Conversion*. Page 3.1-9 discussed the “low profitability of existing local agricultural production” and the current average net profit. Expensive regulatory schemes that add to costs and decrease that limited margin of profit are likely to push operations over the threshold to not profitable – resulting in land conversion. Regulatory schemes that expect to reallocate water from agriculture in any way that effects productivity reduces the profitability margin and pushes operations over the threshold to non-profitable – resulting in land conversion.

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The 1996 Siskiyou County Comprehensive Land and Resource Management Plan states that “Since the majority of land in Siskiyou County is non-private land, and the County’s major industries livestock, farming, timber, mining and recreation - are tied to that land and pertinent resources either directly or indirectly, then all economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects are interrelated...” Considering the long term state of economic distress that Siskiyou County continues to experience, costs, loss of productivity and land conversion from productivity have the potential for serious impacts on the county and should be analyzed.

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cont.

- 3.2-5 *Sediment* It should be considered that the Scott River is an unstable system. Past large mining operations (Yuba dredges, Hydraulic Mining) – particularly close to the headwaters of the Scott River (Callahan,) Oro Fino and Moffett Creek (Cherry Creek) have caused ongoing instability in the sediment regime. In addition, fires up Kidder Creek and down in the Scott River Canyon have caused mass land movement. The Army Corps of Engineers also straightened rivers, removing meanders and access of the river to the floodplain. This has caused downcutting and widening of the rivers. Youngs dam and its removal has caused head cutting up the river. In addition, periodic large flooding events tend to erode huge areas of land and redistribute gravel onto agricultural fields. In the past, this has ripped out restoration work intended to help mitigate the erosion problem. It would be entirely unreasonable and it would show a huge lack of perspective to expect farmers and ranchers to cure this instability by merely planting trees and excluding livestock from riparian areas. They have tried this for decades with minimum success.

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- 3.2-25 *Draw down of the water table* – Findings from the static well monitoring study shows regular annual recharge of wells with the exception of one or two in a particular area (Eastside?) that appear to be on a slower recharge cycle. Scott Valley does not have an overdraft problem.

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- 3.2-32 *Decline in Scott River baseflow* Attributed to an increase of consumptive use and groundwater extraction. I understand that the figures attributing decreases in baseflow to agriculture in the recent Van Kirk report do not reconcile with the DWR figures since 1954 and complaints have been filed about the report’s quality. Dr. Thomas Harter is the researcher closest to the field work actually being done in the Scott River area.

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- 3.3-41 *Channel Dewatering* – I attended a meeting where the previous DWR Water Master (I believe it may have been Mr. Dicks) indicated that it was his professional opinion that if everyone stopped irrigating in the Valley, that it would only delay dewatering in some stretches by – one to two weeks. I feel it is disingenuous to lay the blame for dewatering on agriculture. Dr. Dan Drake and others have done studies to show the recent decline in snowpack in the area. The Scott River Watershed Council has done studies that show that water supplies vary from year to year according to when snowmelt occurs. Also refer to my comment #9 on climate change trends. One would need to be able to show that the action of the diverter was directly responsible for killing the fish (proximate cause.)

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- 3-3-42 *Habitat availability, habitat reductions, available summer rearing habitat, affects on fish growth, migration barriers, fish densities* do not reach the level of avoiding the “kill” standard of CESA. Beyond that, water adjustments move across the threshold into cutting off a diverter’s water and reallocating it to fish, which would

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appear to be a compensable property taking (Casitas Municipal Water District v. United States.)

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cont.

- 3-2-50 *State Regulation and Oversight of Water Rights* (Please see prior comments on pre-1914 water use rights as privately owned property which is not permitted or licensed.) The Water Use Rights as decreed under the Scott River Adjudication are under the jurisdiction of the Siskiyou County Superior Court.
- 3.2-57 *Mitigations* – instream equipment operation limited to July 1-October 15 How will this apply to irrigators with “push up dams” at the start of irrigation season?
- 3.2-57 *Instream structures* – Under flood conditions, who would be responsible for damage incurred to downriver landowners or County infrastructure – roads and bridges – from movement of these structures? Who would be responsible for replacing these structures if lost?
- 4.2 et all *Cumulative Effects*. As indicated previously, “Since the majority of land in Siskiyou County is non-private land, and the County's major industries livestock, farming, timber, mining and recreation - are tied to that land and pertinent resources either directly or indirectly, then all economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects are interrelated...”(SC Comp. Lnd. and Res. Mgt. Pln.) Cumulative effects analysis should include and consider, not just physical effects, but effects on the social and economic environment as well.

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This concludes my initial comment. In summary, I have significant concerns about the apparent reallocation of water to instream use by the Watermaster and whether this constitutes a property taking. There are some serious concerns about the new interpretation of CA Fish and Game Code 1602 and its application to diverters that do not physically change the bank or channel in the process of diverting. I was disappointed to see that there are so many measures required under the 1602 and ITP that could be expensive to implement and would take land out of agricultural production. Although an attempt was made to look at impacts on agriculture, no serious analysis has been done about the cumulative effects of regulation and specific effects of this program on the economic and social fabric of Siskiyou County.

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Sincerely,

Marcia H. Armstrong, Fifth District Supervisor  
Siskiyou County  
P.O. Box 750  
Yreka, CA 96097





December 8, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
 Dept. of Fish and Game  
 601 Locust St.  
 Redding, CA 96001  
 Fax: 530-225-2381  
 E-mail: SHASTADEIR@dfg.ca.gov

Comments on Siskiyou and Shasta ITP Environmental Impact Report

In my professional opinion, the EIR has omitted an evaluation of the potential for changes in crops especially in riparian areas that could fundamentally alter hydrologic cycles, change watershed functions, increase erosion and other hazards. Several aspects of the program have been evaluated individually and determined to be insignificant. For example, the potential for changing from surface diversions to groundwater pumping has been determined to be small and insignificant. The same evaluation holds true according to the EIR for other program demands such as reduced or eliminated stream crossing, stream watering for livestock, dates for instream work, and increased regulation and reductions in livestock grazing. There was also a determination that the program in total would not result in a reduction in Williamson Act participation and thereby increased land conversion to non-ag. However, in my professional opinion, a very likely and possible scenario would be changes in crop use from grazing of perennial pasture to hay production. Such a change could address and respond to many aspects of the proposed program such as livestock stream crossings, manure pollution and livestock drinking requirements. The cropping system changes could lead to annual cropping, increased use of chemicals, changing to sprinkler irrigation, decreased soil moisture content (and thereby subsurface cold water return flows), greatly increased erosion potential during land preparation phases and other activities. Grazed perennial pastures are probably the best use of the riparian lands as they provide stable soil areas with minimally intensive agricultural practices. The potential for landowners to select an intermediate action to the program, not complete withdrawal of ag land to non-ag land, but rather a conversion from native or perennial pastures to a cropped haying system was not evaluated. The impetus for such a change would not be the result of the CESA itself, nor various other regulatory actions, but instead the aggregate proposed program requirements. Large scale conversion of riparian lands from pasture lands into intensive hay operations could greatly change watershed functions and increase environmental damages.

2.1-1

Daniel J. Drake, PhD.  
 UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor &  
 CE Associate Dept. Animal Science  
 University of California, Davis



***Siskiyou County Farm Bureau***

*809 Fourth St. \* Yreka, CA 96097 \* 842-2364*

November 22, 2008

Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
Conservation Planning  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Northern California – North Coast Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001

Re: Shasta River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report *and*  
Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Williams:

These comments are submitted by the Siskiyou County Farm Bureau and pertain to both the Scott and Shasta Draft EIR on the respective watershed-wide permitting programs. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

The health of the fishery in the both the Scott and Shasta depend on an agricultural industry that is profitable and sustainable in order to maintain open space. We are concerned that many aspects of the ITP's, as proposed, threaten property and water rights, introduce a culture of dependency and impose management restrictions on an industry that has been independent and self-reliant while utilizing the best available technology and science to be profitable while protecting the environment for their future generations.

Certainly, the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the successful management of our fisheries. However, a successful recovery depends on the continued success of agriculture and a strong bridge of trust between the RCD's, the Department of Fish and Game and the landowners. As the Program is currently described, it jeopardizes the economic stability of an already fragile industry, threatens constitutional and judicial rights of landowners and degrades the existing level of trust that currently exists.

If there is a true desire to restore the fishery in both the Scott and Shasta watersheds, we would expect the Final EIR, ITP, and SAA to include the additions and modifications that we have presented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Morris'.

Jim Morris  
President

KEY AREAS OF CONCERN:

**Concern 1:** The Program is being created for the entire watershed of both the Scott and Shasta rivers. The assumption is made that agriculture is the “major” cause of the decline in salmon numbers due to flows, without any scientific evidence to support that conclusion. In fact, the DEIR fails to correlate any changes in agricultural activities, such as increases in agricultural water use, to the recent decline in coho salmon numbers. Since the early 1990’s restoring forests to densities within the range of natural variability approximating pre-settlement conditions has required significant reductions in tree density and stand basal area. (Covington et al. 1997). All Scott Valley Watershed conifer forest uplands have not been managed for these pre-European settlement conditions. L. H. MacDonald and J. D. Stednick (Professors at Colorado State University) have done extensive research on North American forest hydrology (including the Sierra Nevada Mountains) showing declining water yield, shifting patterns of water yield with climate change, reduced instream flows due to interception loss, sublimation loss (ice to water vapor without melt), and abnormally high ET rates. Sabo et al. (2008) found southwestern ponderosa pine forest tree densities 40-50 time greater than before European settlement also described by Covington and Moore (1994) and Covington et al. (1997).

3-2

California mixed conifer forests viewed by John Muir were ‘clean open and park-like’ (H. H. Biswell, Professor of Forest Fire Ecology, UC Berkeley, personal communications) with much lower tree densities and usually lacking ladder fuel loads prone to stand replacing fire. Creeping low-intensity ground fires caused by lightening were common in pre-European forests keeping fuel loads and tree densities in check. White fir and incense cedar readily regenerate seedling and sapling understories in almost full shade of larger overstory trees with fire protection. Such forests which are the dominant condition of Scott Valley upland forests are overstocked with fir and cedar ladder fuels. Excessively dense multilayer forests intercept snow repeatedly over winter; much of the moisture as ice sub limes or evaporates directly from the canopy to the air never becoming liquid water infiltrating into the soil and therefore never contributes to instream flow. In talking on these points with NRCS District Conservationist Jim Patterson concerning the Scott Valley EIR, he agrees that a Watershed Health Analysis should be conducted as part of the California Department of Fish and Game’s assessment, not limiting options only to valley-bottom agricultural land.

3-3

Many years ago clearcut logging was done as part of snow management research to increase watershed yields in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Over the last couple of decades almost all forest harvesting on public lands has stopped. With virtually unlimited fire fighting budgets and fire exclusion in the Scott Valley Watershed coupled with little on no forest harvesting or thinning, extremely dense overstocked-forested uplands now dominate. As canopy layers and tree density continue to increase with lack of harvesting and thinning coupled with fire exclusion, instream flows will continue to decline due to greater forest tree densities in the Scott Valley Watershed.

**Recommendation 1:** The EIR needs to address the ET rates of the uplands and present the potential increase of flows that could be attained through an increase in proper harvesting and thinning.

## Comment Letter 3

**Concern 2:** The DEIR discusses in great detail the cultural aspects and potential impacts to the culture of the local tribes. However, only the history of agriculture is discussed, with no discussion on its culture and the negative impacts that the Program could have on that culture, if implemented.

3-4

**Recommendation 2:** The EIR needs to address the culture of agriculture and how this Program will impact that culture.

**Concern 3:** The DEIR briefly discusses an Instream Flow Alternative. If increasing flows are truly an objective, this alternative should be more closely analyzed. The potential gains for late summer and early fall flow augmentation is not an alternative that should be dismissed.

3-5

**Recommendation 3:** The EIR needs to incorporate the alternative and further discuss the additional benefits that would result in its implementation. The Coho Recovery Plan clearly states that increasing storage is vital to the recovery of salmonids.

**Concern 4:** The DEIR is incorrect in its assessment that the Programs' impact on agriculture is "less than significant." If the true objective is to recover salmon, the existing open space must be maintained. That open space is provided through agriculture. For agriculture to remain, it must be PROFITABLE and sustainable. Without profitability, agriculture is not sustainable. One accurate statistic in the DEIR is that the average net annual income of agricultural operations is only \$7,000 above poverty level. Any increase in cost of operation or decrease in yield is SIGNIFICANT.

3-6

**Recommendation 4:** The EIR needs to include the likely increase in cost to DWR, for implementation of the Program, which will then be passed on to the sub-permittee.

3-7

**Recommendation 5:** The EIR needs to include a discussion of the impact that a decrease in diverted water will have on the production of existing crops and their yields resulting in a decrease of net profit to the sub-permittee.

3-8

**Recommendation 6:** The EIR needs to address the financial impact that will result through the implementation of the Program, upon the sub-permittee. Costs that will be assessed to the sub-permittee, through the implementation of projects required by enrollment in the Program, will have a significant impact on the financial stability of an already unstable agricultural industry, especially if no funding is available to offset implementation of required mitigations.

3-9

**Recommendation 7:** The EIR needs to address the potential cumulative economic impacts of implementing the Program.

3-10

**Concern 5:** The DEIR incorrectly dismisses the potential withdrawal from Williamson Contracts. With the current condition of the economy, land values and the recommendation by the State to eliminate the Williamson Act, withdrawal is a very real scenario.

3-11

**Recommendation 8:** The EIR needs to reevaluate its assessment of the potential cumulative economic and environmental impact of landowners sub-dividing and developing their land, due to the implementation of the Program, especially due to recent developments in the economy, land values and State actions.

# Comment Letter 3

**Recommendation 9: The EIR needs to include a thorough and all inclusive cost-benefit analysis of the Program.**

3-12

**Concern 6: The DEIR fails to discuss the realistic option of landowners enrolling their land into reserve programs.**

3-13

**Recommendation 10: The EIR needs to address the potential cumulative economic impacts on the County economy with a decrease in taxable revenue and jobs.**

3-14

**Concern 7: The conclusions and statements in the DEIR regarding commodities grown and trends in crop value are inaccurate.**

3-15

**Recommendation 11: Citing Caltrans as a source for predicting crop values is absurd at best. All data and assessments pertaining to agriculture should come from individuals and agencies that have expertise in the field and industry.**

**Concern 8: The conclusion drawn from table 3.1-6 is in error. “However, the amount of acreage by crop has changed, with grains decreasing from over 3,570 acres in 1958 to less than 2,000 acres in 1991...” If one were to dismiss natural events and market impacts on the effect of planting rotations, the comparison years for 1958 would be 1993. However, it is important to recognize that in addition to the relatively predictable variability of crop rotation, market forces also play a significant role in determining amount of grain acreage.**

**Recommendation 12: Statement regarding a trend of decreasing grain acreage does not take into account that grain is used rotationally every 6 – 7 years as the table from which the statement refers is on a 10, 3 and 9 year data depiction respectfully.**

3-16

**Recommendation 13: Statement regarding trends of crop acreage does not take into account the marketability of the crops in the cited years.**

**Recommendation 14: Statement regarding grains grown for local livestock consumption is in error, as most of the grain grown is sold and shipped out of the area and may or may not be for livestock consumption.**

**Concern 9: The DEIR fails to address potential impacts of the Program on a holistic level.**

**Recommendation 15: Reduction of diversions and complete dedications back to stream and river flow, combined with proposed efficiency measures, could have a very significant negative impact on the following, and needs to be addressed in detail.**

3-17

1. Residential wells
2. Wetlands
3. Birds and water fowl
4. Amphibians
5. Terrestrial wildlife
6. Groundwater recharge.

3-18

**Recommendation 16: XXII. (ADDED SECTION) Sub-permittees shall not be held responsible or liable for any negative impacts on any residential property, existing riparian**

3-19

# Comment Letter 3

habitat, and other species of fish, birds, water fowl, amphibians, reptiles, or terrestrial wild life, resulting from implemented projects as dictated by the Program.

**Concern 10:** The Program encroaches on private property rights. As written, a sub-permittee is forced to allow Department employees access to their property after 48 hour notice. There is already an access agreement that is utilized for fish survey purposes. Access to private property is at the discretion of the landowner.

**Recommendation 17:** XIII. E. 1. ( c ) Should utilize the access agreement that is currently utilized for the purpose of conducting fish surveys. The landowner has the option to restrict access to only Full Time Department employees (no consultants or part-time field workers) and has the option to be present during the period of access.

**Concern 11:** The Program and its description are inconsistent, excessive in their regulatory scope and fail to protect the sub-permittee from negative impacts that may result in explaining and implementing the riparian fencing and grazing limitations.

**Recommendation 18:** XV. E. 2 The sub-permittee shall be responsible for installing riparian fencing “when funding is available” for such a project.

**Recommendation 19:** XV. E. 3 Following natural events, that result in damage or elimination of riparian fencing, the sub-permittee shall not be held financially responsible for repair and/or replacement.

**Recommendation 20:** XV. E. 5 The Department shall accept all grazing plans that are in accordance with the California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board. It should also be referenced that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has accepted this approach for addressing riparian grazing in the Scott and Shasta TMDL’s.

**Recommendation 21:** XV. E. 5 (ADDED LANGUAGE) The Department does not and will not assume regulatory authority for grazing management on land outside of the banks of the river and its tributaries through the enrollment of this Program.

**Recommendation 22:** XV. E. 6. (ADDED SECTION) The sub-permittee shall not be held liable nor responsible for any negative impacts that riparian fencing might be found to cause, to other wildlife, after it has been built.

**Concern 12:** The Program threatens existing water rights, potentially increases the fees on water users, and decreases the available water for production that will directly decrease crop yields and profit

**Recommendation 23:** XIII. E. 2. a. ( i ) (ADDED LANGUAGE) The sub-permittee shall not lose any part of their adjudicated water right through enrollment in the Program.

**Recommendation 24:** XIII. E. 2. a. ( vii ) (ADDED SECTION) All voluntary decreases of adjudicated water shall result in fair market compensation to the sub-permittee. If compensation is not available, the sub-permittee retains the right to not decrease diversion and will not be held liable for any perceived negative impacts that may be attributed to the

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cont.

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3-21

# Comment Letter 3

**Recommendation 25: XVII. C. (DELETE SECTION) This section requires the DWR to make determinations that are outside of their expertise and gives the DFG the authority to reduce diversions, which is not an allowable action in the Adjudications.**

3-22

**Recommendation 26: XVII. C. (ADDED SECTION) Any increase in expense, assumed by the Department of Water Resources, attributed to the implementation of the Program, shall be paid by the Department of Fish and Game and not assessed to the sub-permittees.**

**Concern 13: The Programs proposed mitigations, pertaining to livestock and vehicle crossing are unrealistic.**

**Recommendation 27: Covered Activity 4 - A maximum allowable width of crossing at 25' is not reasonable as the average width of both rivers is well over 25'. This will prohibit all crossing of the river by livestock and vehicles, thus increasing GHG emissions and increasing operation costs. This needs to be changed. Additionally, the potential economic environmental impacts need to be addressed in the EIR.**

3-23

**Recommendation 28: There is no discussion of the impact of the Elk herd, one of which is currently at 12 head, that crosses and wallows in the river, on a daily basis, from September through May. The negative environmental impact from this natural activity needs to be addressed.**

3-24

**Concern 14: The Program eliminates the option of arbitration for the sub-permittee.**

**Recommendation 29: All sub-permittees shall maintain the right to arbitrate.**

3-25

**Concern 15: As noted in the DEIR, the Scott River is not a stable system. The natural rain and snow events will never allow the Scott River system to recover in its current geomorphologic condition.**

3-26

**Recommendation 30: XXIII. (LANGUAGE ADDITION) Sub-permittees shall not be held financially responsible for the continued repair and re-construction of projects damaged and destroyed due to natural events.**

3-27

**Recommendation 31: While it is noted that the Scott River is not a stable system, discussion was inadequate in addressing what is necessary to stabilize the system and further, the feasibility of such action and the impacts that such action would have on the environment, economy and cultures.**

3-28

**Concern 16: The Program relies heavily upon the participation of the Department of Water Resources.**

**Recommendation 32: The Final EIR needs to evaluate the scenario of the DWR not participating.**

3-29

**Recommendation 33: The ITP needs to explain the scenario of the DWR not participating.**

# Comment Letter 3

**Concern 17:** The DEIR discusses flows of both watersheds and utilizes the data presented to form the conclusion that agriculture is the major cause for the decreased flows.

**Recommendation 34:** The Final EIR needs to include data for precipitation and ambient air temperatures to correlate with data for the same years of flow and salmon return numbers. Additionally, data showing the annual and monthly decreases and increases of the evapo-transpiration rate of the uplands in both watersheds needs to be included. A reassessment of the impacts on flows should then be conducted by an individual with the necessary expertise. Those assessments then need to be peer reviewed and noted as such.

3-30

**Concern 18:** The EIR describes the watersheds as needing full riparian vegetation along the tributaries and the rivers.

**Recommendation 35:** Fish biologists need to evaluate collected data regarding spawning surveys in correlation with reaches and determine if riparian vegetation is the proper scientific recommendation to enhance spawning habitat or if it has a negative impact.

3-31

**Concern 19:** The Program assumes that the Department of Fish and Game has the authority to require a landowner to get a 1602 permit to operate an existing diversion, even if no physical disruption of the channel occurs, a head gate is in place and the diversion is screened. The legal authority of the Department to require such action is questioned. Legislation that created the 1600 codes was specifically directed at mining and NOT agricultural diversions. The Departments interpretation of these codes, as applied to agriculture, is erroneous.

3-32

**Recommendation 36:** Landowners who do not physically alter the streambed or bank, have a head gate in place to measure flow and have a diversion that is screened, do not require a 1602 for diversion of their adjudicated water right, and further, do not require an ITP permit.

**Concern 20:** The description of the environmental setting within the EIR claims that “the total allotment of water under the three decrees is greater than the average monthly flow of the Scott River from June through December, based on 64 years of record.” (3-3) One would assume that this means that landowners are diverting the entire available surface water flow. However, this assumption is incorrect. There has been recorded average monthly flow at the USGS station on the Scott every year since the data has been collected. If the statement were correct, data from the USGS station would be recorded at 0.

3-33

**Recommendation 37:** The total allotment of water under the three decrees is greater than the average monthly flow, at the USGS station, located at the mouth of the canyon, from July through November, based on 64 years of record.

**Concern 21:** The EIR states “Furthermore, because towns do not divert water for agricultural purposes, they also would not be participating as Agricultural Operators in the Program.” (3.1-22)

**Recommendation 38:** The EIR needs to address the total use of diverted water by the local municipalities and a discussion of the potential gains as well as the negative impacts that may occur.

3-34



# Comment Letter 3

**Recommendation 39: Will the municipalities be required to secure a 1602 and an independent ITP? If not, why?**

3-35

**Concern 22:** The DEIR cites that the Program “would also have a significant impact if it would: convert or involve changes that could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.” (3.1-25)

3-36

**Recommendation 40: Discussion of the above statement is missing. The criterion is applicable and should result in a finding of significant impact.**

**Concern 23:** The DEIR states “Most notably, water diversions, primarily for agricultural purposes, have led to decreased surface flows, and increased stream temperatures....including land clearing, tillage, and grazing, which in turn has lead to accelerated erosion and increased stream sediment loads.”

3-37

**Recommendation 41: There is no reference or supporting data provided to arrive at this conclusion. The related data and peer reviewed science needs to be provided.**

**Concern 24:** The time allowed for adequate review of the lengthy DEIR and ITP is too short. Most of the individuals that this Program will affect have not been informed of the what the Program involves, let alone be able to write informed comments to the Department. Additionally, the Department is meeting with the County on the day that the comments are due, not allowing them the opportunity to properly formulate their comments.

3-38

**Recommendation 42: We request a minimum of a 30 day extension to the comment period. The Department, in collaboration with the local RCD's, County government and Farm Bureau, need to hold several “Question and Answer” sessions in both watersheds.**



# CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE, SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-3293 · PHONE (916) 561-5665 · FAX (916) 561-5691

Sent via e-mail: [SHASTADEIR@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:SHASTADEIR@dfg.ca.gov)  
[SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov)

December 9, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Re: Shasta River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report; *and*  
Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Williams,

The California Farm Bureau Federation (“Farm Bureau”) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Shasta River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report and the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (“DEIR”).<sup>1</sup> As these draft environmental impact reports are predominately the same, please accept these comments as generally applicable to both documents, except where otherwise noted.

4-1

Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership California corporation whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the State of California and to find solutions to the problems of the farm, the farm home and the rural community. Farm Bureau is California’s largest farm organization, comprised of 53 county Farm Bureaus currently representing more than 33,000 farm families and 91,500 individual members in 56 counties. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of California’s resources.

Farm Bureau supports the concept of a watershed scale program to assist farmers and ranchers in efficiently complying with the law. As explained in the DEIR, the

4-2

<sup>1</sup> “DEIR” refers to both the Shasta River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report and the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report collectively and individually as the case may be.

Letter to Mr. Bob Williams

December 9, 2008

Page 2

proposed watershed-wide permitting program is intended to implement the recommendations made by the Shasta-Scott Recovery Team and described in the Coho Salmon Recovery Strategy. However, our review of the DEIR and the component Draft Incidental Take Permit (“ITP”) and Draft Streambed Alteration Agreement MOU and Master List of Terms and Conditions (“SAA”) revealed several concerns which must be addressed in the final environmental impact report.

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cont.

**1. The DEIR misinterprets Fish and Game Code § 1602.**

A foundational component of the watershed-wide permitting programs for both the Shasta and Scott Rivers is a new and incorrect interpretation of Fish and Game Code §1602 (hereinafter “§1602”).<sup>2</sup> Without the benefit of public process or formal rulemaking, the California Department of Fish and Game (“Department”) has significantly changed its interpretation of §1602 to require notification for activities which have never been, and were never intended to be, covered by these Fish and Game Code sections. The plain language of the statute, its historical application, and the legislative history all clearly point out that that §1602 cannot support the Department’s new interpretation.

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4-3

It is clear from the DEIR (particularly the component ITP and SAA) that the Department now believes every diversion of water requires notification. This, however, this is not the only expansion of §1602 authority the DEIR daylights for the first time. Throughout the document, but particularly in the SAA, the Department suggests that a number of actions are “covered activities” even though under a reasonable interpretation of the statute, notification is not required.

*Exercising a Water Right*

Perhaps the most problematic action ostensibly covered by the Department’s new interpretation is the exercise of an existing water right. For the first time we are aware of, the Department has interpreted §1602 to apply to the exercise of an existing water right based solely on the fact it is a diversion of water from the natural flow. The DEIR indicates that “water diversions [and] activities related to water diversions ... are subject to Fish and Game Code §1600 *et seq.* because they substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of rivers, streams, or lakes ... .”

This new interpretation is unsupported by the plain language of the statute, which provides that “[a]n entity may not substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of ... any river, stream or lake ...” without first notifying the Department. It is not clear how diverting *from* the natural flow equates to substantially diverting the natural flow. As the language clearly indicates, the provisions of §1602 were intended to apply in situations

<sup>2</sup> While streambed alteration agreements are generally described in Fish and Game Code §1600 *et seq.*, the incorrect interpretation appears to be §1602. However, since there is no public explanation for the Department’s reinterpretation, it is not possible how extensively these sections have been modified.

Letter to Mr. Bob Williams

December 9, 2008

Page 3

where the natural flow of a stream, river, or lake was diverted from its original course into a new course; all the while remaining the natural flow. In addition to the statutory language, common sense, the legislative history, and historical application of Fish and Game Code §1600 *et seq.* all conflict with the Departments new expanded interpretation.

While it is obvious that a streambed alteration agreement would be required in situations where the natural flow was diverted from its course, no such activities are proposed by the DEIR. Consequently, the DEIR should not state that notification under §1602 is required solely for the act of diverting water under an existing water right.

Recommendation: The portions of the DEIR incorrectly stating that §1602 applies to the exercise of an existing water right should be corrected. Instead, a streambed alteration agreement should only be required where modifications to the bed, bank, or channel require such notification.

*Other Covered Activities*

The DEIR also states that the Department’s recent reinterpretation of §1602 has given it jurisdiction over far more than just water rights; it now applies to a number of other activities, primarily related to agriculture, which have historically never been subject to §1602. While some of the “covered activities” described in section III of the SAA and elsewhere clearly are subject to §1602, several are not. Following is a list of activities which are not subject to §1602 and should not be listed as “covered activities” without further qualification:

- A. *Water Diversions:* See discussion above.
- B. *Water Diversion Structures:* The operation of a water diversion structure is not subject to §1602 notification requirements because merely operating a structure is exercising an existing water right. Although some activities related to the construction and maintenance of a diversion structure may require notification because of other factors; standing alone, the operation of a diversion structure does require notification.
- C. *Fish Screens:* Neither the operation nor maintenance of a fish screen requires notification *per se*.
- D. *Stream Access and Crossings:* The language of this condition suggests that the act of crossing a stream requires notification. While it is clear that constructing a special stream crossing as proposed in the DEIR would require notification, merely crossing a watercourse with livestock or a vehicle has never and cannot reasonably be deemed to require notification.



4-3  
cont.

Letter to Mr. Bob Williams

December 9, 2008

Page 4

- *E. Fencing:* Installing and maintaining fencing along a stream does not require notification; especially in situations as described in the DEIR where the fence is 35 feet from the stream bank.
- *F. Riparian Restoration and Revegetation:* Although some activities related to restoration and revegetation may be subject to §1602, a number of the activities listed under this heading do not require notification.
- *H. Stream Gages:* Even though the DEIR recognizes that installing stream gages usually does not require heavy equipment and may only consist of installing a two inch pipe, it is nonetheless inappropriately listed as a covered activity.

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Recommendation: The portions of the DEIR which inappropriately describe activities as “covered activities” even though such activities are not subject to §1602 should be removed. Rather, where the SAA is not attempting to assert that the above activities are explicitly subject to §1602, but is instead providing coverage for any rare circumstance when §1602 may apply, the DEIR should be worded to reflect this difference. For instance, the DEIR may state that “even though it is recognized that this activity is not subject to §1602, if during the course of activities it is conducted in a manner where a §1602 is required, this permit provides such coverage.”

***2. A Natural Communities Conservation Plan (“NCCP”) should be analyzed as an alternative to the proposed watershed-wide permitting program.***

The final EIR should propose and analyze a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (“NCCP”) as one of the alternatives. It is important to analyze a NCCP because it may provide important opportunities to: (1) avoid the problems posed by the inappropriate application of §1602, (2) more accurately implement the recommendations of the Coho Recovery Team, (3) provide for comprehensive compliance with other State and Federal laws, and (4) afford an opportunity for additional participants to address a broader range of issues such as growth and transportation. Basically, it is important to analyze a NCCP as it provides greater legal justification (by not relying on an inappropriate interpretation of §1602) and broader compliance protection.

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4-4

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Recommendation: The Department should analyze a NCCP as an alternative to the watershed-wide permitting program.

***3. The influence of upland forests on stream flows must be appropriately analyzed.***

The DEIR fails to address the impact of upslope forests on Scott and Shasta River stream flows. While the DEIR recognizes historical forest practices significantly altered upslope forest ecology and hydrology, it does not address the current condition where increasing evapotranspiration (“ET”) rates of those forests have reduced stream flows.

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Letter to Mr. Bob Williams

December 9, 2008

Page 5

Over the past few decades, the decline in timber harvest in the Scott and Shasta river watersheds has resulted in increased forest densities and basal areas. Many of the trees in these watersheds are nearing their maximum growth rate and also their highest ET rates. Consequently, the upslope forests are using more water than they have historically. These ET rates will be sustained for many decades unless action is taken to reduce tree density and basal area.<sup>3</sup>

Because the DEIR does not address the fact that younger and denser forests are using more water than they ever have, or than the slower growing less dense old growth forests ever did, the analysis in the DEIR is flawed in a number of respects. First, since the increasing water use of upslope forests is a critical part of baseline conditions, it must be described in the environmental setting. Second, since the reduction in stream flows is due to higher ET rates of upslope forests, the DEIR incorrectly anticipates that higher flows can be achieved by the implementation of the program. Finally, since it is well established that reducing forest densities contributes to stream flows by reducing forest water use, this should be analyzed as an alternative to the watershed-wide permitting program.<sup>4</sup>

4-5  
cont.

Recommendation: The DEIR should analyze the impact that increasing ET rates of upslope forests have on stream flows. Among other things, this includes analyzing the impact as part of the environmental baseline, correcting the DEIR's faulty assumption that the Shasta and Scott Rivers are over adjudicated, and analyzing increased timber harvest as an alternative method for increasing stream flows. The analysis should also propose appropriate mitigation measures for these impacts.

**4. *The DEIR should expressly provide for tiering in order to facilitate those who may be best served by proceeding independently.***

Landowners in the Shasta and Scott River watersheds may determine that participating in the watershed-wide permitting program is not the best way to comply with the law. For example, some landowners may need either an ITP or a SAA and not both; while other landowners may decide to proceed individually instead of as a sub-permittee. For such individuals, participating in the watershed-wide program may not be appropriate. The DEIR was not drafted in a manner to readily provide for tiering. Because a number of landowners may be best served by proceeding independently of this program, the final EIR should provide for tiering in order to facilitate the completion of any subsequent environmental review which may be required.

4-6

Recommendation: The DEIR should be modified to allow landowners that may need to complete environmental review subsequent to this program to tier from the final EIR.

<sup>3</sup> Chang, Forest Hydrology An Introduction to Water and Forests (2d ed. 2006) pp. 90-91.

<sup>4</sup> Chang, Forest Hydrology An Introduction to Water and Forests (2d ed. 2006)

**5. *The SAA should provide for arbitration.***

The provisions in Fish and Game Code §1600 *et seq.*, providing for arbitration of terms and conditions should disagreement occur, have been removed in the SAA for reasons not described within the document. While the Department may believe that allowing for arbitration could compromise the integrity of the ITP by allowing for lenient terms and conditions in a sub-permittee’s streambed alteration agreement, there is no explanation of this position. According to the statute, the terms of a SAA must reasonably protect fishery resources. Whether these are unilaterally imposed by the Department as contemplated by the DEIR, or the result of arbitration as directed by the statute, all terms must be reasonable.

4-7

Recommendation: The SAA should be modified to allow a sub-permittee to exercise his or her rights under the law and seek arbitration to resolve conflicts over streambed alteration agreement terms and conditions.

**6. *The DEIR fails to recognize the priority system.***

Section XVII of the ITP provides for the reduction or complete closure of a diversion by DWR in order to prevent stranding. As proposed, the ITP provides for a situation wherein the Department, if it determines stranding may occur, can require DWR to reduce or shut-off a diversion. While the environmental purpose of this provision is relatively clear, it ignores water rights generally and the priority system particularly. A well established principle of California water law is that lower priority rights must be reduced before higher priority rights; as drafted, the DEIR does not address this requirement.

4-8

Recommendation: The DEIR and the component ITP must be modified to comply with California water law, particularly by recognizing water right priorities.

**7. *The impact of irrigation water percolation and the resulting groundwater baseflow of cold water must be addressed.***

Both DEIRs should analyze the relationship between surface irrigation, groundwater recharge, and coldwater baseflow to streams. Although some of the groundwater basins may be complicated, it is nonetheless necessary to assess the impact of reductions in coldwater baseflow due to decreased agricultural water use. Since the DEIR suggests increased groundwater pumping has contributed to decreased streamflows, the relationship between groundwater and surface water is recognized, if not fully understood. The final EIR should fully analyze this relationship by determining how reduced irrigation water use could impact cold water baseflows.

4-9

Recommendation: The DEIR should analyze how irrigation water percolation into shallow groundwater results in increased cold water baseflow into the streams.

Letter to Mr. Bob Williams  
December 9, 2008  
Page 7

**8. *Additional time is needed in order to provide adequate opportunity to respond.***

The DEIR describes a watershed-wide permitting program for both the Shasta and Scott Rivers that suggests major changes in how the Department intends to deal with agricultural operations. It is our understanding that Department officials have publically stated that this program will be implemented elsewhere in the state, with the next likely location the Russian River watershed. Given that the Department is fundamentally altering its interpretation of §1602 and that this program is intended to be applied throughout the state, it is important that more time be allowed for a more thorough review by a broader coalition of interests, including those who will likely be impacted by a similar program.

4-10

Recommendation: The Department should extend the DEIR comment deadline by at least 60 days. Furthermore, other regions where a similar program may be implemented should be notified and afforded an opportunity to review the document.

Very truly yours,



JACK L. RICE  
Associate Counsel



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12/3/2008

Mr. Bob Williams
Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001

Submitted via E-mail: SHASTADEIR@dfg.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Williams:

The California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and Draft Streambed Alteration Agreement Memorandum of Understanding and Master List of Terms and Conditions (MOU) for the Shasta Valley Resources Conservation District and the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District. CCA is a statewide trade organization representing California's beef cattle producers, many of whom reside and operate within the projected program area. California ranchers are stewards of our nation's natural resources and provide the majority of California's wildlife habitat for threatened and endangered species.

5-1

CCA has serious concerns with certain provisions outlined in both ITPs and MOUs that, if implemented as proposed, will impose dramatic hardships for ranchers operating within the program area. For the purposes of this comment letter, issues identified below represent concerns for both the Shasta Valley RCD and Siskiyou RCD ITP and Shasta Valley RCD and Siskiyou RCD MOU unless otherwise noted.

5-2

DFG should ensure that all future efforts regarding the development of the final ITP and MOU are conducted in collaboration with local livestock producers, CCA and other agricultural stakeholders. It's vital that local livestock producers and DFG strive for a consensus on issues of disagreement and ensure that the final program does not set statewide precedent for the 1600 section of the Fish and Game Code.

5-3

First and foremost, CCA urges the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to ensure a final program that emerges from the public process does not inhibit the ability of a landowner to exercise a legal water-right, adjudicated or permitted. DFG must ensure the protection and integrity of private water-rights to be exercised when necessary to water livestock, irrigate pastures or irrigate crops and should not be impeded by any terms or conditions of the ITP or MOU.

5-4



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Secondly, the ITP establishes inappropriate enforcement authorities for the Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) through the required monitoring of sub-permittees to ensure the sub-permittee is in compliance with the ITP as described in **Section XIV** of the ITP. CCA urges that DFG retain enforcement authority and not defer these traditional responsibilities to the RCDs who are comprised largely of local landowners and depend almost entirely on competitive grant and private funding. If the RCDs are unable to secure grants or other outside funding to conduct the activities outlined in the current proposal, they will likely be forced to impose fees on sub-permittees which will constitute an unacceptable economic impact on local livestock producers.

5-5

5-6

RCDs serve local landowners, farmers and ranchers to provide technical and regulatory compliance assistance and help implement conservation projects on private and public lands. RCDs are not government entities and should not be held liable for enforcing the provisions of the ITP. Establishing such a relationship between the RCDs and private landowners would be unprecedented and would shift RCD focus from implementing conservation efforts that wildlife and ranchers both benefit from to developing and enforcing a new regulatory regime.

5-7

CCA suggests that the RCDs, as the holder of the permit, assist sub-permittees with permit coordination, the development of mitigation and monitoring plans, conduct educational courses and provide outreach to assist sub-permittees with permit compliance and other assistance activities with landowner request but refrain from engaging in enforcement activities as suggested under the monitoring regime.

5-8

Certain terms and conditions listed under the ITPs are also unnecessary or require alteration.

- **X111(v)** - Under no condition should a sub-permittee be required to forego exercise of a legal and existing water-right. CCA suggests that DFG omit the proposed program in which the RCDs are directed to develop a schedule to rotate the exercise of water-rights by landowners to enhance in-stream flows.
- **XV(A)2** – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) or local water masters should not be required to report water diversions to DFG for the purpose of enforcement. Water masters and DWR serve only as the mechanism to distribute water according to legal water-rights and should not be required to regulate the allocation of water as a means of enforcement or compliance under the draft ITP.
- **XV(D)1** – CCA opposes any provision that would preclude livestock from crossing streams, especially nearly 7 months out of the year as the ITP suggests. Cattle or vehicles crossing streams or creeks should not be assumed to mean automatic inadvertent take of a fish. Requiring only certain lanes to be used that are certified as unlikely spawning grounds or have necessary mitigation already constructed is unfeasible. Rather, DFG should encourage

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5-11



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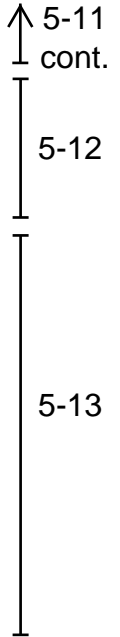
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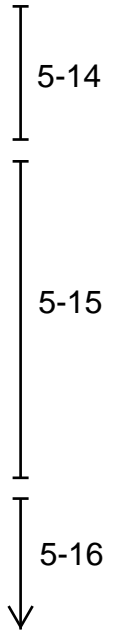
landowners to construct mitigation measures on lanes that have frequent cattle crossing within a set time period but allow ranchers to continue to utilize crossings as deemed appropriate.

- **XV(E)1** – CCA urges that DFG include language that would require any plan to force the exclusion of cattle in riparian areas be based on sound science and research. Also, the development of the Riparian Fencing Plan should be a collaborative process, not solely authored or developed by the RCDs, and include ranchers that may be required to fence riparian areas.
- **XV(E)3** – CCA opposes terms and conditions that would require sub-permittees to build riparian exclusion fencing 35 feet from the edge of the stream bank. The number selected is arbitrary and represents no benefit to protecting riparian habitat and certainly does not decrease inadvertent take. This figure should be amended to reflect a more reasonable riparian fencing policy that identifies areas of concern to be fenced at the edge of the streambank. 35 feet represents a significant loss of forage for livestock and will unnecessarily impact a rancher's ability to graze cattle near riparian areas.
- **XV(E)5** – DFG should better clarify what criteria will be used to justify excluding livestock grazing in a fenced riparian area. This section is broad, ambiguous and provides little direction for ranchers who depend on the use of lands adjacent to riparian habitat for livestock forage. Criteria should be developed in close collaboration with CCA and local livestock producers.



Certain terms and conditions listed under the MOUs are also unnecessary or require alteration.

- **III(E)** – CCA opposes listing livestock fencing as a covered activity under the MOU. Fencing creeks or requiring the fencing of creeks as part of the MOU is an unacceptable and incorrect interpretation of the Fish and Game Code as an activity that requires a 1602 permit under the Fish and Game Code.
- **V(C)60** - CCA opposes defining livestock crossing sites as a covered activity under the MOU and subsequently requiring a 1602 permit under the Fish and Game Code and represents a board and false interpretation of the Code. Livestock crossing sites have not in the past nor should be now defined as a streambed alteration requiring notification to DFG or a 1602 permit. This would establish a dangerous precedent for other regions of the state and would impose new and unfeasible terms for the majority of California's livestock producers who depend on crossing streams and creeks to move cattle from one pasture to another. Subsequently, CCA urges DFG to remove all language in the MOU that would subject livestock crossing sites as streambed alterations and require a 1602 permit or notification to DFG.
- **V(E)65** – CCA opposes any provision that would restrict vehicle crossings through wet areas as a term and condition of the MOU. As suggested, ranchers can only operate vehicles across streams for less than one month out of any given calendar year. Most significantly, defining a vehicle crossing as a streambed alteration is an ambiguous and incorrect interpretation of an



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activity that requires a 1602 permit. CCA urges DFG to remove language in the MOU referencing vehicle crossing sites as a covered activity under the MOU. ↑ 5-16  
| cont.

Once again, CCA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the ITPs and MOUs for the Shasta and Scott Valleys. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss my comments in more detail, don't hesitate to contact me. | 5-17

Sincerely,

Justin Oldfield  
Director of Industry Affairs



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December 9, 2008

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

Included below are CAGs comments on the proposed Shasta and Scott River Watershed-wide permitting programs. We are combining our comments for both DEIRs because the two proposals have much in common – with separate comments for areas that are distinct in their issue. We offer recommendations for your consideration.

6-1

**General**

It appears that the intent of this ITP process is to use several regulatory tools to achieve oversight of land use practices that threaten stream flows, water quality, instream habitat, and thus, salmon. The proposed ITP process intends use of the various programs, including: Regional Board authority and TMDLs, State Water Board authority and State Water Code, and Fish and Game Code regulatory authority.

6-2

The resulting proposal, indicating reliance on the above mentioned regulatory authorities, has failed to meet the legal standards, and intent, of the above mentioned California Public Resource Codes. Thus, at this point, and as indicated by the documents in the file, the DEIR fails to adequately describe and mitigate issues for the protection of the beneficial use – Cold Water Fishery. In addition, there is not a sufficient public noticing, mitigation implementation and monitoring program, and/or Alternatives Discussion that is mandated for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act provisions.

6-3  
6-4

The ITP must be consistent with the above noted regulatory and CEQA authority. Reliance on mitigations that have not yet been described is project piece-mealing and is not consistent with CEQA.

6-5

Please review comments on the Scott TMDL - Below

**Comments pertinent to both the Shasta and Scott DEIRs**

**The scope of the projects is overly broad:**

CDFG proposes that the programmatic “take” and stream alteration (1600s) permit programs apply to ALL agricultural operations. What is to be the course of action that would occur with those farmers and ranchers who do not choose to participate? This is huge gap in the program – yet to be explained. In the Shasta River (and possibly the Scott River) riparian water rights are unregulated. There are numerous situations where water diversion is occurring outside of regulatory boundaries. CDFG has in its files evidence that riparian landowners in the Shasta River have – without notice or permit – placed pumps into the river and removed water for irrigation and other uses.

6-6

6-7

DWR information, and information in the file, indicates that since the 1950s groundwater (some of these waters would be considered underflow) pumping in the Scott Valley has more than doubled. DWR data also indicates that groundwater pumping now constitutes more than 50% of total irrigation in the Scott. Surface diversions have not been reduced as a result of this increase but rather land that was previously dry farmed or unfarmed has been brought under irrigation. For example, the entire North end of Scott Valley comprising the lower Moffett Creek Watershed was dry farmed as late as 1970. The entire area is now intensely irrigated and most of it is in alfalfa and other high water use crops.

6-8

Baseline conditions do not consider that illegal activities – their occurrence and their effects – historically or cumulatively. Illegal actions cannot be considered baseline. If it is determined the baseline included illegal activities the baseline must be reassessed. The “Environmental Setting” (3-2) is the place to raise the question of illegal activities being part of the baseline as this issue must be fully described and mitigated.

6-9

**Recommendation:** The scope of the permits should apply only to restoration programs of the RCDs. All diversions under the authority of the State shall have a Water Rights License. It might be possible to apply the permits to surface diversions as well if CDFG and the RCDs can assure that all diversions of a given landowner would be covered (even diversions pursuant to riparian rights in the Shasta), provisions of the Fish & Game Code (especially section 5937) will be enforced and there is an adequate monitoring program in place. The summation of all water use shall be considered in analysis for adjudication and/or licensing. Flow and temperature are the primary limiting factors for coho salmon and all mitigations should be clearly tied to measurable objectives that address these limiting factors.

6-10

Groundwater impacts are not clearly defined in the document and therefore are not adequately mitigated. The document claims a less than significant impact from extraction of additional groundwater with no mitigation measures required (S-12, 3.2-4 – also see S-14 3.3-2). This claim is not supported by evidence in the file. “Groundwater (indeed – in some cases diverted ground water is part of the subsurface flow regime) dynamics exert a strong influence on the volume and quality of surface flow in the Shasta and its tributaries.” (3.2-8). In spite of this

6-11

statement there is no groundwater component (assessment, monitoring, and/or diversion control) of the Program. Monitoring of additional wells, groundwater extraction and groundwater levels as well as potential relationships with surface flow must be included in any analysis and/or program.

6-11  
cont.

**The permit programs will not lead to the recovery of Coho Salmon as required by the California Endangered Species Act:**

Information in the DEIR does not support the assertion that the proposed permits will lead to or are consistent with Coho recovery as required by the CESA. Information which has been provided during the scoping period, and extant in the current file, indicates that the permit program is not consistent with recovery. Because the permits are designed to cover all agricultural operations and because those operations include unregulated activities which expert agencies and CDFG’s own information indicate are and will continue to negatively impact Coho, the proposed permits do not meet CESA requirements. For example, CDFG, Siskiyou RCD and tribal collaborative Coho surveys in the Scott River indicate that Coho migration has been delayed in recent drought years due to low flow barriers. Those low flows have now been shown to be directly related to unregulated groundwater pumping.

6-12

**Recommendation:** CDFG should remove from permit coverage those activities which other expert agencies, peer reviewed studies and CDFG’s own fish monitoring programs indicate are inconsistent with the recovery of Coho salmon.

**The permit programs would delegate CDFG regulatory responsibilities to the Shasta and Scott RCDs which are not regulatory agencies and which have asserted in testimony on the proposals to list Coho salmon pursuant to the state and federal ESAs that they will not perform regulatory functions.**

6-13

CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers (a situation where conflicts of interest are obvious) who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. CDFG is also proposing to restrict the access of its wardens to the streams covered by the permit. In addition, the proposal does not include provisions for adequate compliance monitoring. For these reasons it will be impossible for CDFG to verify whether or not the RCDs are performing the regulatory functions that proposed to be delegated – as noted in the DEIR.

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6-15

What is the public noticing and participation process for the DFG Code 1600 process? How will information be provided for public participation in this process? Who will be responsible for this process?

6-16

**Recommendations:**

- CDFG should not delegate regulatory authority to agencies that have no record of adequate regulatory performance, which have stated in the public record that they are not regulatory and do not intend to perform regulatory functions and which would require neighbors to report and enforce on neighbors in order to be effective.

6-17

- CDFG should not agree to keep wardens, and other enforcement staff, off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law.

6-18

**The DEIRs do not comply with CEQA requirements:**

CEQA contains specific requirements which must be met before a project can be approved. The DEIRs do not meet several CEQA requirements including:

6-19

- **Projects must be fully described:** The DEIRs do not adequately describe the scope of the proposed projects because they do not adequately describe the agricultural operations to which they will apply. In addition the DEIR does not adequately describe existing conditions, including human modified hydrologic conditions, extant in the Scott and Shasta Rivers and how the proposed ITP process will mitigate for adverse actions and recover salmon. For example, the changes in agricultural practices over time in these valleys and the impact these changes have had on flows, water temperature and fish habitat have not been adequately described.

6-20

- The document fails to adequately address, discuss, and analyze the “Areas of Controversy” (S-8) including: Project Alternatives to the Program such as re-adjudication of water rights, and removal of Dwinnell Dam; assessment and determination of the proper baseline for the environmental analysis; large information gaps on minimum flow needs (and effects of absence of minim flows) for coho salmon; information gaps on the inter-connectivity of groundwater (subsurface flows in defined channels and surface water) and State authority and responsibility on this issue.

6-21

- **Project must consider environmental consequences and mitigate:** Does the DEIRs fully anticipate consequences and environmental effects and fully mitigate? How do you mitigate for conditions not noted in the DEIR? How can mitigations that have yet be described be counted on to actually do what is called for?

6-22

- Project must have a mitigation monitoring plan - that is capable of dealing with anticipated and un-anticipated results and capabilities of adapting to fix problem areas

6-23

- Project must consider a full range of Alternatives - with full discussion and thought process for findings supporting conclusions and choices.

6-24

- **Project (under CEQA) analysis must consider consistency with applicable law - water code, DFG code, ESA, etc.** The ITP must be consistent with all F&G Codes - Including 1600-1603, 5937 and 5901, State Water Code on diversions and licensing (including beneficial use protection), and the public trust.

6-25



## Comment Letter 6

- The level of take must be numerically defined for each activity and mitigations to address the anticipated take must also be individually defined with clearly measurable criteria included in the document. 6-26
- Reliance on public funding for mitigations is not acceptable. Public funding should not be used for mitigation purposes but should be used for “recovery” purposes. Diverse funding mechanisms for all measures should be identified and include the contributions from applicants. Program Funding (3.1-27): states that CDFG and SVRCD anticipate that grants, cost shares and loans will offset some or all of the costs of the Program. It further states that “it is likely the Program will result in minimal net cost to participating Agricultural Operators”. Will Ag not be required to pay for their necessary mitigations? Who will pay? Where is the money going to come from? 6-27
- DEIR fails to assess and address needs of steelhead and Chinook salmon, and ITP implementation impacts fails California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for analysis of cumulative effects. You can not accomplish a cumulative effects analysis without a full and complete description of the project. 6-28  
6-29
- Flow enhancement mitigation 2 – improve baseline instream flows – (2-21) requires identification of reaches, but offers no measurable objectives for meeting “aquatic habitat improvement”. Long-term solutions must be found to provide the needed water flows, such analysis to determine minimum necessary by-pass flows and/or a permanent transfer of water dedicated for fish. 6-30
- Flow enhancement mitigation 3 (Shasta and Scott) – contingency plan for dry years – (2-21) requires a plan to “incorporate the best available information on both surface and groundwater (where relevant) to minimize the likelihood that critical coldwater flows to the Shasta River and its tributaries are impaired”. It does not define where groundwater is “relevant” or what relevant means. “Minimize” is should be qualified with measurable objectives. Analysis must be undertaken to establish use of “ground water” (subsurface flow in a confined channel ) and its interface (relevance) with instream flows necessary for fish survival. 6-31
- The mitigations for fish “stranding” are unclear. What role does the cumulative effects of water diversion play to stranding – and – preventative measures to limit stranding? 6-32
- Grazing livestock – Agricultural impacts – including sediment pollution and nutrient loading are not adequately addressed and need additional evaluation. Grazing exclusion fencing zones of 35 feet (A-25) are too narrow and should be 100 feet minimum based on federal guidelines established to protect riparian zones and overflow pollution. (See Scott TMDL discussion below. 6-33
- CEQA compels CDFG to share all data (data must be available to the public) from the existing DEIR and the Department needs to commit itself and the Shasta Valley RCD to full disclosure and public sharing of all data, including raw data. This raises another issue 6-34  
6-35

pertinent to RCD administration of the proposed permits. The RCD considers monitoring data collected on private lands as proprietary information. The DEIR must address where monitoring and other data will be considered proprietary and explain why the agency and the public will not need this data to evaluate compliance with permit conditions and applicable laws and codes. All information necessary for analysis and the decision making process must be made available to the public.

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cont.

**Comments applicable only to the proposed Scott River Permit Program**

**1. The Department has not consulted adequately with the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation (QVIR) – a federally recognized tribe.**

The QVIR has invested a tremendous amount of time and resources into water quality monitoring. Yet CDFG has not treated the Tribe as a partner, has not requested or adequately considered its data or how the proposed project will impact its interests. Furthermore, the Siskiyou RCD – which CDFG proposes implement the permit program has not included the QVIR in its plans and deliberations.

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6-36

**Recommendation:** The QVIR should be a full partner in any permit program which will impact Coho and Chinook salmon and/or which potentially could impact the interests of the tribe and its members.

**2. The DEIR does not adequately analyze and disclose the impact of the CDFG/DWR “fish rescue” program and the impact of “take” which has and will continue to occur which is directly related to the operation of surface water stream diversions.**

(Discuss take, warden complaints/legal actions and complaints associated with take of Coho and other species at diversions).

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**3. The Scott DEIR does not adequately consider the best scientific information available on conditions in the Scott River and on the relationship between agricultural activities and these conditions.**

Included in the file is the abstract of a peer reviewed study which directly addresses two issues which the EIR must address to comply with the requirements of CEQA. These two issues are the impact of climate change and the impact of the increase in irrigation associated with a doubling of unregulated irrigation pumping while surface diversions have remained fairly constant. This empirical study found that 60% of the decrease in Scott River flow is not explained by changes in precipitation and are most likely related to the increase in unregulated groundwater pumping. Combined with previous groundwater studies by the USGS (1955) and DWR (1975), this study makes a very strong case that the increase in groundwater pumping is a major factor in the decline of Coho salmon in the Scott. The NCWQCB and numerous other sources have documented the connection between flow and temperature. DFG’s own listing documents and

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your Coho Recovery Plan indicate that temperature is a major factor in the decline of Coho and the failure of Coho to recover in the Scott River.

↑ 6-39  
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The decreases in Scott flow associated with increased agricultural water use – including groundwater pumping - means that adjudicated US Forest Service rights to streamflow in the Scott are now not met in the late summer and fall even in average water years. This water right (these flows) were specifically provided for fish. As a result of adequate flows not being provided, Chinook can not reach spawning grounds in average water years and Coho spawning migration is delayed in drought years.

6-40

The delay in Coho migration is documented in the CDFG’s own reports (see Scott River Coho spawning surveys). The DEIR does not adequately consider or analyze the impact of this information on Coho or how the proposed permit program would address these impacts so that Coho recovery could occur.

6-41

**This significant new information is directly related to the proposed action and pursuant to CEQA regulations must be considered in the DEIR. Because the proposed action would legalize the dewatering which has resulted from the unregulated groundwater pumping implicated in the significantly decreased flows and consequent impacts to Coho salmon - and because this significant new information was not considered in the DEIR - I am requesting that CDFG withdraw the DEIR and reissue it with this new information fully considered.**

6-42

- **Recommendation:** The EIR should consider the Van Kirk study (abstract and citation below) and information in the CDFG and cooperators Coho spawning and rearing surveys and analyze how the proposed permit program will or will not address this key factor which until addressed will continue.

**Comments applicable only to the proposed Shasta River Permit Program**

1. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) does not adequately analyze or disclose the impact of Dwinnell Dam and Reservoir on Coho salmon. This impact is direct (loss of access to habitat) and indirect (impact on water quality, flows and habitat below the dam. The DEIR rejects Dwinnell Dam removal option when its operation is illegal under CDFG Code 5937 and removal appears to be critical to Coho salmon recovery and water pollution abatement. In the absence of an adequate consideration of its impacts, the removal option can not be rejected out of hand pursuant to CEQA.

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2. The DEIR does not adequately discuss, analyze or address the lack of regulation of water withdrawal by riparian landowners. The extent of this unpermitted, unadjudicated type of withdrawal is not disclosed nor does the DEIR explain how the proposed permit program would address these withdrawals.

6-45

3. The DEIR ignores epidemic problem in the Shasta River basin of non-enforcement of laws related to stream flow and water allocation by CDFG, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Rights Division (WRD) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

6-46

**CAG Comments Scott TMDL Action Plan for Sediment and Temperature**

These comments reflect on the adequacy of the Scott TMDL for Sediment as applied in this ITP DEIR – for, both, Scott and Sasta Rivers.

Coast Action Group supplied detailed comments to the Regional Board. These comments are in the record. This document supplements comments made to the Regional Board regarding deficiencies and issues of compliance with State legal mandates under State Water Code and CEQA.

Included in this document is discussion of actions that the SWRCB can take to resolve issues related to instream flows, a recognized limiting factor and cause of temperature impairment. Because the flow issues are such a large factor on the Scott River and in the TMDL Action Plan, action taken by the SWRCB to remedy this issue can go a long way to attaining legal consistency.

**PROBLEMATIC ISSUES**

State water law says that a TMDL Action Plan/Implementation plan (Water Quality Control Plan) must contain a description of the nature of specific actions that are needed to achieve the water quality objectives, a time schedule, and a plan for monitoring compliance (State Water Code Section 13242). As a Water Quality Control Plan, the Action/Implementation Plan must be adopted into the Basin Plan (Water Quality Control Plan for the Region).

Currently the Scott River TMDL Action Plan/Implementation, in many respects, relies on voluntary actions and/or relies on actions that are not clearly defined, or where language is to be developed after the approval of the TMDL by the Regional Board (or SWRCB). This is inconsistent with Cal Water Code that states that actions are to be clearly defined, with timelines for implementation of such actions. Voluntary actions can be submitted as planning documents to be approved by the Regional Board. Such voluntary planning documents must also include compete descriptions of actions to be taken where those actions must be equal to or better than enforceable criteria that has been clearly stated in the Action/Implementation Plan and capable of meeting Water

6-47

Quality Standards. Such voluntary actions (meeting standards under Cal Water Code) should be held open as options for attaining targets and to meet Water Quality Standards (as in the case of the Garcia River Action Plan for Sediment).

**Reliance on ill defined actions is not consistent with anti-degradation policy:**

Voluntary actions sought in the Scott River Implementation/Action Plan not only do not meet Cal Water Code mandates - they are not consistent with the Basin Plan Anti-degradation Policy (which is amended into the Basin Plan and is enforceable):

Basin Plan Anti-degradation Policy: "Controllable water quality factors shall conform to the water quality objectives contained [in the Basin Plan]. When other factors result in the degradation of water quality beyond the levels or limits established [in the Basin Plan] as water quality objectives, then controllable factors shall not cause further degradation of water quality. Controllable water quality factors are those actions, conditions, or circumstances resulting from man's activities that may influence the quality of waters of the State and that may reasonably be controlled."

Given the above failures, there is a third area in which the Scott TMDL is not consistent with state environmental statute - CEQA.

If aspects of the implementation plan are not developed for public review prior to approval of the TMDL, but are later to be developed and implemented; this is a violation of CEQA noticing and review policy known as project piecemealing and incomplete description of the project.

Due to the factors noted above, reliance of actions yet to be described or unlikely to occur, the State Water Board can not find that the Scott River TMDL Action Plan for Sediment and Temperature meets the requirements of Cal Water Code Section 13242 and the California Environmental Quality Act.

In the case if the Scott River TMDL Action/Implementation Plan for Sediment and Temperature; of the issues not in compliance with Cal Water Code (Section 13242) necessary attributes of a water quality control plan, the most important issue is that of instream flows - maintaining sufficient flows to allow minimal accommodation for the survival of salmonids. The greatest issue not addressed in the Action/Implementation Plan (but to be addressed at some future point that is not stated) is minimum flow maintenance and enforced diversion limitations in the Scott River Basin.

Reliance by the Action Plan, in regards to flow issues, on studies to be done by Siskiyou County, without any actionable or enforceable outcomes associated with any of the language does not meet the specifications of Cal Water Code or the definitions of appropriate project review, as defined under CEQA. Not only are the actions ill defined, the responsibility for flow issues do not reside primarily with the Regional Board. These diversion and flow issues reside within the jurisdiction of the SWRCB/Division of Water Rights.



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The issue of minimum flows and enforcement of diversion limitations and water rights license is the responsibility of the SWRCB/ Division of Water Rights. The SWRCB is just not meeting its responsible agency obligations. In fact, the need for the TMDL, for temperature issues, would not have to be dealt with at all if the SWRCB was doing its job.

**See analysis of proposed actions from Table 4 of the Action/Implementation Plan - Below**

### **ACTION THAT THE SWRCB CAN TAKE TO REMEDY ISSUE**

Correcting this Action Plan inadequacy in dealing with flow issue and legal inconsistency: the SWRCB should remedy the inadequacy by giving the Division of Water Rights directive to address issue. This direction should accomplish the following:

- ◆ State Water Board to adopt instream flow guidelines and support established minimum by-pass flows for the Scott River and its tributaries by use water right administration.
- ◆ Adoption of procedures (relating to compliance, as well as coordination of the several State agencies) to assure effective regulation of water diversions in the Scott River. Such regulation is consistent with the objectives of the California Performance Review, which seeks to improve efficiency, responsiveness and accountability in State Government. See The California Performance Review Report (Aug.3, 2004).
- ◆ Direct the Division of Water Rights to provide (initiate and oversee) study and analysis of water use effects on instream flows of the Scott River during critical low flow periods. Such study should make determinations on the regional risk of cumulative impacts related to diversions and pumping from subsurface flows. The study should develop recommendations which, if adopted as guidelines, would permit development of water supply consistent with salmonid survival.
- ◆ State Water Board develop a compliance program that, on a watershed scale, includes the following features:
  - (A). Installation of stream flow gauging and recording devices at key locations within each stream basin for determining compliance with bypass flow requirements and current level of impairment;
  - (B). Separate schedule for routine, random compliance inspections for each watershed, which is based upon the level of impairment and sensitivity of anadromous salmonid habitat;

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cont.

- (C). Requirement that applicants develop and implement measures that will ensure compliance with bypass terms, and a specific recommendation of “passive” bypass facilities; and
- (D). Procedure for documenting that bypass facilities have been installed and are being maintained.

**Note:** Taking such action in a TMDL to deal with flow issues has recently been accomplished by the SWRCB - Attachment - San Joaquin TMDL - Flow issues - Below

- ◆ The SWRCB should memorialize the current Threatened & Impaired Rules (from the current Forest Practice Rules) into the Scott Action and Implementation Plan. The Regional Board based the Action/Implementation Plan for timber harvest on the employment of these regulations - as a minimum standard for logging operations. These rules sunset in December 2006 and may not be re-authorized by the Board of Forestry. See - Analysis of Proposed Actions - from Table 4 of the Basin Plan Amendment

**JURISDICTION - State Water Resources Control Board**

The people own the state’s waters. See Water Code § 102. Use of that water is of public concern. See id. § 104. All waters shall be managed for the greatest public benefit. See id. § 105.

The State Water Board has exclusive jurisdiction to issue, condition, or rescind post-1914 appropriative water rights. See Water Code § 1250 et seq. It also regulates other rights, including pre-1914 and riparian, to prevent waste or unreasonable use. See id. §§ 100, 275; California Constitution, Article X, section 2.

More generally, the State Water Board is responsible to “provide for the orderly and efficient administration of the water resources of the state.” Water Code § 174. The State Water Board “shall exercise the adjudicatory and regulatory functions of the state in the field of water resources.” Id. It shall take “all appropriate proceedings or actions before executive, legislative, or judicial agencies to prevent waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion of water” in California. Id. § 275. To perform these functions, the State Water Board may: “(A) Investigate all streams, stream systems, portions of stream systems, lakes, or other bodies of water; (B) Take testimony in regard to the rights to water or the use of water thereon or therein; and (C) Ascertain whether or not water heretofore filed upon or attempted to be appropriated is appropriated under the laws of this state.” Id., § 1051. Its function “has steadily evolved from the narrow role of deciding priorities between competing appropriators to the charge of comprehensive planning and allocations of waters.” National Audubon, 33 Cal.3d at 444.

As required by the public trust doctrine, the State protects the trust uses of navigable waters fishing, navigation, commerce, and environmental quality to the extent feasible in water rights and other regulatory decisions. See National Audubon, 33 Cal. 3d at 437, ↓



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441. The State Water Board may reexamine prior diversions to determine whether they should be changed to protect the public trust uses of the affected waters. See id. at 446.

The State Water Board may adopt guidelines and procedures to implement applicable laws and rules. See Water Code § 275. It may formulate and adopt state policy for water quality control. See id. § 13140.

**CEQA Mandates**

The State Water Board is a public agency subject to CEQA. See Pub. Resources Code § 21063. It is the lead agency in a water rights proceeding, even though other public agencies have concurrent jurisdictions.

CEQA’s environmental review requirements apply to State Water Board actions (in this case TMDL and Action Plan approval is a functional equivalency issue - CEQA mandates still apply) and discretionary projects. See Pub. Res. Code § 21080(a). CEQA generally applies to “discretionary projects proposed to be carried out or approved by public agencies....” Id. The statutory definition of “project” includes an activity which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and that involves the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies. See id. § 21065.

In this case the Action/Implementation Plan relies on policy and actions yet to be described and not clearly defined. Thus the impacts and effectiveness of these actions can not be addressed by the public or other responsible agency (including the both the SWRCB and the Regional Board. Thus, public and other responsible agency have been denied a full description of the project/action to be taken and adequate assessment of impacts or affects of the project/action.

The Regional Board, and State Board, analysis of Alternatives consideration is inadequate under CEQA. The consideration of Alternatives must consider feasible, less damaging alternatives. Feasible alternatives were presented by interested parties and are in the record. These alternatives (some included in this paper) offer reasonable solutions and outcomes to issues in question. Reasonable analysis of these alternatives has not be accomplished by the Regional Board and/or State Board.

**FISHERY RESPONSIBILITY**

Two State reports illustrate that the ESA listings result from inadequate regulation of water rights within the Petition’s Geographic Scope. In 1988, the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout, created by law in 1983 to develop a conservation and restoration strategy for salmon and steelhead fisheries (see Fish and Game Code § 6900 et seq.) found:

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cont.



“The effort to maintain adequate streamflow for fish is also seriously hampered by the existing system for considering, granting, and enforcing the conditions placed on diversion permits. These activities are the responsibility of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). More than 13,500 [in 1988] permits have been granted, but only 500 (less than 4%) have bypass flow requirements for the protection of fish life. A recent survey conducted by the SWRCB indicated that more than 35% of the permittees were diverting more water than their rights authorize, indicating poor enforcement. Furthermore, there is the equivalent of only one staff person to handle all of the field inspections.”

California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout, Restoring the Balance (1988 Annual Report), p. 25 (emphasis in original). Second, in 2003, DFG found that: “A substantial amount of coho salmon habitat has been lost or degraded as a result of water diversions and groundwater extraction....In some streams the cumulative effect of multiple small legal diversions may be severe. Illegal diversions are also believed to be a problem in some streams within the range of coho salmon....Many of the watersheds where coho salmon are present have been developed and flows have been regulated and significantly reduced compared to natural flows.”

**Guidelines for Substantive Review of Water Right Permit Applications**

The State Water Board may approve a permit application on proof that (A) water is available for diversion and (B) the diversion will be put to reasonable and beneficial use. See Water Code § 1240. It may establish streamflow and other conditions as it deems necessary to protect fish and wildlife resources. See id. § 1257.5. It will consider the Basin Plans applicable to the affected stream and may subject the permit to those conditions necessary to implement the plan. See id. § 1258; see also id. § 1243.5. A.B. 2121 requires consideration of such plans. Id., § 1259.4(a)(2).

A.B. 2121 requires that, by January 1, 2007, the State Water Board shall adopt instream flow guidelines for these coastal streams in accord with water quality standards for the purpose of water rights administration. See Water Code § 1259.4(a)(1). Prior to such formal adoption, the Board may consider the 2002 Joint Guidelines. Id. § 1259.4(b).

Under Water Code section 1052, the State Water Board may impose an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) up to \$500/day of unauthorized diversion. This is a form of civil penalty, subject to judicial review, for trespass on this public property. Pursuant to Water Code section 1055.3, “[i]n determining the amount of civil liability, the board  
**Analysis of Proposed Actions - from Table 4 of the Basin Plan Amendment**

**Roads & Sediment Waste Discharges:**

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cont.

Reliance on voluntary actions. Site specific plans to be developed on an “as needed basis”. No dates for compliance specified for “as needed” compliance plans and actions, no specifications or default language (description) for baseline actions to comply, waits to after discharge takes place to initiate action by the Regional Board.

Evaluation and development of Caltrans actions and NPDES will occur at some future date. If need program and language will be developed in 2 years. No specifications or default language (descriptions) of baseline actions for compliance are present. Stormwater Plan to be reviewed at some future date - not disclosed.

**Roads – County of Siskiyou:** MOU with Siskiyou County on road management. No specifications or default language (descriptions) of baseline actions for compliance are present. Stormwater Plan to be reviewed at some future date - not disclosed. No final implementation dates noted - though development of a schedule is proposed.

**Grading Ordinance - County of Siskiyou:** “The Regional Water Board encourages the County to develop a comprehensive ordinance addressing roads, land disturbance activities, and grading activities...” Encouragement with no timeline, language or specifics on what must be addressed and when.

**Temperature & Vegetation**

Reliance on voluntary actions. No dates for completion of actions or descriptive language are developed for plans and actions, no specifications or default language (description) for baseline actions to comply, plan waits to after discharge takes place to initiate action by the Regional Board.

**Water Use – Water Users**

Reliance on voluntary actions for conservation practices. The Regional Board requests the County, “ in cooperation with other appropriate stakeholders” to do a study on the affects of ground water pumping on instream flows. The County, along with the “stakeholders” is resistant to such study and implementation of practices that would maintain sufficient instream flows to protect fish. Such study, with development of protective guidelines, is very unlikely to be developed.

This issues is really under the authority of the SWRCB, Division of Water Rights - see discussion above.

No enforceable program is described under this issue.

**Timber Harvest – Private & Public**

No dates for completion of actions or descriptive language are developed for plans and actions, no specifications or default language (description) for baseline actions to

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cont.



comply with TMDL targets. Reliance is on the general permitting process, subject to mult-agency review. All Scientific reports and EPA and NOAA findings indicate that such application of the Forest Practice Rules, as administered by CDF, do not protect the beneficial uses of water.

**NOTE: This TMDL Action/Implementation Plan relies on the Forest Practice Rules, known to both the Regional Board and the SWRCB to not sufficiently protect the beneficial uses of water. Also, reliance is based on Threatened & Impaired Rules that may, or may not remain as an enforceable part of the Timber Harvest Plan management process. This TMDL Action/Implementation plan states, "If current laws and regulation governing timber harvest (e.g., the Forest Practice Rules) are changed in a manner that reduces water quality protections, the Regional Board will use its authorities to maintain at a minimum the current level of water quality protection." This language is not sufficient to assure maintenance of the Threatened & Impaired Rules that are now in place. The SWRCB must take action to ensure maintenance of the minimum standards of the Threatened and Impaired Rules by incorporating them into the Scott Rive TMDL Action/Implementation Plan for Sediment and Temperature. The Threatened and Impaired Rules were put in place as minimum operational standards to protect beneficial uses and meet water quality standards. This regulation is interim and sunsets in Dec. 2006. Failure of the Board of Forestry to re-authorize these rules needs to be addressed by the SWRCB through the MAA/MOU process.**

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cont.

The U.S. Forest Service & U.S. Bureau of Land Management are requested to develop an MOU to address timber harvest management issues. Dates are not set for completion and enforceable language and description of actions is missing and not reviewable by the public.

**Grazing Management Practices**

The U.S. Forest Service & U.S. Bureau of Land Management are requested to develop an MOU to address grazing management issues. Dates are not set for completion and enforceable language and description of actions is missing and not reviewable by the public. Such language and interim management guidelines should be provided for grazing practices.

Grazing Activities- private lands: Reliance is on voluntary application of standards that have not been disclosed. Dates are not set for completion and enforceable language and description of actions is missing and not reviewable by the public. Such language and interim management guidelines should be provided for grazing practices.

We hope these comments help to clarify and improve upon issues

Sincerely,

For Coast Action Group

FROM : DOUG AND GAIL JENNER

FAX NO. : 5304685331

Dec. 05 2008 02:58PM P1

530-225-2381

**FAX Cover Sheet**

**TO: Mr. Bob Williams, Staff Environmentalist  
Scientist**

Conservation Planning CDFG  
601 Locust St. Redding, CA 96001

***RE: Shasta and Scott Watershed-Wide Permitting  
programs/Draft EIR & ITP***

From  
Jenner Cattle Co., Inc.  
Fax: 530-468-5331  
Call: 530-598-6100 or 530-598-6107

**FOUR (4) pages,**

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December 2, 2008

Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
Conservation Planning  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Northern California – North Coast Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001

California Department of Fish and Game

RE: The Scott & Shasta EIR & ITP

by Jenner Cattle Co., Inc.  
Represented by:

- Douglas T. Jenner
- John W. Jenner
- Frank B. Jenner
- Nicholas T. Jenner
- Francyne Jenner
- Gail Jenner
- Sarah Jenner
- Jenny Jenner

We are commenting on the PROPOSED Scott & Shasta EIR & ITP and our comments relate to Scott Valley. We seriously question the integrity and process involved in this proposal. These are our major concerns:

1. There are too many unknowns and gray areas, not sufficiently addressed or clearly delineated. It has much too serious an impact on agriculture and on landowners and particularly on water rights. How can you expect us to sign on to a program that has been adequately spelled out and YOU do not even know the consequences of your proposals.
2. This is an infringement on private property rights and on water rights and their legal status in California.
3. Agriculturalists are being burdened with 100% of the "solutions" to "the problem," but we represent only 15% of those involved in the entire question of FISH and habitat.
4. Others involved include Indian tribes who now fish with impunity; they are over-fishing and taking out more than just what they might have traditionally. In addition, OFF-SHORE fishing by other countries has to have an incredible impact on fish numbers.
5. Historical value has been addressed by the proposal regarding Indian traditions and values. No comments have been made in regard to the historical value of agriculture. This issue must be addressed with the SAME value given Native American cultural traditions, OR changes must be made in the treaties signed between the government and tribes. They must take responsibility for their part of this issue. If we are being asked to sacrifice for the fish, mustn't they also be asked to sacrifice? Changes are being made in our laws in relation to our basic rights; the same needs to be asked of tribes. If this is being avoided because it is a political hot potato, it is not fair or just.

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- 6. The proposal has the potential to change the original 1600 Agreements and their purpose and intent. This proposal will alter to such a degree that it can only be regarded as an abuse or misuse of legislation. It also has the potential to impact the water use not only in Siskiyou County, but throughout the entire state of California.
- 7. This program is cost prohibitive for the average California farmer and includes an unnecessary and restrictive "one size fits all" mentality. Although monies are being set aside at this time, history reveals that the state cannot sustain the burden of the program for any extended period of time, and it will undoubtedly come back to the individual landowner and water user.
- 8. Fish & Game are responsible for MORE stranded fish than this program will save! Naturally de-watered streams with stranded fish could be saved if properly managed. No transport is allowed at this time if and when fish are trapped in pools of water, even when contacted by landowners! However, if fish were captured and transported, as many fish could be saved as could be saved potentially by this program—if properly managed. Why not start out with REAL fish to be saved not just supposed numbers of fish that might be involved in this program?
- 9. IF instituted, the mitigations measures need to be flexible and SITE-SPECIFIC. There is no solution that can meet all the needs of landowners OR fish. The idea that one mandate will take care of problems is utterly preposterous. Those employed to perform restoration activities MUST be expected to DO the work of restoration and individualize according to the needs and environment and requirements inherent in each location.
- 10. RE: the taking of water. Taking water from landowners and agriculture is unacceptable, and if instituted, every person affected by this taking MUST be compensated. However, at the same time, it is almost impossible to measure the impact on landowners or agriculturalists in this compensation. How can anyone ascertain the exact LOSS suffered by those who have lost water? It is absolutely not acceptable.
- 11. This entire project puts too much demand on the 1600 process and on landowners. The economic strain is immeasurable and will create UNDUE HARDSHIP for farmers, ranchers, landowners, water-users.
- 12. IF this is the PEOPLE'S choice, then the PEOPLE MUST pay 100% of the direct and indirect costs – which can only be measured, truly, by those who own the water and whose livelihoods will be seriously affected. The decisions of a few who will be imposing these new regulations and who –by the way – derive their living from us, as huge taxpayers, is absolutely unfair.
- 13. Nothing in this proposal deals with the possibility that this "science" is flawed or that the results may garner little or nothing. IF, after all, the program fails, what insurance or guarantee does the landowner have that changes or a retraction is possible? The

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government does not have a good reputation in repairing or retracting failed projects. The fact that this money is being used to fund jobs in the RCD or DFG means that those individuals will be working to preserve their jobs at any cost. There must be some sort of concrete data gathering that PROVES (publicly) that the results have been worth the sacrifices.

↑  
7-7  
cont.

14. Finally, this project addresses SURFACE water users. What about ALL water users? The impact is not addressed in this draft of the project.

7-8

We expect that the answers to these concerns be adequately and clearly addressed before anyone is expected to sign up. We question a project that leaves much to the imagination and much in the air!

7-9

Jenner Cattle Co., Inc.  
6131 Island Road  
1524 Island Road  
Etna, CA 96027  
530-598-6100  
530-598-1507  
530-468-5331  
530-467-3486  
FAX: 530-468-5331  
Gfiorini@sisqtel.net

## Comment Letter 8

From: Mr. Petey Brucker- Klamath River Program  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
HCR 4 Box 610  
Forks of Salmon, CA 96031  
(530) 462 4720  
peteybrucker@gmail.com

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Mr. Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)  
Electronic Submission: [SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov) or [SHASTADEIR@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:SHASTADEIR@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIRs

Date: December 9, 2008

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

We would like to thank you for providing us with the opportunity to submit comments to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on the Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed Wide Permitting Programs and related Draft Environmental Impact Reports (DEIR). Your hard work on these documents and in the related processes should be commended. We are providing you with both additional general comments that raise common issues to both the Shasta and Scott DEIRs, as well as comments that are specific to the Shasta and Scott DIERS. We incorporate by reference comments submitted to you by the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation and the Klamath Riverkeeper for the DEIRs.

8-1

The National Marine Fisheries Service (Weitkamp et al., 1995) found Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) required protection under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), throughout their range in northwestern California and southern Oregon more than a decade ago. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) eventually reached a similar conclusion and moved to list coho under California Endangered Species Act (CESA) statutes in 2003 (CDFG, 2002).

8-2

An Incidental Take Permit (ITP) is required by CESA by any party planning to engage in any land or water use that might cause harm to any species listed. On October 11, 2006 CDFG issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for a Shasta and Scott River Watershed-Wide Coho Salmon Incidental Take Permitting Programs. CDFG's ITP initiative and EIR are in response to draft applications by agricultural groups in both basins, which we have found to be problematic in terms of approach and sufficiency (see comments below).

8-3



Coho salmon populations in both the Shasta and Scott River basins are clearly at high risk of extinction (NRC, 2004) and the quality of the ITPs will determine whether they continue their decline to extinction or begin recovery. We are also concerned about how CDFG will deal with flow issues in these basins, because TMDL studies indicate that water quality problems like temperature cannot be solved unless agricultural water diversion and ground water pumping is reduced.

8-4

**General Comments for both the Incidental Take Permits and Draft Environmental Impact Reports for Shasta and Scott River Coho Salmon**

- The DEIRs will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river. The DEIRs need to address the key problems associated with flow in the Shasta and Scott watersheds.

8-5

- The DEIRs state that the Water Master and CDFG must work together to take steps when fish are stranded as a result of no water connectivity. It does not explain what these steps are and weakly implies using fish rescue or salvage. The DEIRs must be explicit about when and how fish rescue will be used, as fish rescue in and of itself is not an adequate replacement for instream flows.

8-6

- CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

8-7

- CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The RCDs are uncomfortable with being charged with enforcing the Endangered Species Act on project participants, and rightly so. The Siskiyou and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action. RCDs are not a regulatory agency with enforcement power and this is a major oversight of the Program. Please clarify who exactly will be in charge of enforcing the terms of the permit, and on what grounds these parties are given this power.

8-8

- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: “Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin”, Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008 , pp. 1035-1052(18). Please incorporate this information and associated analysis into the Final Environmental Impact Report (FIER).

8-9

## Comment Letter 8

- The Program does not adequately explain how "required mitigation" projects will be paid for under the new permitting system. If the RCDs are unable to pay for such mitigation through their existing grants, the burden of paying for mitigation and restoration will fall squarely on landowners. This is unfair to landowners and does not bode well for the success of the program. Please provide an avenue for funding these "required mitigations" which will more likely be successful. 8-10
- 
- The DEIRs acknowledge that the Program doesn't fully address California's Coho Recovery Strategy. However, one purpose of the Watershed-Wide Permitting Program is to implement this Coho Recovery Strategy. Please fully analyze the environmental impacts associated with exchanging recommended actions under the Coho Recovery Strategy for other mitigation options. 8-11
- 
- The Program rests on the assumption that a programmatic Incidental Take Permit (ITP) would provide coverage for otherwise legal activities. However, the DEIRs do not adequately explain what assurances we have that covered activities will in fact be legal. There are already significant breaches of water rights in these watersheds, and Siskiyou County's move to private Water Master service may only add to this problem. Please clarify how the EIRs will track the legality of time of use, place of use, and point of diversion for covered water diversions. 8-12

### **Comments Specific to the Shasta River Incidental Take Permit and DEIR**

- CDFG *Initial Study* does not mention removal or modification of Dwinnell Dam , which violates CDFG 5937, because it dewateres the river, and blocks passage to a huge amount of salmon spawning and rearing habitat; The Dwinnell Dam removal alternative was rejected for inappropriate reasons. Please explain in the FEIR for the Shasta watershed how Dwinnell Dam is legal under CDFG code 5937. 8-13
- The Shasta DEIR Does not address reconnection of tributaries like Parks Creek or the Little Shasta River through flow restoration. Please address this need and include in the FEIR for the Shasta watershed. 8-14
- 
- The Shasta DEIR does not reference the Shasta TMDL or address water quality problems that are related to diminished flow. In the FEIR for the Shasta watershed, please incorporate actions that address water quality problems that are related to diminished flows in Shasta watershed and reference findings and direction found in the TMDL. 8-15
- 
- The CDFG Initial Study considers validating flow levels that target coho only and could incidentally harm Chinook salmon and steelhead, if approved. Please address these potential impacts in the FEIR for the Shasta watershed. 8-16

### **Comments Specific to the Scott River Incidental Take Permit and DEIR**

- The CDFG *Initial Study* and Scott DEIR fail to meet the stated CESA requirements for the use of best available science. 8-17
-

## Comment Letter 8

- These documents do not properly characterize the true risk of coho salmon extinction in the Scott River and should be addressed in the FEIR. 8-18
- Excessive diversion of streamflow, over-extraction of groundwater and, therefore, flow-related water quality problems in the Scott River are not adequately addressed and will not be resolved. These water quality problems related to flow should be addressed in the FEIR for the Scott watershed. 8-19
- There is no indication that CDFG will require unrestricted public data sharing, which is a requirement of science and necessary for public trust protection. The DEIR should clarify how data will be shared with the public. 8-20
- Actions taken under the *SRCD Draft ITP* and *Initial Study* focus only on coho salmon, which is not the only Pacific salmon species at risk in the Scott River basin nor the species of greatest economic importance. 8-21

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG. In addition, the CDFG should develop and implement actions that are feasible and will likely lead to the protection and recovery of coho salmon in these watersheds and throughout the state of California. We look forward to your developing a Final Environmental Impact Statement that adequately addresses our comments and concerns raised above. If you have any questions or would like additional details on any of our comments, please contact me. 8-22  
8-23  
8-24  
8-25

Sincerely,



Petey Brucker- Klamath River Program Coordinator for  
Klamath Forest Alliance

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### References

- California Department of Fish and Game. 2006a. Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Environmental Check List and Initial Study. CDFG, Region 1, Redding, CA. 73 p. 8-26
- California Department of Fish and Game. 2006. Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report: Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program for Coho Salmon Incidental Take Permit (ITP). 10/19/06. CDFG, Region 1, Redding, CA. 11 p.

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8-26  
cont.

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District. 2005. Draft Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District Master Incidental Take Permit Application. Submitted to CDFG Region 1 in April 2005. SVRCD, Yreka, CA. 120 p.

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Weitkamp, L. A., T. C. Wainwright, G. J. Bryant, G. B. Milner, D. J. Teel, R. G. Kope, and R. S. Waples. 1995. Status review of coho salmon from Washington, Oregon, and California. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-NWFSC-24, 258 p.



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
 Governor of California  
 State House  
 Sacramento, California

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

Re: DFG's legal responsibility to protect the salmon in the Shasta and Scott Rivers

The Lost Coast League is a forty-year-old organization with both local and national membership whose efforts are concentrated on protecting public trust values and natural resources on the north coast of California. We have interacted with the California Department of Fish and Game on numerous occasions in regard to the preservation of the King Range, timber harvest practices on the north coast and more specifically the fate of our precious and endangered salmon populations.

9-1

As you are no doubt aware our salmon populations are in danger of extinction in the next decade. I am sure you agree that this loss would be difficult to tolerate, from a spiritual, economic or environmental standpoint. We must do everything humanly possible to prevent such a catastrophe.

To therefore allow the DFG to abdicate its responsibilities to Californians, and not assume the most dedicated and militant stand to protect this resource, would both baffle and infuriate our membership. This is a time for DFG to impose the strictest possible protections on our salmon habitat. Its adventurist proposal, to cede its mandate on the Scott and Shasta Rivers, must be swiftly and summarily rejected.

9-2

Very Truly Yours,

Ellen Taylor, Chair Lost Coast League

# Comment Letter 10

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**From:** Ani Kame'enui [ak@oregonwild.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 1:00 PM  
**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
**Cc:** governor@governor.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Scott & Shasta take permits considered

Mr. Williams,

I'm writing on behalf of thousands of members and our concerns for the health of the Klamath River tributaries, the Scott and Shasta. I understand that the CDFG has prepared Draft Environmental Impact Reports (DEIR) on its proposal to provide programmatic permits allowing the "take" of coho salmon to the Scott Resource Conservation District and the Shasta Resource Conservation District. It is also my understanding that CDFG has proposed to let these Districts administer permits needed by farmers to potentially alter or privately "manage" stream beds. Under this program, it appears that Fish & Game wardens would be prohibited from entering the land of farmers and ranchers who sign up for the program or following public streams that run through the property.

Under this plan and the aforementioned proposed permits the recovery and restoration of coho salmon will continue to be in jeopardy. This permit process will present an additional risk to coho, chinook salmon and Steelhead trout as the permits do not address the core needs of these fish. Of course, at the core, these fish struggled due to low flows and the progressive de-watering of these key Klamath tributaries; this is a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

To be clear, CDFG should not delegate responsibility for the enforcement of the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards. It is well know that the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would loose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action. Further, CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.


Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA inadequacies include: 1. Failure to use the best available scientific information; 2. failure to consider environmental consequences and mitigate for those consequences; 3. inconsistency with other laws and regulation including C-ESA, Water Codes and Fish & Game Codes; and 4. failure to consider alternatives to the proposed action.

In sum, CDFG should scale back the proposed permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Please review these and additional concerns as you consider the enforcement of the CA-ESA and the

## Comment Letter 10

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long-term health of these invaluable watersheds.  10-14  
cont.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Ani Kame'enui  
Klamath Campaign Coordinator  
(503) 283-6343 x205  
Oregon Wild ([www.oregonwild.org](http://www.oregonwild.org))

# Comment Letter 11

**North Group, Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club  
Environmental Protection and Information Center  
Northcoast Environmental Center  
Felice Pace (as an individual)  
28 Maple Road  
Klamath, California 95548**

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: **Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR**

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

We write today to provide comments on the proposed Shasta and Scott River Watershed-wide permitting programs. We are combining our comments for both DEIRs because the two proposals are very similar. However, there are some issues pertinent to the DEIRs that are distinct for each watershed. Therefore, after our comments which are pertinent to both proposals we include comments specific to the Shasta and the Scott. Finally, we make recommendations to CDFG on how to proceed with respect to both proposals.

There follows the contact persons for each of the three groups and one individual submitting these comments. Please direct future communications to these contact persons and check to be sure they are each individually on the list so that each receives all future notices and documents – preferably in electronic form.

NAME	ORGANIZATION	MAILING ADDRESS	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Diane Beck	North Group Redwood Chapter Sierra Club	PO Box 238 Arcata, CA 95518	dfbeck@northcoast.com
Scott Graecen	Environmental Protection and Information Center	Number 122 600 F St, Suite 3 Arcata, CA 95521	scott@wildcalifornia.org
Pete Nichols	Northcoast Environmental Center	1465 G Street, Arcata, CA 95521	pete@humboldtbykeeper.org
Felice Pace	Self	28 Maple Rd. Klamath, CA 95548	unofelice@gmail.com

11-1



Summary of Comments

The CDFG is proposing to institute programmatic 1600 and C-ESA take permits to the Shasta and Siskiyou RCDs. It appears that the 1600 program is feasible as designed. But the C-ESA take permits are not feasible and do not comply with C-ESA regulations. 11-2

C-ESA requirements for granting of a “Take” permit include: 1) the activity is incidental to a lawful activity; 2) the impacts of the authorized take are minimized and fully mitigated; 3) the permit is consistent with any regulations adopted pursuant to Fish and Game Code, §§ 2112 and 2114; 4) there is adequate funding to implement the minimization and mitigation measures, and to monitor compliance with and the effectiveness of those measures; and 5) issuance of the permit will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. 11-3

**The requirements of the C-ESA are not met because:**

- As explained below, the permit would authorize or cover activities that are not otherwise authorized or legal. For example, full diversion in winter (i.e. outside the irrigation season as defined in respective adjudications), “Take” via Fish Rescue and the unreasonable use of water in violation of the Water Code and the Public Trust Doctrine. 11-4

- The level of “take” authorized is not known or adequately described. Therefore it is impossible to know whether mitigations will be effective to mitigate this level of take. 11-5

- The mitigations proposed are all projects and actions which the RCDs have already been implementing – most of them for more than 20 years. Since those projects and actions have not been effective in the past it is unrealistic to assume they will be effective in the future. The DEISs contain no analysis indicating whether or not these mitigations will be effective. Furthermore, adequate performance measures are not identified or defined and the permit holders (the respective RCDs) are responsible for monitoring their own compliance. 11-6

- The programs divert all restoration funding to mitigating “take”. Yet the documents state that the Coho Recovery Plan is not being implemented by these programs. Therefore, by the CDFGs own admission, diversion of all restoration funding to mitigation will preclude recovery. But CDFG has a responsibility under the C-ESA to recover the species. Thus the programs violate the C-ESA. 11-7

- Coho in the Shasta and Scott River are already at jeopardy because the number of returning spawners is not a genetically viable population as defined in the scientific literature. The proposed permits either incorporate the status quo (including illegal activities) or rely on actions for which funding is not assured or adequate and/or which are not adequately analyzed (e.g. water banks). Therefore, the proposed programs can not be presumed to preclude jeopardy. In fact, because it would divert funds from restoration (recovery) to mitigation, the proposed programs may actually enhance current jeopardy conditions. 11-8

**The proposed programs violate CEQA because:**

- The program does not adequately describe the project as required by CEQA. The project applies to ALL agricultural operations but those agricultural operations are not adequately 11-9

# Comment Letter 11

- described. Specifically, the use of groundwater for irrigation, the changes in groundwater use over time and the impact of this increase on flows has not been adequately described. Also, common irrigation practices including running diversions full all year and out-of-season irrigation are not described. ↑  
11-9  
cont.
- The program does not adequately analyze and disclose project impacts as required by CEQA. For example, the project applies to ALL agricultural operations but the use of groundwater for irrigation, the changes in groundwater use over time and the impact of this increase on flows and on Coho salmon have not been adequately analyzed and disclosed. 11-10
  - The mitigations that are described are entirely dependent on the state legislature and federal government continuing to provide restoration funding. Therefore implementation of the mitigations can not be assured over the course of the permit. 11-11
  - The Scott DEIR cites but does not use the best available scientific information. Specifically a major peer reviewed study: Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin, **Authors:** Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W.<sup>2</sup> : JAWRA Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008 , pp. 1035-1052(18) is cited but its analysis is not applied to analysis of impacts or feasible alternatives. 11-12
  - The DEIRs do not contain a reasonable range of feasible alternatives as required by CEQA. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires an evaluation of the comparative effects of a range of reasonable alternatives. The environmental impact report (EIR) must consider a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives that will foster informed decision-making and public participation. Feasible alternatives to the program exist which are not even considered or mentioned. These include:
    - 1. Focusing on compliance with existing state laws: Allowing CDFG enforcement personnel to enter private agricultural lands in order to assure compliance with applicable Fish & Game Codes is both legal and feasible. Because it is well documented that non-compliance occurs on a regular basis (see, for example, attached 2001 SF Chronicle article citing CDFG officials concerning non-enforcement of Fish & Game Codes in the Shasta and Scott) it is feasible and reasonable to include an alternative which would rely on effective enforcement of existing laws and rules. Absent inclusion of such an alternative it is impossible to determine if such an approach would be more or less effective, more or less costly and more or less likely to achieve the objectives (conserving Coho and minimizing take). 11-13
    - 2. A program that would include extending watermaster service to the entire area.
    - 3. Requiring the permittee or the sub-permittee to fund mitigations as opposed to diverting restoration funds for this purpose.Failure to include and analyze a reasonable and feasible range of alternatives is a violation of CEQA. 11-14
  - The DEIRs do not disclose or analyze the impact of pesticide use by the agricultural operations it proposes to permit. Pesticide use in these valleys include pesticides which the EPA has determined can harm salmonids – including Coho - and which NMFS has determined require large no-spray buffers on streams. But no permit conditions prescribe buffers or any restrictions. The failure to analyze the impact of pesticide use is a violation of CEQA. 11-15

# Comment Letter 11

## The proposed Program has major flaws which will render it ineffective in conserving Coho Salmon. These flaws include:

- The proposed Take Permit does not do enough for Coho. Coho in Scott Valley and Shasta Valley. These Coho need over-summer and over-winter habitat. The “mitigations” discussed in the Initial Study are mostly either for regulatory compliance or paying irrigators to pump water into the river that will be sucked out again by pumps near the river farther down stream. The proposed Take Permit does not advance recovery strategy goals. In fact, it diverts scarce resources from true restoration (recovery) to pay for irrigator regulatory compliance. 11-16
- The proposed Take Permit ignores the collegial and respectful approach to restoration that has been used in Klamath River for the past 20 years. Under the Klamath Act the State of California acted as a partner with tribes, fishermen, local government and federal agencies. Unfortunately, in this case those who have a vital interest in water management in the Scott River and Shasta River – tribes, fishermen, river and coastal communities – the Downstream Interests - and the considerable localized knowledge and expertise in fisheries restoration which the tribes and communities in particular have developed - have been excluded from the process. These proposed programs are truly a lost opportunity and a backward step for Klamath River Basin restoration. 11-16
- Take permit protection will cover all agricultural activities including groundwater pumping; but groundwater pumping – which according to the Department of Water Resources constitutes 54% of Scott River irrigation – is not addressed in the regulatory or mitigation frameworks. The DEIRs appear at points to assert that the scope is limited to surface water diversion. However, a plain reading of the permits disproves such assertions. Both permits read in part: “For purposes of this Permit, “agricultural operator” is defined as any natural person or any partnership, corporation, limited liability company, trust, or other type of association or any public agency, as defined in CEQA Guidelines, §15379, who diverts water from a stream by means of an active diversion in the Program Area for an agricultural purpose, **or is involved in an agricultural operation on property in the Program Area through which or adjacent to which a stream flows.**” (emphasis added). 11-17
- The RCD boards – responsible under the proposed take permit for monitoring compliance and reporting those who do not follow through with what is needed to minimize take -are likely to include the holders of sub-permits. Based on self-interest, past performance and declared philosophy concerning regulation of land, water and wildlife, the RCDs can not be relied upon to monitor and report non-compliance. As in the past, the RCD policy will likely be “don’t ask; don’t tell.” From a legal standpoint, participation on boards which make regulatory decisions is not permitted for members of the regulated community. Therefore, for the RCDs to be in charge of compliance monitoring the Supervisors would have to appoint board members who are not involved in irrigated agriculture. 11-18
- The RCDs are responsible under the proposed permits for “Effectiveness Monitoring” The proposed permits state that the RCDs “shall determine the effectiveness of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures identified in this Permit and sub-permits and the extent to which the objectives of those measures have been met in accordance with the requirements below.” While the inclusion of effectiveness monitoring is excellent, it is well established in the literature that the entity implementing a project has natural biases which preclude that 11-19

# Comment Letter 11

entity from adequately monitoring the effectiveness of what are essentially its own actions. Consequently, in order to be effective, effectiveness monitoring must be accomplished by an independent entity. In this case we recommend that the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation be designated as the entity responsible for effectiveness monitoring and that funding for this monitoring be provided by the permittees and/or CDFG.

↑  
11-19  
cont.

- It is likely that the proposed programs will result in continued non-enforcement of Fish & Game Code 5937. In addition, as proposed, the Take permit would violate the CESA and its implementing regulations and CEQA regulations and case law.

↑  
11-20

The programmatic 1600 and C-ESA programs will not work in practice for the reasons summarized above and discussed in detail below and in attachments. To remedy the deficiencies we strongly recommend that the CDFG abandon the attempt to provide a “take” permit that covers all agricultural operations including the unregulated pumping of groundwater. In our opinion, a programmatic approach in these two valleys could potentially work if CDFG did the following:

↑  
11-21

- Limit the program to a 1600 program, restoration activities of the RCDs and (possibly) a well designed and implemented “take” permit covering surface diversions only.
- CDFG itself or an independent contractor were in charge of monitoring compliance (including allowing enforcement personnel to participate in verifying compliance).
- Take associated with permitted activities were quantified and mitigated.
- Permits and sub-permits specifically commit holders to comply with S. 5937 and other applicable Fish & Game and Water Codes.
- The DEIRs contained an adequate estimate of the amount of take to be permitted and an analysis of impact of the quantified take on Coho viability in the two subject watersheds – including genetic viability.
- Cumulative impacts to Chinook salmon and Lamprey were adequately analyzed and disclosed.

Programmatic approaches for the Shasta and Scott Valleys could be constructed that would both pass legal muster and which would be in the interest of Coho and the public. Unfortunately, the programs described in the DEIRs do not meet these criteria.

## **The proposed programs will not advance the recovery of Coho salmon and are inconsistent with the adopted Recovery Strategies and Plans:**

As stated in the proposed permits: “The Recovery Strategy emphasizes cooperation and collaboration, and recognizes the need for funding, public and private support for restoration actions, and maintaining a balance between regulatory and voluntary efforts to meet the goals of the Recovery Strategy.”

Unfortunately, the proposed programs do not provide a “balance between regulatory and voluntary efforts” which is called for in the Recovery Strategy. This is most dramatically seen in the proposal to not allow CDFG enforcement personnel onto the lands which would be “covered” by the permit. As documented in the SF Chronicle (2001, attached), the Shasta and Scott Valley’s have for years been subject to a decision from the highest levels of the Department of Fish & Game to NOT enforce key Fish & Game Codes. Furthermore, DFG wardens have been ordered not to enter streambeds on private lands in these valley’s even though they have a well established right guaranteed by the state constitution and the Public Trust Doctrine. The proposed programs would continue this situation. This does not constitute a “balance between regulatory and voluntary efforts.”

↑  
11-22

Comments pertinent to both the Shasta and Scott DEIRs

**1. The scope of the projects is overly broad:**

CDFG proposes that the programmatic “take” and stream alteration (1600s) permit programs apply to ALL agricultural operations of those farmers and ranchers who choose to participate. This includes operations that are unregulated and which are implicated not only in the decline of Coho and Chinook salmon but which the available information indicates are likely precluding recovery of Coho salmon. In the Shasta River riparian water rights are unregulated. They were not covered in the Shasta adjudication. More importantly, CDFG has in its files evidence that riparian landowners in the Shasta River have – without notice or permit – placed pumps into the river and removed water for irrigation and other uses. For example, you have a letter from Shasta River landowner John Spencer about a neighbor who acts in this manner. This individual pumps water directly from the river onto steep, low value grazing land. In the Scott River it is groundwater pumping which is unregulated. DWR information indicates that since the 1950s groundwater pumping in the Scott Valley has increased dramatically. DWR data also indicates that groundwater pumping now constitutes more than 50% of total irrigation in the Scott. Surface diversions have not been reduced as a result of this increase but rather land that was previously dry farmed or unfarmed has been brought under irrigation. For example, the entire North end of Scott Valley comprising the lower Moffett Creek Watershed was dry farmed as late as 1970. The entire area is now intensely irrigated and most of it is in alfalfa and other high water use crops.

11-23

**Recommendation:** Scale back the scope of the permits to apply only to restoration programs of the RCDs. It might be possible to apply the permits to surface diversions as well if CDFG and the RCDs can assure that all diversions of a given landowner would be covered (even diversions pursuant to riparian rights in the Shasta), provisions of the Fish & Game Code (especially section 5937) will be enforced and there is an adequate independent monitoring program in place.

11-24

**2. The permit programs will not lead to the recovery of Coho Salmon as required by the California Endangered Species Act:**

Information in the DEIR does not support the assertion that the proposed permits will lead to or are consistent with Coho recovery as required by the C-ESA. In fact, there is considerable information which has been provided during the scoping period which indicates that the permit program is not consistent with recovery. Because the permits are designed to cover all agricultural operations and because those operations include unregulated activities which expert agencies and CDFG’s own information indicate are and will continue to negatively impact Coho, the proposed permits do not meet C-ESA requirements. For example, CDFG, Siskiyou RCD and tribal collaborative Coho surveys in the Scott River indicate that Coho migration has been delayed in recent drought years due to low flow barriers. Those low flows have now been shown to be directly related to unregulated groundwater pumping (see Van Kirk, 2007 previously cited).

11-25

**Recommendation:** CDFG should remove from permit coverage those activities which other expert agencies, peer reviewed studies and CDFG’s own fish monitoring programs indicate are inconsistent with the recovery of Coho salmon.

11-26

**3. The permit programs would delegate CDFG regulatory responsibilities to the Shasta and Scott RCDs which are not regulatory agencies and which have asserted in testimony on the proposals to list Coho salmon pursuant to the state and federal ESAs that they will not perform regulatory functions.**

CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. CDFG is also proposing to restrict the access of its wardens to the streams covered by the permit. In addition, the proposal does not include provisions for adequate compliance monitoring. For these reasons it will be impossible for CDFG and the public to verify whether or not the RCDs are performing the regulatory functions which will have been delegated to them under the proposals.

11-27

**Recommendations:**

- CDFG should not delegate regulatory authority to agencies that have no record of adequate regulatory performance, which have stated in the public record that they are not regulatory and do not intend to perform regulatory functions and which would require neighbors to report and enforce on neighbors in order to be effective.
- CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

11-28

**4. The DEIRs do not comply with CEQA requirements:**

CEQA contains specific requirements which must be met before a project can be approved. The DEIRs do not meet several CEQA requirements including:

**Projects must be fully described:**

The DEIRs do not adequately describe the scope of the proposed projects because they do not adequately describe the agricultural operations to which they will apply. For example, the changes in agricultural practices over time in these valleys and the impact these changes have had on flows, water temperature and fish habitat have not been adequately described.

The DEIR's do not adequately describe baseline conditions precluding accurate analysis of impacts. In particular, the baseline improperly includes illegal practices which are a consequence of the lawlessness that characterizes water management and use in these watersheds. Examples of illegal practices included in the baseline include:

11-29

- There is at least one diversion on Etna Creek that flows full year around. There is at least one ditch on Kidder Creek that also flows full year around. There is no watermaster service on either creek and in the majority of the Scott Valley. The extent of the practice of running diversion ditches year around is not acknowledged, disclosed, quantified or analyzed. This is a CEQA violation.
- After recent floods (97 and 05) landowners in the East Fork and Moffett Creek (Scott) have operated bulldozers in the creek straightening and channelizing them. The result of this illegal activity is now included in the baseline.

# Comment Letter 11

- In the Shasta River the owner of land surrounding Big Springs has put in wells which tap the underground streams that feed Big Springs. As a result the flow of Big Springs has decreased from 120 CFS to 20 CFS. In addition, the entire flow of Little Springs has been diverted into a ditch. These illegal activities are improperly included in the environmental baseline in violation of CEQA.

11-29  
cont.

The improper definition of the environmental baseline prejudices the analysis and makes it impossible for the true impacts of the project to be defined or analyzed. This is a CEQA violation.

## Project must consider environmental consequences and mitigate:

1. The DEIRs correctly identifies dewatering of lower portions of tributaries in the Scott and lack of adequate flows in the Scott and Shasta as major factors impacting Coho and other species. But the DEIRs fail to adequately analyze the consequences of these flows. For example, the delay of Coho migration in the Scott River in dry years as a result of low flow barriers is documented in CDFG spawning survey reports and elsewhere but is not identified in the DEIS. The impact of these low flow barriers on Coho and other species (e.g. Chinook and lamprey) are not analyzed or disclosed.

11-30

2. The mitigation for flow problems are contained in sub-permit conditions and the Scott and Shasta River Water Trusts. However, the actual impact of these factors on the dewatered sections of tributaries and on flows in the Scott River and Shasta River are not analyzed or disclosed. Thus it is impossible to determine whether the mitigations will be effective. This is a CEQA violation.

In the absence of flow studies to determine the specific flow needs of Coho it is impossible to determine whether the mitigations prescribed will be effective. In the absence of these needed flow studies the best surrogate is the USFS adjudicated flows in the Scott which were provided for fish migration and habitat. But the Scott DEIR does not contain an analysis indicating that sub-permit conditions and the Water Trust will need these flows or even stem the progressive dewatering of the Scott. The CEQA requirement for mitigation of impacts is not met.

No similar adjudicated flows for fisheries exist in the Shasta. However, in both basins the vast majority of the mitigations prescribed have already been implemented. Some of them (e.g. riparian revegetation) have been implemented for twenty years or more. Judging by the Coho spawner and juvenile survey data provided (and similarly for Chinook salmon) the mitigations will not be effective. Coho and Chinook production, survival and return have not increased or rebounded and appear to have actually decreased. In the absence of other analysis, the failure of the prescribed mitigation measures to halt the decline of Coho must be used to judge whether these same mitigations will mitigate the “take” proposed for authorization.

11-31

3. The one mitigation that has not been fully implemented is the Scott Valley Water Trust. However, the Scott DEIS does not analyze how much water must be purchased to mitigate the proposed take (i.e. to meet the USFS adjudicated flows) and does not assess the financial feasibility or whether this level of expenditure is sustainable.

4. In the Shasta, the DEIR relies on the TMDL Action Plan but fails to embrace the flow target which the NCWQCB has determined is needed to lower temperature in the Shasta River to provide for the needs of Coho. Instead of 40-45 CFS target for flow increase, CDFG in the DEIS proposed 10 cfs. There is no analysis to indicate a 10 CFS increase in flows will provide adequately for Coho. Therefore

# Comment Letter 11

the mitigations can not be judged adequate and must be presumed inadequate to mitigate for the take proposed for authorization.



Conclusion: The environmental consequences of the proposed Shasta and Scott 1600 and C-ESA programs are not adequately analyzed or disclosed. The mitigations prescribed are not adequately analyzed and therefore can not be judged to be sufficient. The fact that most of the mitigations have been implemented for up to 20 years without positive impact on Coho numbers and other species indicates that the mitigations will not be effective to mitigate take proposed for authorization. This is a violation of CEQA.

11-31  
cont.

## **Project must have a mitigation monitoring plan that is capable of dealing with anticipated and unanticipated results and the capability to adapt in order to fix problem areas.**

The mitigation monitoring plans requires the RCDs – the permittee – monitor compliance with permit conditions not only of the RCDs themselves but also of landowner sub-permittees. Because there is no requirement that RCD Board members can not be sub-permittees this amounts to a situation in which the RCDs would be responsible for monitoring compliance and reporting violations of its own board members. Even if this was remedied, it is unlikely that the RCD board members would be willing to report violations of their neighbors. Furthermore, CDFG enforcement personnel are excluded from “covered” lands and can not verify compliance. For these and other reasons the monitoring plans do not meet the requirements of CEQA, its implementing regulations and guidance.

11-32

## **Project must consider a full range of Alternatives - with full discussion and thought process for findings supporting final choice:**

The lack of an adequate range of feasible alternatives is discussed above (see page 3). In particular, alternatives which relies on reinstating enforcement of existing Fish & Game Codes intended to protect Coho and other Public Trust Resources should be displayed, fully analyzed and fully considered. Allowing wardens to enter public access lands within the mean high water mark so that they can do their jobs is likely to be more cost effective and not require the diversion of restoration funds necessary for recovery in order to fund mitigation. Furthermore, CDFG should promote compliance with the law and not acquiesce to allowing widespread illegal water management practices to continue. As a public trustee this is an integral part of CDFG’s mission which has been abrogated in the Shasta and Scott for much too long.

11-33

## **Project analysis must consider consistency with applicable law - water code, DFG code, ESA, etc.**

The DEIRs are deficient in that they do not adequately disclose existing violations of specific Water and Fish & Game Codes. In fact, by including numerous illegal impacts in the environmental baseline, CDFG signals a willingness to allow these violations to continue.

11-34

## **Additional Inadequacies**

DEIR failure to address needs of steelhead and Chinook salmon in the DEIR and ITP implementation impacts fails California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for analysis of cumulative effects.

11-35

CEQA compels CDFG to share all data from the existing DEIR and the Department needs to commit itself and the Shasta Valley RCD to full disclosure and public sharing of all data, including raw data.

11-36



# Comment Letter 11

This raises another issue pertinent to RCD administration of the proposed permits. The RCD considers monitoring data collected on private lands as proprietary information. The DEIR must address where monitoring and other data will be considered proprietary and explain why the agency and the public will not need this data to evaluate compliance with permit conditions and applicable laws and codes.

11-37

## **Comments applicable only to the proposed Scott River Permit Program**

### **1. The Department has not consulted adequately with the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation (QVIR) – a federally recognized tribe.**

The QVIR has invested a tremendous amount of time and resources into water quality monitoring. Yet CDFG has not treated the Tribe as a partner, has not requested or adequately considered its data or how the proposed project will impact its interests. Furthermore, the Siskiyou RCD – which CDFG proposes implement the permit program has not included the QVIR in its plans and deliberations.

11-38

**Recommendation:** The QVIR should be a full partner in any permit program which will impact Coho and Chinook salmon and/or which potentially could impact the interests of the tribe and its members.

### **2. The DEIR does not adequately analyze and disclose the impact of the CDFG/DWR “Fish Rescue” program and the impact of “take” which has and will continue to occur which is directly related to the operation of surface water stream diversions.**

As operated, the DWR/CDFG Fish Rescue Program (sic) is not biologically sound and only displaces take from below diversions to where it is less likely to be seen. The Take operates through the scientifically well established mechanism known as “density dependent mortality.” Furthermore, if CDFG enforced F&G Code 5937 this costly program would not be necessary to protect the watermaster from “take” complaints. This program is susceptible to legal challenge and a complaint on it has been filed with NMFS. Thus, continued reliance on this biologically questionable practice as proposed by CDFG places the agency at legal risk.

11-39

### **3. The Scott DEIR does not adequately consider the best scientific information available on conditions in the Scott River and on the relationship between agricultural activities and these conditions.**

A recent study (: Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin Authors: Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W. Source: JAWRA Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008 , pp. 1035-1052(18) directly addresses two issues which the EIR must address to comply with the requirements of CEQA. These two issues are the impact of climate change and the impact of the increase in irrigation associated with a doubling of unregulated irrigation pumping while surface diversions have remained fairly constant. This empirical study found that 60% of the decrease in Scott River flow is not explained by changes in precipitation and are most likely related to the increase in unregulated groundwater pumping. Combined with previous groundwater studies by the USGS (1955) and DWR (1975), this study makes a very strong case that the increase in groundwater pumping is a major factor in the decline of Coho salmon in the Scott. The NCWQCB and numerous other sources have documented the connection between flow and temperature. DFG’s own listing documents and your

11-40

# Comment Letter 11

Coho Recovery Plan indicate that temperature is a major factor in the decline of Coho and the failure of Coho to recover in the Scott River.

The decreases in Scott flow associated with increased agricultural water use – including groundwater pumping - means that adjudicated US Forest Service rights to streamflow in the Scott are now not met in the late summer and fall even in average water years. This water right (these flows) was provided for fish. As a result of adequate flows not being provided, Chinook can now not reach spawning grounds in average water years and Coho spawning migration is delayed in drought years.

11-40  
cont.

The delay in Coho migration is documented in the CDFG’s own reports (see Scott River Coho spawning surveys) but is not cited. The DEIR does cite the Van Kirk study. But it does not adequately consider or analyze the impact of this information on Coho or how the proposed permit program would address these impacts so that Coho recovery could occur.

**Recommendation:** The EIR should consider the Van Kirk study and information in the CDFG and cooperators Coho spawning and rearing surveys and analyze how the proposed permit program will or will not address this key factor which until addressed will continue to preclude Coho recovery.

## Comments applicable only to the proposed Shasta River Permit Program

1. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) does not adequately analyze or disclose the impact of Dwinnell Dam and Reservoir on Coho salmon. This impact is direct (loss of access to habitat) and indirect (impact on water quality, flows and habitat below the dam. The DEIR rejects Dwinnell Dam removal option when its operation is illegal under CDFG Code 5937 and removal appears to be critical to Coho salmon recovery and water pollution abatement. In the absence of an adequate consideration of its impacts, the removal option can not be rejected out of hand pursuant to CEQA.

11-41

11-42

2. The DEIR does not adequately discuss, analyze or address the lack of regulation of water withdrawal by riparian landowners. The extent of this unpermitted, unadjudicated type of withdrawal is not disclosed nor does the DEIR explain how the proposed permit program would address these withdrawals.

11-43

3. The DEIR ignores epidemic problem in the Shasta River basin of non-enforcement of laws related to stream flow and water allocation by CDFG, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Rights Division (WRD) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

11-44

4. The DEIR does not analyze an alternative that would remove Dwinnell Dam and Reservoir even though the National Research Council and highly respected scientists are on record that this is among the most effective actions which can be taken in the Klamath River Basin to benefit Coho (see first NRC report). The DEIR claims this alternative is not feasible. Yet it displays an alternative that is arguably less feasible – development of new dams and water storage. It is feasible for MWCD – the owner and operator of Dwinnell – to shift the point of diversion to a new source (groundwater or the Klamath River) because: 1. a comprehensive Klamath settlement is currently under negotiation and Siskiyou County and CDFG are parties, and 2. Dwinnell does not provide reliable irrigation supplies. The failure to include an alternative that removes Dwinnell is arbitrary and a violation of CEQA.

11-45

Attachment #1

SF Chronicle on Fish & Game Code Non-enforcement in the Shasta and Scott

Young fish die as water laws go unenforced - Ranchers' cooperation threatened

- Glen Martin, Tom Stienstra, Chronicle Staff Writers, Friday, June 22, 2001

Irrigation by ranchers is decimating salmon and steelhead populations on California's second biggest river system, and Department of Fish and Game officials acknowledge they are not implementing a tough state law that could stop the diversions.

Ranchers have diverted most of the flow of the Scott and Shasta Rivers in Siskiyou County to irrigate alfalfa fields and pastures, leaving thousands of young salmon and steelhead without enough water and facing imminent death.

State game wardens generally are disposed to citing the diverters under Fish and Game Code 5937, which requires dam owners to maintain water in state streambeds sufficient to keep fish healthy.

But agency officials say they are being told not to cite offenders out of concern that cooperative restoration projects between the state and ranchers on the Scott and Shasta Rivers would end instantly if the law were enforced.

The controversy points out difficulties with cooperative programs between government agencies and private parties. Though such agreements can help resolve thorny environmental problems, they may also inhibit agencies from cracking down on private sector partners.

Warden Renie Cleland said he was told to back off from citing ranchers on the Scott and Shasta rivers.

"This has gone all the way to Sacramento," said Cleland. "It's extremely politically sensitive. I was told to take no enforcement action on it. These fish are dying. We've got five or six thousand steelhead trout dead on the Scott, and (dead juvenile steelhead) everywhere on the Shasta."

**MAJOR KLAMATH TRIBUTARIES**

The Scott and Shasta are major tributaries of the Klamath River, which is second only to the Sacramento River in its dimensions and the number of fish it supports.

The Klamath and its tributaries once supported hundreds of thousands of Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead trout. Their numbers began declining in the mid-20th century from dams, agricultural irrigation and timber harvesting. By the mid-1980s, only a few thousand fish were left -- mostly on the Scott and Shasta.

During the past decade, efforts to screen agricultural pump intakes, reduce soil erosion, restore riparian forests and transport fish trapped in "dewatered" streambeds have bolstered the fish populations somewhat.

**WATER RIGHTS FROM THE 1930S**

11-46



## Comment Letter 11

But conflict between environmentalists and ranchers over diversions has simmered for years. Ranchers exercising water rights adjudicated in the 1930s typically lower the rivers through irrigation during the summer.

This year, a severe local drought has greatly increased the degree of the problem. The Scott has been sucked dry, and the Shasta reduced to a trickle at its juncture with the Klamath.

Temperatures in the river have reached or exceeded the level considered lethal for salmon species, which favor cold water. Thousands of fish have died,

and thousands of others face imminent death, making the pumping a clear violation of Code 5937.

"Everything has died," said Fish and Game Captain Chuck Konvalin of the Scott River. "The system has been dried up." Konvalin, who heads a team of wardens who operate in the north state, says their superiors are reigning them in.

"This thing is out of whack," said Konvalin. "I get my orders."

Gary Stacey, a fisheries program director for Fish and Game who oversees projects in the Klamath area, said enforcing Code 5937 would "slam the door" on meaningful restoration programs along the Scott and Shasta, which cost \$25 million a year.

"All our current programs depend on landowner cooperation," he said. "That would all stop immediately if we pulled the trigger. And the process involved in filing and prosecuting a case like this could take years -- years the fish don't have.

"By taking strong law enforcement action, we could simply be assuring that the (fish) populations would wink out."

### **COOPERATIVE EFFORTS**

Ranchers confirm they would scrap all cooperative ventures with the state if they were cited by game wardens, and say they are guaranteed diversion rights by court rulings made decades ago.

Gary Black, who diverts Scott River water to irrigate alfalfa and wheat on his 240-acre farm, said ranchers would respond to voluntary incentives to improve fish populations but would resist government fiat.

"We're looking for win-win situations," said Black, who helps direct a local resource conservation district that promotes fish-friendly agricultural methods. "I've worked with more than half the farmers in the Scott Valley. Everyone is willing to do their part for fishery protection -- the question becomes how far is too far."

Still, "flows remain the number one issue, and this is a good time to sit down and talk," Black said. "That will work better around here than getting out the citation book."

11-46  
cont.

Attachment #2

PowerPoint Presentation on Illegal Out-of-Season Irrigation in the Scott River Valley  
Felice Pace

(The attachment is in PowerPoint format and is provided in a separate electronic submission. It is also in the records of the SWRCB where it was presented in 2007.)

Attachment #3

Additional Comments on the Scott DEIR

Issue: Reliance on restoration funding for mitigation

DEIR @ 1-6:

*“The Program is not intended to substitute for the Coho Recovery Strategy, nor is it intended to be a vehicle for implementation of the full Coho Recovery Strategy. Overall, however, the Program is consistent with the “programmatic implementation framework” called for in the Coho Recovery Strategy. The restoration activities included as mitigation in the ITP are also consistent with elements of the Coho Recovery Strategy. As described in the Coho Recovery Strategy, the effort to restore coho salmon in California must go well beyond the mitigation measures that will be implemented as part of the Program.”*

11-47

Comment:

If all restoration funding is diverted to mitigate “take” there will be no funding for activities that will lead to recovery. = opportunity cost = abandonment of recovery as a goal. Furthermore, since restoration funds depend on future federal and state appropriation of restoration funds, CDFG can not guarantee that mitigations will be implemented.

Issue: Stranding of fish below diversions

DEIR @ 2-21 -

*“Under ITP Article XVIII, if CDFG determines that a diversion covered by a sub-permit is causing or will cause the stranding of coho salmon, CDFG will take the steps in the order below to avoid or minimize such stranding:*

- a) CDFG will determine whether or not the sub-permittee is in compliance with the sub-permit.*
- b) If the sub-permittee is not in compliance with the sub-permit, CDFG will contact the sub-permittee to determine why they are not in compliance and take appropriate action.*
- c) In either case, CDFG will consult with SQRCD and the sub-permittee to determine whether there are any measures SQRCD and/or sub-permittee can take to avoid or minimize stranding.*
- d) If reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion will avoid or minimize stranding, and that is the only available measure to avoid or minimize stranding, CDFG will work with SQRCD and the sub-permittee and, if applicable, DWR, to take such action.”*

11-48

Comment:

# Comment Letter 11

The applicable phrase in this statement is: “if CDFG determines...”. The problem is that with enforcement personnel banned from the lands covered by the permit CDFG will not be in a position to make such a determination. Non-enforcement personnel do not see enforcement as part of their job description. Furthermore, these personnel know that managers will not act on such complaints. Historically and today they do not report p[roblems even when these involve take.

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11-48  
cont.

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Issue: Mitigation responsibilities of SQRCD -

DEIR at 2-22 through 2-25:

Comment:

The listed mitigations are all projects which have already been implemented by the SQRCD with salmon restoration funding. Some of these projects – e.g. alternative stockwatering – have been going on for years. Yet during this period flows have continued to decrease. Therefore, it is unlikely the mitigations listed will be effective.

11-49

The one mitigation that has only been applied in limited fashion is the Scott Valley Water Trust. However, because those diverters who would lease the water can shift to pumping interconnected groundwater – and other irrigators downstream can pump the water back out it is unlikely that flow continuity and flow enhancement can actually occur except in very limited circumstances, e.g. Sugar Creek

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Issue: Flows

DEIR @ 2-23:

*“Flow Enhancement Mitigation 4: Develop and implement a Contingency Plan for Dry and Critically-Dry Water Years.”*

Comment:

CDFG can not legally rely on a plan that has yet to be developed to mitigate known impacts. It is unlikely that the SQRCD can accomplish something in the future that it has not been able to do in the past. In fact, because there is no authority over groundwater pumping (roughly 50% of irrigation) and not regulatory authority over diversions, the only option is lease of water which would be prohibitively expensive and is therefore unrealistic.

11-50

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DEIR @ 2-25:

The proposed ITP requires SQRCD to establish a monitoring program to determine whether the sub-permittees are fulfilling all sub-permit terms and conditions, the implementation of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures identified in the ITP and any sub-permit, and the effectiveness of those measures in improving conditions for coho salmon.

11-51

Comment:

SQRCD relies on these sub-permittees to allow them to perform restoration projects. As SQRCD has stated many times on the record (e.g. comments on proposed Coho listing) they are not a regulatory agency and would lose critical landowner support if they performed regulatory functions. Therefore the monitoring program is unlikely to

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DEIR @ 3-2:

*“In summary, mitigation for these ongoing historic baseline activities will not be required pursuant to CEQA because the Program will not result in an increase in environmental impacts from these activities; rather, the mitigation for impacts to fish and wildlife resources from these activities will be identified in the SAA, ITP and/or sub-permit participants must obtain as a condition of participating in the Program.”*

11-52

Comment:

The environmental baseline selected includes illegal activities; the mitigations are not specifically targeted and would not be defined until some point in the future. These are CEQA violations.

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DEIR @ 3.2-18: **Agricultural Practices and Water Management**

Comment:

The changes in agricultural practices over time (e.g. crop shifts, changes in irrigation water sources) are described but the impact of these changes on flows in the Scott River and on Coho salmon are not adequately described or analyzed.

11-53

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DEIR @ 3.2-21

Comment:

Illegal modifications to stream channels have occurred in the Scott Valley in recent years after flood events. These are documented for the East Fork and Moffett Creek. They are considered part of the “baseline”. This is a CEQA violation.

11-54

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DEIR @ 3.3-10

Comment:

The Coho survey information presented makes it clear that we have in the Scott River one cohort out of 3 that is viable. The proposed permits will authorize take but there is no analysis in the DEIR indicating the level of take that will occur and there is no analysis indicating that this level of take will not lead to extirpation from the Scott River.

11-55

The population levels disclosed indicate that Coho are not genetically viable in the Scott River in at least 2 out of three years (cohorts). How will genetic viability be sustained or restored? How will the level of take authorized impact genetic viability? CEQA requires analysis to answer these questions but that analysis is not supplied in the DEIR.

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DEIR beginning @ 3.3- 14 and onward:

Comment:

11-56

# Comment Letter 11

While there is good discussion of Chinook, lamprey and other species that likely will be impacted and their habitat needs there is no analysis (as required by CEQA) which supports the conclusion that impacts to these species will be “less than significant.”

↑ 11-56  
cont.

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DEIR @ 3.3-29

*“The Scott River Decree allows a maximum of 75 cfs to be diverted between April 1 and October 15 in the Etna Creek watershed. This volume is reduced to approximately 4 to 5 cfs at baseflow by the early fall.”*

Comment:

The statement is based the assumption that the diversions are reduced at the end of irrigation season. But there is at least one diversion on Etna Creek that flows full year around. There is also at least one ditch on Kidder Creek that also flows full year around. There is no watermaster service on either creek and in the majority of the Scott Valley. The extent of the practice of running diversion ditches year around is not acknowledged, disclosed, quantified or analyzed. The consequences of the non-existence of watermaster service in much of the project area is not disclosed or analyzed. This is a CEQA violation.

11-57

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DEIR @ 3.3-41:

*“Existing evidence suggests that water diversions in the Program Area can lead to direct mortality of coho salmon. CDFG staff conduct weekly conference calls with the watermaster to determine the likelihood of fish becoming stranded as a result of water diversions and at times have conducted capture-and-relocation efforts to minimize fish mortality from stranding. Data gathered by CDFG during fish rescue operations in the Program Area indicate that between 1993 and 2006, a total of over 46,000 juvenile coho salmon have been salvaged by CDFG staff during dry-back events downstream of water diversion sites. Salvage efforts on the mainstem accounted for the single largest contribution of approximately 16,000 coho salmon. Since the listing of coho salmon as a threatened species under CESA in March 2005, approximately 14,600 coho salmon have had to be salvaged within the watershed. Although the argument may be made that rescued fish are not dead fish since the very intent of the operations is to save fish from dying, the fact remains that in the absence of the diligent efforts of CDFG staff, these fish would have perished. While natural processes, including decreased streamflows after snow melt and increased water temperature in summer, contribute to deteriorating habitat conditions and fish stranding, water diversions exacerbate these conditions.”*

11-58

Comment:

The Fish Rescue Program by DWR and CDFG is not eliminating “take” at diversions where it is practiced but rather is displacing take to where it can not be seen. The mechanism is “density dependent mortality” and is well established scientifically. There is a complaint filed with NMFS for this take. The Scott DEIR continues to rely on Fish Rescue as mitigation and it is proposed as a covered activity. Because the amount of take associated with Fish Rescue has not been quantified and the impact of this take not analyzed, CEQA is violated.

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Issue: C-ESA

DEIR @ 3.3-46:

↓ 11-59



## Comment Letter 11

“CESA (Fish and Game Code, § 2050 et seq.) prohibits take of an endangered, threatened, or candidate species unless the take is authorized by CDFG. CDFG may authorize take by permit provided: 1) it is incidental to a lawful activity; 2) the impacts of the authorized take are minimized and fully mitigated; 3) the permit is consistent with any regulations adopted pursuant to Fish and Game Code, §§ 2112 and 2114; 4) there is adequate funding to implement the minimization and mitigation measures, and to monitor compliance with and the effectiveness of those measures; and 5) issuance of the permit will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species (Fish and Game Code, § 2081, subds. (b), (c)).”

11-59  
cont.

### Comment:

The proposal does not meet the requirements necessary for CDFG to authorize take because:

1. Illegal activities (e.g. violation of DFG code 5937) will be allowed to continue and are included in the environmental baseline (illegal streambed alternations after floods; out of season irrigation, running ditches full out of the irrigation season).

2. The amount of take to be permitted is not quantified and therefore it is impossible to determine whether they will be “minimized and fully mitigated.”

3. Mitigation is the implementation of restoration activities which require government funding. The CDFG can not guarantee that the needed funding will be available.

4. Coho are currently in jeopardy in the Scott (the Shasta too) and the mitigations (existing restoration programs and projects) over at least 20 years have not led to increases in the Coho population. Therefore, it is impossible to determine if the amount of take proposed will or will not continue the jeopardy situation.

11-60

11-61

11-62

### DEIR @ 3.3-49:

“In accordance with Appendix G in the CEQA Guidelines, the Program would have a significant effect on the environment if it could..... Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. For purposes of this analysis, substantial interference with the movement of fish species are defined as effects that permanently block (e.g., dams) or seasonally impede (e.g., insufficient water depths) fish movement.”

11-63

### Comment:

The Fish Rescue program proposed for authorization would interfere substantially with the movement of Coho salmon, Chinook salmon and Steelhead and is therefore illegal under CEQA.

### DEIR @ 3.2-60 Impact 3.2-4:

“The Program could result in an increase in the extraction of groundwater, which could contribute to decreased baseflows and increased ambient water temperatures in the Scott River and its tributaries (Less than Significant).”

11-64

### Comment:

While the discussion is comprehensive, there is a lack of adequate analysis to determine that the impact will be “less than significant”. Specifically the amount of surface water which would be required to be leased for in-stream flow as part of mitigation (Scott River Water Trust) in order to meet

# Comment Letter 11

the USGS right to minimum flows which are needed by Coho and the amount and impact of groundwater substitution for the reduction in surface diversion is not estimated, analyzed or disclosed.

↑  
11-64  
cont.

Likewise, the impact of groundwater substitution for surface flow impact on water temperature is discussed but not analyzed. There is no estimation, quantification or calculation of this impact.

---

DEIR @ 4-41:

*“Based on the above, where activities similar to those covered by the Program will result in impacts to geomorphology, hydrology, and water quality, those caused by the Program when combined with those impacts will not be cumulatively considerable. As a result, no mitigation measures beyond those specified for Impacts 3.2-1 and 3.2-3 are required.”*

11-65

Comment:

This conclusion is not based on an analysis but rather on description and assertion unsupported by analysis and therefore does not comply with CEQA.

---

Issue: Cumulative Impacts

DEIR @ 4-32:

*“The incremental impacts on fisheries and aquatic habitat from the activities in the Program covers when combined with similar past, present, and probable future activities will not be cumulatively considerable for the following reasons:*

- *Specified terms and conditions contained in SAAs and other permits required for projects of this kind usually mitigate impacts to less-than-significant levels;*
- *Residual impacts after mitigation tend to be short-term, site-specific, and transitory in nature;*
- *Many instream projects, including many of the Covered Activities, aim to improve fish habitat and passage, such that short-term impacts are mitigated by long-term gains in habitat quality and access;*
- *The Program (with mitigation measures identified in this Draft EIR) would reduce take of coho salmon in the Scott River watershed, and would improve habitat (including increased access to and from spawning and rearing areas) for coho salmon and other anadromous fish; and*
- *Several other regulatory programs, plans and policies, particularly implementation of TMDLs in the Watershed, the state and federal listing of coho salmon, and the implementation of the NWFP, also serve to protect and improve stream habitat and to benefit coho salmon and other anadromous fish. In sum, these regulatory efforts, in combination with voluntary efforts on the part of individual landowners, the SQRCD, the SRWC, the French Creek WAG, Siskiyou County DPW, and others, are having, and will continue to have, a cumulative beneficial impact on anadromous and other fish in the Scott River watershed.*

11-66

*Based on the above, where activities similar to those covered by the Program will result in impacts on fisheries and aquatic habitat, those caused by the Program when combined with those impacts will not be cumulatively considerable. As a result, no mitigation measures beyond those specified for Impacts 3.3-1 are required.”*

Comment:

## Comment Letter 11

The Scott DEIR substitutes assertion and assumptions of efficacy for analysis to conclude that cumulative impacts to Coho will not occur. The cumulative impacts specific to aspects of the proposed program's coverage – including the Fish Rescue Program and substitution of groundwater for surface water for irrigation associated with the Water Trust – are not adequately analyzed or assessed.

↑  
11-66  
cont.

Additionally, the cumulative impacts of the proposed permit programs and other practices (e.g. the increase in groundwater pumping in both watersheds) on other aquatic species including Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout are not adequately analyzed or disclosed.

---

### Comment:

The proposed Scott and Shasta Take Permits (Appendix A in both DEIRs) include this statement: *“The Department may also include terms and conditions in a sub-permit that are not included in this Permit, if the Department determines that such additional terms and conditions are necessary to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the take of coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity.”*

↑  
11-67

This creates a problem under both CEQA and the C-ESA. Since the permit conditions that will be allied to participating landowners are not specified, and since these are the very conditions which are relied on to “to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the take of coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity” - it is impossible to determine whether the authorized take will be effectively mitigated. This constitutes a violation of both CEQA and C-ESA. At minimum, the DEIRs must identify the full range of permit terms and conditions that may be utilized and provide analysis indicating that these are likely to be effective at mitigating the authorized take. CDFG does not have the discretion to push the decisions on which mitigation measures to apply into the future; they must be specified now.

---



"Every Day is Earth Day on the Farm"

**FWA**  
*Family Water Alliance*

## Comment Letter 11.1

(530) 438-2026  
Fax: (530) 438-2940  
E-mail: fwa@frontiernet.net

P. O. Box 365, Maxwell, California 95955

December 16, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

### **RE: Comments on Shasta River and Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program**

Dear Mr. Williams:

Family Water Alliance (FWA) is a nonprofit, grassroots organization, whose mission is education and public outreach in an effort to protect private property rights, water rights, and the preservation of rural agricultural communities in Northern California. As the protection of a secure and affordable water supply, upon which farmers and ranchers depend to produce food and fiber for the state, the nation, and the world, is instrumental to the continued economic viability of rural communities in Northern California, we take great interest in the Draft Environmental Impact Reports for the Shasta River and Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program.

11.1-1

To begin, the Draft Environmental Impact Reports (Reports) do not adequately address the economic burden that the proposed Program would have on the rural agricultural communities. The proposed plan would add excessive regulation to an already permitted activity that has been common place for many decades. The proposed plan fails to address how the agricultural diversions in the watershed substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of rivers, streams or lakes in the Program Area.

11.1-2

11.1-3

The proposed plan also unfairly targets the agricultural sector, while excluding water diverters for urban or environmental uses. If the premise is that this statute should apply to agricultural diversions then it should apply to all water diverters, including municipalities. By not fairly applying the regulation it can disrupt or divide the community.

11.1-4

Furthermore, the Reports fail to substantiate that these diversions take fish and therefore need an Incidental Take Permit. Is there data to back up such a claim?

11.1-5

## Comment Letter 11.1

Numerous different variables effect fish entrainment such as geographic location on the river or stream, orientation of intake, size of pumping facility as well as other factors need to be considered in fish entrainment. To be able to make the claim the diversions in the Program area take fish, entrainment monitoring on each diversion would need to have been conducted.

↑  
11.1-5  
cont.

The Reports state that “increased costs for Agricultural Operators could result in reduced income for the agricultural operations”. The report fails to address the economic impact on the county and community services districts if farmers and ranchers are can no longer operate because it is no longer economically viable. Nearly \$170 million was generated from Siskiyou County crops and livestock in 2007. Such a loss of revenue would cause great economic harm to the community.

↑  
11.1-6

In closing, I would like to reiterate the concerns that FWA has voiced with regard to these two Reports. The proposed program has ramifications throughout the State if implemented. Further, it would be my hope that these concerns are addressed in a timely manner. Thank you for your cooperation.

↑  
11.1-7

Sincerely,



Ashley D. Indrieri  
Executive Director

Cc:

Senator Sam Aanestad  
Assemblyman Jim Neilsen  
Assemblyman Dan Logue  
Congressman Wally Herger  
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors  
Siskiyou County Farm Bureau  
Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District  
California Farm Bureau Federation

## Comment Letter 12

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...%20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_austin.htm

**From:** Kim Austin [k\_austin\_2006@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 11:15 PM

**To:** shastadeir@dfg.ca.gov

**Subject:** Water Rights

Dear Mr. Bob Williams,

I am a concerned citizen of Siskiyou County. I just wanted to inform you that your policies concerning water rights and fish protection is destroying our county. We have hard working ranchers and farmers who are being struggled by these policies where they can't even grow their crops and raise their cattle, which, by the way, help feed thousands of people. The people here, who are most affected, don't get a big enough say in what happens. The government seems to think what is best for us, and they don't, they don't live here and understand our life style and how important we really are to this country, state, and yes, country. We help build this country from the ground up, and poorly written and researched polices will only worsen this country in the long run.

12-1

Please, listen to the other concerned citizens and take their opinions in good faith and listen. Together we can work together and make better, more informed decisions that are best for this county, and the people living in it.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Austin

Comment Letter 13

2008 DEC 9 9 53 2 AM  
DISTRIBUTION

December 7, 2008

Jerry L. Bacigalupi  
P.O. Box 689  
Montague, Ca. 96064

Gary B. Stacey  
Dept of Fish and Game  
Regional Manager Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, Ca. 96001

Re: Scott and Shasta EIR and ITP

Dear Mr. Stacey:

In response to your letter dated October 22, 2008, giving notice of completion of draft of environmental documents for the Scott and Shasta River Watershed-wide Permitting program and review of the environmental documents, I provide you with the following comments:

1. As stated in your letter, "As you know, the primary purpose of the two permitting (programs) is to bring agricultural diverters into compliance with Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et. Seq. (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement Statute)" and with respect to Coho Salmon, a threatened Species (CESA).

The 1600 program was introduced by the Department of Fish and Game in 1961 and since was reformulated in 1976 by A.B. 2210 (Z'Berg) (Chapter 603) and in 2003 by S.B. 418 (Sher) Chapter 736. The intent of the program has remained unchanged. The intent of the 1600 program as given to the Senate and Assembly by the Department of Fish and Game, to quote, is as follows:

*"The 1600 Program allows the DFG to regulate projects that **substantially** divert or obstruct the natural flow or **substantially** change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream or lake. All persons **proposing** a project that could **effect** a river, stream or lake are required to notify the DFG ahead of time and, if the department determines the potential adverse impact to be **substantial**, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement is required to be entered into by the department and the project proponent. Projects generally requiring DFG notification include building a pier in a waterway, adding a levee for flood control, installing bank or*

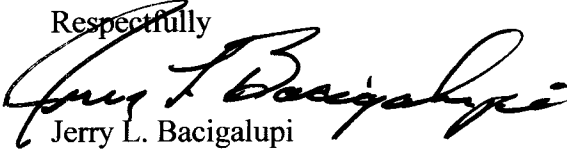
13-1

*culvert, or extracting gravel from a channel. Emergency projects are generally not regulated under the 1600 program."*

For the Department of Fish and Game to now require 1600 Permits for all existing adjudicated stream and spring diversions and existing stream crossings that have been in operation prior to the 1600 Program is a government violation of existing state law. The intent of the 1600 program has remained unchanged since 1961. New legislation will be required to proceed with the Scott and Shasta River Permitting Programs involving the 1600 Program as proposed.

13-1  
cont.

Respectfully



Jerry L. Bacigalupi

cc. Bob Williams  
Staff Environmental Scientist  
Conservation Planning  
Calif. Dept of Fish and Game  
Northern Calif. North Coast Region  
601 Locust St.  
Redding, Ca. 96001

cc. California Farm Bureau Federation  
2300 River Plaza Dr.  
Sacramento, Ca. 95833  
Atten: Jack Rice

SOSS  
P.O. Box 207  
Yreka, Ca. 96097

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District  
215 Executive Court, Suite A  
Yreka, Ca. 96097  
Atten: Ms. Adriane Garayalde, District Administrator

CRMP  
215 Executive Court  
Yreka, Ca. 96097

Siskiyou Resource Conservation District  
P.O. Box 268  
Etna, Ca. 96027  
Atten: Ms. Carolyn Pimentel, District Manager



## Comment Letter 13

Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District  
P.O. Box 1041  
Fort Jones, Ca. 96032

Leo T. Bergeron  
Calif. State Grange  
347 N. Main  
Yreka, Ca. 96097

December 2, 2008

Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
Conservation Planning  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Northern California - North Coast Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001

California Department of Fish and Game

RE: The Scott & Shasta EIR & ITP

THE ENCLOSED ARE CONCERNS AND  
CHALLENGES THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED &  
IMPLEMENTED BEFORE THIS PROGRAM  
WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE RESIDERS  
OF THE SCOTT & SHASTA RIVER VALLEYS  
STATE LAW "TITLE 7 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE  
OF CALIFORNIA" GOVT. CODE SECTION 65030

14-1

STATES "IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE AND THE INTENT  
OF THE LEGISLATURE TO PROTECT CALIFORNIA LAKE RESOURCES,  
TO INSURE ITS PRESERVATION & USE IN A MANNER WHICH ARE  
ECONOMICALLY & SOCIALLY DESIRABLE IN AN ATTEMPT TO  
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN CALIF.

14-2

THIS PROGRAM AS OUTLINED DOES NOT DO THIS IT DOES THE  
OPPOSITE!

Sincerely,

LEE T. BRAGERY  
Printed Name

347 N. MAIN ST  
Address

YANNA, CA 96097  
City

# Comment Letter 14

## KEY AREAS OF CONCERN:

Program assumes that agriculture is the "major" cause of the decline in salmon numbers without scientific support. 14-3

There is a strong emphasis on flow. However, the focus is limited to 15% of the watershed that is privately owned agricultural land. **The EIR needs to address the ET rates of the uplands and present the potential increase of flows that could be attained through an increase in proper harvesting and thinning.** 14-4

Program encroaches on private property and water rights.

DFG's description to access private property is unacceptable. **Access to private property shall be at the discretion of the sub-permittee in terms of notification and timing. Access may be restricted to DFG employees only (no third parties), and in the presence of the sub-permittee.** 14-5

Program is inconsistent at best in its explanation of restrictions on grazing. Grazing is an important tool for management of riparian habitat. **DFG shall accept RMAC grazing plans as the necessary tool to allow grazing. Further, DFG shall not control, nor restrict grazing outside of the riparian fenced corridors.** 14-6

Program is beyond its authority placing restrictions on ground disturbing activities "adjacent" to the channel. **Activities that occur outside of the channel, in the normal process of agricultural business shall not be restricted, nor managed by DFG.** 14-7

Program expects participants to reduce diversion use and they "may" be paid for the reduction. **All reductions in diversion use shall be voluntary and sub-permittees shall be compensated for the reduction at a fair market value. If compensation can not be made, the reduction in diversion is at the discretion of the participant.** 14-8

Incorrect assessment that the Programs' impact on agriculture is "less than significant."

**If the true objective is to recover salmon, the existing open space must be maintained. That open space is provided through agriculture. For agriculture to remain, it must be PROFITABLE and sustainable. Without profitability, agriculture is not sustainable. One accurate statistic in the EIR is that the average net annual income of agricultural operations is only \$7,000 above poverty level. Any increase in cost of operation or decrease in yield is SIGNIFICANT.** 14-9

The Program will cause an increase in cost to DWR, passing the increase on to the participants. **Any additional costs that arise from the implementation of the Program for services performed by DWR shall be paid for by DFG.** 14-10

The Program will potentially reduce diversion of water, with no guarantee of compensation, resulting in a loss of production. **All reductions of diversions shall be voluntary and be compensated at a fair market price.** 14-11

## Comment Letter 14

- The Program will hold the participant accountable for costs of avoidance, minimization and potentially mitigation if funding is not available. **Any costs associated through the implementation of projects required by DFG, through the Program, shall be paid for in full or in share from outside sources. At no time, shall the sub-permittee be held accountable for the full cost of a project or mitigation measure.** 14-12
- Mitigations pertaining to livestock and vehicle crossing are unrealistic.
- A maximum allowable width of crossing at 25' is not reasonable as the average width is well over 50'. This will prohibit all crossing of the river by livestock and vehicles, thus increasing GHG emissions. 14-13
- There is no discussion of the impact of the Elk herd, currently at 12 head, that crosses the river in 3 prime spawning reaches, on a daily basis, from September through May. 14-14
- Conclusions and statements in the EIR regarding commodities grown and trends in crop value are inaccurate.
- Citing Caltrans as a source for predicting crop values is absurd at best.**
- Statement regarding a trend of decreasing grain acreage does not take into account that grain is used rotationally every 6 – 7 years as the table from which the statement refers is on a 10, 3 and 9 year data depiction respectfully.** 14-15
- Statement regarding trends of crop acreage does not take into account the marketability of the crops in the cited years.**
- The EIR briefly discusses the option of landowners withdrawing from Williamson contracts as a result of the Program. However, it dismisses this as a viable option believing that existing county regulations and stipulations serve as significant barriers and fails to address the second option available to landowners of enrolling in a reserve program.
- Withdrawals from Williamson contracts in whole or in-part is a very realistic option, especially today, with land values falling, allowing landowners to cancel contracts with less of an economic burden. In fact, several applications to withdraw have been approved within the last two years.** 14-16
- Enrolling agricultural land into reserves is the other option, which is an allowable use under the Williamson Act, and could have a potentially devastating impact the county economy. This was not addressed in the EIR as a significant potential negative economic impact.**
- The EIR fails to address potential impacts of the Program on a holistic level.
- Reduction of diversions and complete dedications back to stream and river flow, combined with proposed efficiency measures, could have a very significant negative impact on residential wells, wetlands, birds and other wildlife that depend on that diverted water for 14-17
- 14-18

↑ 14-18  
↓ cont.

↑ 14-19

life processes and groundwater recharge.  
**Sub-permittees shall not be held responsible or accountable for any negative impacts resulting from implemented projects as dictated by the Program.**

↑ 14-20

As noted in the EIR, the Scott River is not a stable system. The natural rain and snow events will never allow the Scott River system to recover in its current geomorphological condition.

↑ 14-21

**Sub-permittees shall not be held financially responsible for the continued repair and reconstruction of projects damaged and destroyed due to natural events.**

↑ 14-22

The Program eliminates the option of arbitration for the sub-permittee.

**All sub-permittees shall maintain the right to arbitrate.**

↑ 14-23

Due to budget constraints, the DWR has stated that it will likely not participate in the ITP for the Scott and Shasta as proposed within the Program.

**Who is going to pick up the responsibilities of DWR?**

↑ 14-24

The alternative pertaining to off stream storage should be included as a viable option to be pursued in coordination with the proposed Program.

Comment Letter 15

December 2, 2008

Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
Conservation Planning  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Northern California – North Coast Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001

2008 DEC 4 PM 3:24

370-1111

California Department of Fish and Game

RE: The Scott & Shasta EIR & ITP

This permit plan will be devastating  
to the Ag community and our  
county. This will also have a  
statewide implication. A fish should  
not be allowed to have more  
rights than a hard working farmer!  
Ag is not the problem! You like to  
eat but complain about the food  
prices, well this will only make  
the prices higher!

15-1

15-2

Sincerely,

Bob Burch  
Printed Name

8720 Linzer Ln.  
Address

Montague  
City

From: Michael Cassady [mikecassady@me.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 12:10 AM  
To: SHASTADEIR@dfg.ca.gov  
Subject: A rebuttal to Mr. Brian Favero on the Coho EIR that appeared as a Guest Opinion in the Siskiyou Daily News of Dec. 8th

Mr. Robert Williams,  
Staff Environmental Scientist,  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding CA 96001

Dear Mr. Williams,

A Mr. Brian Favero recently wrote an article in the ‘Opinion’ section of our local newspaper, Siskiyou Daily News (SDN), voicing strong opposition to the Environmental Impact Report concerning the watersheds associated with known Coho Salmon spawning areas in the North State, a study implemented as a consequence of the listing of the Coho on March 30, 2005 as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), as well as by the California Department of Fish and Game(CDFG). I respectfully disagree with Mr. Favero’s position, and I believe I can say I represent just one of many dissenting Progressive voices in my area which are systematically excluded from the SDN’s editorial concern due to the paper’s admitted conservative political bias and, frankly speaking, its silly, chauvinistic pandering to well connected, local vested-interests. So be it.

16-1

Mr. Favero speaks of the CESA, the CDFG and the EIR as if they are enemy agents of an invading alien power. They are, in fact, the American public itself\_ us \_ with a mandate to steward our natural resources for the benefit of Americans in general, not to exclude our future generations. The role of these public agencies to arbitrate between private and public interests has been made increasingly complicated since World War II, on one hand, by our modern technical and scientific capacity to seriously impact the environment, as never before in history, and, on the other hand, by our ability to investigate scientifically, and react preventatively to serious, probable long term negative effects on he environment. I think Mr. Favero’s polemical attitude does little to bring much needed, informed reasoning to the discussion table.

16-2

Having grown up in Scott Valley, and having spent many summers “sweating my guts out”\_ pardon the expression \_hauling hay bales, I could not fail to notice today the extreme changes in the practice of raising alfalfa. What irrigation was done back then was pitifully limited by today’s standards for cause of being very labor intensive\_ hand-moved sprinkler lines, or flood irrigation. The farmers I worked for were lucky to get any third crop worth talking about at all.

16-3

There are whole areas of Scott Valley under intensive irrigation today that were never used for water-hungry alfalfa back then because the soil would not retain enough moisture for the quasi dry-land farming that was done.

16-4

Today, farming has eliminated a vast labor force working on the land (also the county tax-base) in favor of the machine based, capital intensive agribusiness model in fashion with industrial-scale farming in areas perhaps better suited to such practices than Scott Valley, or Siskiyou County. Lobbying agencies such as the Farm Bureau have worked very diligently to promote capital driven, intensive farming by lobbying for preferential electric rates for water pumping and huge government subsidies for pivot irrigation systems arguably less wasteful of water. The intensive farming practices required to service such debt-driven agriculture has resulted in a massive increase in the pumping of ground water, as well as the increased use of pesticides and herbicides. The fact is, farming today is not just the same old thing it was in grandfather's time. It belongs to a vastly more integrated world where many different stake-holders desperately need to find positive ways to resolve their differences by peer-reviewed science, honest negotiation and productive consensus.

16-5

I believe that Mr. Favero is entirely sincere in his passionate defense of the local status-quo in farming practices, but his polemical method is wrong-headed. If his position were more balanced, he would not have targeted for damnation only the obvious *bête-noires* of the local landed interests\_ spotted-owl environmentalists, the famously ill-considered tribes and distant, coastal salmon-fishing trawlers. He would have also had to mentioned very vocal and well organized tourist anglers who are also opposed to kicking the Coho, and healthy river can down the road. And, in his honorable concern for the economic impact of protecting the rivers, he may have taken time to compare the income generating value of the alfalfa market against the value of the ocean salmon fishing economy that has been nearly wiped-out. He may have mentioned as well the economic, and local tax value of hotel rooms and local services to fishermen and river-rafters.

16-6

I hope with the recent change of administration in Washington, the newly elected President and Congress will return to the tradition of policy making that understands how our urge to innovate in this country inheres in finding ways of making minority and majority interests work together, and advance each other's purposes through loyal, healthy competition. A first step might be to stop using the the arguments of demagogues and side-show snake-oil hawkers.

16-7

Sincerely yours,

Michael Cassady



December 5, 2008

Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
Conservation Planning  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Northern California - North Coast Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001

California Department of Fish and Game

RE: The Scott & Shasta EIR & ITP

- ① The 1602 Permit is not Necessary for diverters who already have  
Permanate diversions with Fish Screens in place. They should only be considered  
For land owners who need push up dams 17-1
- ② DWR should only have the responsibility to regulate adjudicate  
Water Rights, not arbitral I.T.P. issues. 17-2
- ③ Regulatory Fees should be the burden of State and National agencies  
because they profess to be carrying out the will of the people 17-3
- ④ EIR does not address Environmental Causes of Take, but places the  
burden on the land owners. 17-4
- ⑤ ITP assumes the land owner is the cause of Take. It does not  
consider Environmental Causes.
- ⑥ There is no mention of Financial Liabilities to Land owners for water  
Losses due to Fish needs or Natural Events 17-5

Sincerely, *Jack Cowley*

Jack Cowley 7335 Ball Lake Rd  
Printed Name Address

Montague Cal  
City 96064

## Comment Letter 18

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...R%20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_dyche.htm

**From:** norman dyche [3711nd@suddenlink.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 20, 2008 8:58 PM  
**To:** SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Klamath river basin  
To Bob Williams  
Re: Klamath river basin

Bob, I realize you have gotten hundreds of the same letters. Probably just put mine on the stack.

I am real sad that after 30 years of a fishing license and anticipating my retirement to the Eureka area to enjoy this sport. No Fish!! As a young man we would come up here and catch 4-6 in a day and return home satisfied. Now i can't catch one in a week; or not allowed to fish that day, much less see one.

I have never seen anything get so bad. Even the commerical guys are hurting. So much has been done to help these fish and we finally narrowed it down to the flow of the river. Now Pacific Corps is playing more games with antiquated dams..

Please, please get the agreement in stone so they can't change again See if we can upstart this process and get the dams started in 1-2 years. Waiting for 10 years, and then more games will definately wipe all the fish off the map and certainly thew last 2% of the coho.

Please help, I would like to try 5-8 more years of casual fishing before my time. So may experts and scientists have spoken, I don't need to add more.

18-1

18-2

18-3

Sincerely,  
Norman Dyche  
[3711nd@suddenlink.net](mailto:3711nd@suddenlink.net)

# Comment Letter 19

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_evenson.htm

**From:** Michael Evenson [evenson@igc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 8:45 AM  
**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Scott and Shasta River Coho ITP

PO Box  
157  
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3506

Mr. Bob Williams, CDFG  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
[bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

## RE: Scott and Shasta River Coho Take Permits

Dear Mr. Williams,

By way of introduction, I have been involved in the restoration of native salmonid populations since 1980, co-founding the Eel River Salmon Restoration Project (with Scott Downie and Bill Eastwood) in 1981 and as an active practitioner and member of the Board of Directors of the Mattole Salmon Group since 1987. In addition, I have been a member of the Federally chartered Klamath Province Advisory Committee and the California Coast Province Advisory Committee, both of which worked closely with state and federal public trust agencies mostly concentrating efforts on salmonid issues on the north coast of California. Our family operates a beef cattle ranch at the mouth of the Mattole and I am well aware of the needs of agricultural producers.

19-1

From my experience over the past 37 years regarding the human/salmonid interactions, I can tell you that the **Incidental Take Permit should never be granted in a broad way, nor should it be granted without strict oversight and participation from the Department of Fish and Game.** Your mandate is the protection and recovery of these valuable animals and ecosystems. These are public trust resources in which the public places great value and has a great stake.

19-2

The situation in the Scott and Shasta Rivers has become critical in recent years, especially because of the lack of water in the channel. Fish need water – it's axiomatic. Groundwater pumping in the basins are contributes greatly to this problem which is also exacerbated by the current drought. However, any permitting and planning regarding these fish need to maintain their viability no matter what mischief the climate throws our way. DFG must hold the line or violate its sole mandate.

## Comment Letter 19

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_evenson.htm

Failure to perform this duty results in poor agency morale, ineffective performance of its duty, degenerating public support, all of which reflects badly on your own legacy.

Step back from this pending ITP and ensure that the public trust resources are protected and work to recover the losses of salmonid populations over the past 20 years. 19-2 cont.

Please feel free to contact me further regarding this ITP and keep me informed of any considerations or decisions you make in this matter.

Sincerely yours,  
Michael Evenson

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Shasta and Scott Valley Incidental Take Permit EIR Comments Submission

With great respect for all the work and due diligence performed by the field Biologists, research assistants, administration staff, and all others involved in preparing this Environmental Impact Report, I hereby submit these comments:

20-1

In these two EIRs, one could get down in the weeds with chapter/verse and dotted “i’s” and crossed “t’s” all you want. However, the below represents the broad stroke failings of the reports. In general, these failings revolve around three major issues. The last issue is the “BIG PICTURE” look at the EIR, and although it falls outside the geographical confines of the reports, it is crucially germane to the first two issues.

1) Lack of Metrics: There is no mention of gross or net numbers of fish returning to either Valley watershed systems that will represent a quantified benchmark of water management success. Without these extremely important metrics, the potential of more and more additional draconian requirements being included in the already excessively restrictive Incidental Take Permit requirements are endless! It’s no wonder no metrics exist, since both the State and the Scott Valley Recovery Plan for Coho and Anadromous Fishes both say there is either total lack of, or too little, data to build any quantitative recovery model. This lack of metrics, benchmarks, recovery mile markers, or whatever one wishes to call a fish return recovery rate, is absolutely unacceptable. If some quantitative metrics are not included in these two Valley’s EIRs, it would be like a Track Coach at practice telling his runners to start running, then walk off the field. “When do we stop, Coach?” “Don’t worry, I’ll come back and tell you some day. Just keep running!”

20-2

2) Lack of fair compensation for landowners and lack of County wide economic impact implications: Who is going to pay the landowners for loss of revenue caused by reduced production on their ranches and farms when their adjudicated water rights are infringed upon for the sake of higher flow rates in either river system? Who is going to pay the County of Siskiyou for the lost tax revenue when agricultural production drops? Who is going to pay the County wide business loss of revenue when the ranchers and farmers have less and less discretionary income? This process will be incremental, and must be addressed in this EIR process. Furthermore, when the inevitable expunging of Ranchers and Farmers from their land is enacted by State or Federal edict due to lack of adequate water quantity to continue agricultural diversions from river stems required for fish propagation, their land will be worthless in any Real Estate market. NO mention is given as to how these values will be established, or if the Government will even purchase the land from said rightful owner of the property. Theoretically, water confiscation by the State Watermaster or other Governmental entities would never occur. To illustrate this, statements by Siskiyou County Council (Ret) Frank DeMarco at various public meetings regarding Court adjudication of water rights during low water or drought conditions are very unsettling. “Harmonious court negotiations regarding adjudicated water rights and

20-3  
20-4

the landowners are usually the norm- it's a give and take proposition," or words to that effect. DO NOT EXPECT THE COURT SYSTEM TO RULE IN FAVOR OF THE RANCHERS AND FARMERS ANY MORE THAN THEY RULED IN FAVOR OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY WITH THE SPOTTED OWL CONTROVERSY.

↑  
20-4  
cont.

3) Big Picture: I realize the Scott and Shasta EIRs are dealing only with those two River systems and Valleys. However, there are huge extenuating biological ecosystems surrounding them both that absolutely guarantee the failure of the two Valley's fish recovery plan if they are not addressed loudly and with all possible vigor. Without failure, the collapse of the Pacific West Coast Continental Shelf and Coastal Fisheries, and unregulated Gill Netting at the mouth of the Klamath River by indigenous Indians must be addressed in this report. The same so called "Harmonious" court proceedings can be brought to bear on the NOAA, National Marine Fisheries and the Indian Nations that will be brought to bear upon the Ranchers and Farmers of the two Valleys. If these two major elements are not addressed and solved, there will be a minuscule chance of any significant fish recovery. In the case of Continental Shelf and the Gill Netting procedures, it is not prudent for the EIRs to ignore them as not being in the prevue of the report. No Biologist worth his salt that worked on these two EIRs can ignore the implications of the Marine Fisheries and Gill Netting practices. It would be like ignoring a next door neighbor who is trying to barbeque one of his kids!

↑  
20-5

It is not fair to the Ranchers, Farmers, and various Resource Conservation Districts that have labored long and hard for the past 10-15 years to bear the total brunt of the responsibility of the fish recovery process. If the above issues are not addressed in a sincere, forthright manner, these two EIRs will be a horrifically myopic report at best, or at worst, a total failure to the people served.

↑  
20-6

Very Respectfully Submitted,

R. B. Favero

From: hartman@sfsu.edu  
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 12:36 PM  
To: bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
Subject: Shasta and Scott River Protection and Stewardship

Dear Mr. Williams,

My name is Sam Hartman and I have been studying the Environment, Biology and Ecological cross connections for five years now at San Francisco State University. I am writing to urge you to protect California's ecosystems, specifically the Scott and Shasta river systems, which are in peril of being handed over to the so-called stewardship of the very landowners that are responsible for decimating river systems for years by drawing down waters which many species, most notably salmon, depend on. We cannot allow permits and oversight for streambed alterations to be taken further out of public hands and placed in confidence of those who would put economic gain ahead of long term ecological health and sustainability. Please use your status and position in our official public ecosystem protection organization to ensure that the CDFG retains strong oversight of the river systems in Northern California and maintains (and hopefully improves) the Ecosystem health of the Scott and Shasta Rivers and the many species of life that depend on fresh, cool, abundant water to thrive.

21-1

-Thank you,  
Sam Hartman

## Comment Letter 22

From: phiggins@humboldt1.com  
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 5:05 PM  
To: Bob Williams  
Subject: Patrick Higgins Comments on ITP/Data Request

Attachments: \_NC\_Flows\_Higgins\_Sierra\_Club\_4\_03\_08.pdf

Patrick Higgins  
Consulting Fisheries Biologist  
791 Eighth Street, Suite N  
Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 822-9428

Mr. Bob Williams  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

December 8, 2008

Re: Scott and Shasta Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) for Coho Salmon Draft  
Environmental Impacts Report (DEIR)

Dear Mr. Williams,

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impacts Reports (DEIR) for both the Shasta and Scott River Watershed Wide Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) for Coho Salmon and find them completely unsatisfactory. The problems for coho salmon in the Scott and Shasta River basins both relate to the insufficient flows in both systems in the summer. The slower transit time associated with lower flows contributes to stream warming and both rivers exceed lethal temperatures for salmonids for a great deal of the year. Nutrient pollution is also exacerbated by reduced flows. Since coho salmon require cold, clean water and the ITPs would not increase flows sufficiently abate water quality problems; therefore, cohos almon will not be recovered under these ITPs as required by the California Endangered Species Act.

22-1

22-2

22-3

The problems with flows are not just as a result of lack of enforcement of California Fish and Game Code Section § 5937 by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), but also the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Rights Division (WRD) is not enforcing California Water Codes § 1052 and § 1243. The latter two state, respectively, that no dams will be constructed without a permit and that sufficient flows in California streams will be maintained to allow for “recreation and the preservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources.” I have recently commented on the SWRCB WRD (2008) North Coast Instream Flow Study and I am attaching those comments because they document systematic problems with enforcement by that agency regionally, including in the Shasta and Scott Rivers. My

22-4



comments also describe how lack of regulation of groundwater regionally by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and their poor and inept performance of watermaster services have contributed problems in the Shasta and Scott Rivers.

22-5

Your failure to describe institutional problems that have lead to the current need to list coho salmon is a huge oversight with regard to meeting the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The lack of a tangible and enforceable plan to get surface and groundwater allocation problems resolved means that coho salmon will not be recovered under the ITPs as described in the DEIR. That two of three year classes of coho salmon in the Shasta and Scott are weak is indicative of high risk of extinction or jeopardy. Unless CDFG and the permittees can show that the two weak year classes are recovering, then jeopardy will be continuous under the permit, when CDFG stipulates that the permits would be cancelled in the event that jeopardy occurred under the ITP.

22-6

22-7

CEQA requires that “information developed in individual environmental impact reports be incorporated into a data base which can be used to reduce delay and duplication in preparation of subsequent environmental impact reports” (§ 21003). Under the California Public Records Act, I hereby officially request the database you are using for decision support for DEIR for the Scott and Shasta watershed ITPs in electronic within the timeframe required by the Act. Please notify me that you have seen and are processing this request in writing or via electronic mail or I will follow up with a certified letter, if necessary.

22-8

I sincerely hope that the Department corrects its recent course of action, which constitutes abdication of its public trust responsibility and its illegal delegation to those very interests which have caused the “take” of coho salmon to the point where they are in jeopardy of extinction. Being a fish biologist I work with and respect many of CDFG's dedicated employees, but the leadership in Region 1 and at the State level are an embarassment to the tradition the Department and should be removed from their positions.

22-9

Sincerely,

Patrick Higgins

**Comment Letter 22**

**Patrick Higgins**  
**Consulting Fisheries Biologist**  
791 Eighth Street, Suite N  
Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 822-9428

April 2, 2008

Karen Niiya  
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer  
Permitting Section Division of Water Rights  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I St., P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Comments on *Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams*

Dear Ms. Niiya,

I have reviewed the *Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams* on behalf of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club and provide comments on their behalf below. In addition to commenting specifically on the proposed *Policy*, I provide information on the status of Pacific salmon species in northern California, climatic cycles that affect salmon abundance, and on the interplay of cumulative watershed effects caused by land use management and those caused by diversion. I also provide case studies of several northern California watersheds where water diversion is limiting Pacific salmon, including ones outside the area defined by the *Policy*.

I have read the *Draft Policy* and read peer review comments from Dr. Lawrence Band (2008), Dr. Margaret Lang (2008), Dr. Robert Gearheart (2008), Dr. Charles Burt (2008), and Dr. Thomas McMahon (2008). In addition I read or reviewed McBain and Trush and Trout Unlimited (MTTU, 2000), California Department of Fish and Game and National Marine Fisheries Service (2002) guidelines for central California coastal streams and Appendices to the *Policy* (Stetson Engineering, 2007a; 2007b; R2 Consulting, 2007a; 2007b; 2007c). Although I find the *Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams* to have substantial technical merit, much more action is needed on regulation of water use to prevent the further decline of Pacific salmon stocks and the likelihood of stock extinctions.

**Qualifications**

With regard to my qualifications, I have been a consulting fisheries biologist with an office in Arcata, California since 1989 and my specialty is salmon and steelhead restoration. I authored fisheries elements for several large northern California fisheries and watershed restoration plans (Kier Associates, 1991; Pacific Watershed Associates, 1994; Mendocino Resource Conservation District, 1992) and co-authored the northwestern California status review of Pacific salmon species on behalf of the American Fisheries Society (Higgins et al., 1992). Although I am not a hydrologist, I have considerable expertise in the area of water use and its effect on Pacific salmon.

Since 1994 I have been the project manager for a regional fisheries, water quality and watershed information database system, known as the Klamath Resource Information System or KRIS ([www.krisweb.com](http://www.krisweb.com)). This custom program was originally devised to track restoration success in the Klamath and Trinity River basins, but has been applied to another dozen watersheds in northwestern California, including a number that fall within the targeted area of the *Policy*.

22-10

**Comment Letter 22**

The California Department of Forestry (CDF) funded KRIS projects in the Mattole, Ten Mile, Noyo, Big and Gualala rivers as part of the North Coast Watershed Assessment Planning effort. The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) also funded regional KRIS projects (IFR, 2003), including ones for the Garcia, Russian and Navarro rivers and tributaries of the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay in Marin and Sonoma Counties. I am submitting a DVD including all KRIS projects for the geographic area covered by the *Policy*.

Since January 2004, I have been working under contract with the Klamath Basin Tribal Water Quality Work Group, a consortium of environmental departments of Lower Klamath River Basin Indian Tribes, to improve enforcement of the Clean Water Act. Through work on review of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports, I have become further acquainted with factors limiting Pacific salmon, including those related to flow depletion.

I also have extensive field experience as a field biologist in the South Fork Trinity, Klamath, Eel, Navarro, Mattole and Garcia rivers as well as smaller coastal streams from Humboldt Bay to San Diego County.

**Overview**

The *Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams (Policy)* (SWRCB WRD, In Review) was created in response to California Assembly Bill 2121, which requires the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Rights Division (WRD) to adopt principles and guidelines for maintaining instream flows in coastal streams from the Mattole River to Marin County and in coastal streams entering northern San Pablo Bay (Figure 1). Much of the *Policy* is derived from a California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) central California coast water supply paper (CDFG and NMFS, 2002). The *Policy* proposes to:

- 1) Restrict new appropriative rights for diversion of surface water to October 1 to March 15,
- 2) Establish minimum bypass flows,
- 3) Set cumulative diversion limits, and
- 4) Discontinue permitting dams on Class I and II streams.

The *Policy* also calls for universal screening of new diversions, construction of fish passage facilities, non-native species control and riparian restoration. Appropriate monitoring parameters are identified in the *Policy* and the adaptive management strategy is theoretically sound (Band, 2008; McMahon, 2008).

Unfortunately, the *Policy* will only be narrowly applied to new appropriative water right applications in a restricted geographic area and does not deal with other aspects of long recognized water supply problems. Shortcomings of the approach include:

- No action to assess summer and fall flows, when the most critical flow shortages for juvenile salmonid rearing are known to occur,
- No recognition of changes in stream channels and watershed hydrology due to land use nor the implications for salmonid suitability or surface water supply,
- Applies only to new diversions seeking appropriative water rights and does not discuss potential problems due unlimited riparian water rights that could be exercised at any time,

22-10 cont.

## Comment Letter 22



**Figure 1.** North Coast area defined by the *Policy* to which the statutes defined therein will be applied. It does not cover the Klamath or Eel River basins that have greater need of water rights reform and greater potential for salmon and steelhead recovery.

- Insufficient consideration of ground water extraction despite known linkage to diminished surface flow and carrying for Pacific salmon species regionally,
- Enforcement discussion shows the WRD refuses to enforce water law and to provide a disincentive for unpermitted water use, creating an epidemic problem of illegal diversions, and
- The *Policy* recommends recognizing Watershed Groups that are comprised of diverters and envisions transfer of many SWRCB WRD responsibilities to such local extraction interests.

Although AB 2121 has forced publication of this *Policy*, there seems to be a great deal of reluctance on behalf of the SWRCB WRD to fully engage in this effort as indicated by the tone of the report, a lack of willingness to set limits on diversion and to enforce CA Water Code § 1052, 1055, 1243, and 1375. Also the geographic area of the *Policy* does not cover some northern California watersheds with greater need for water rights reform for Pacific salmon species protection, such as the Scott, Shasta and Eel Rivers. Consequently, the *Policy* is not likely to recover coho salmon, Chinook salmon and steelhead in northern California.

### Policy Framework

The SWRCB WRD has been working on this *Policy* for more than a decade (R2 Consultants, 2007a) and there is a great deal of merit in the theoretical basis for its minimum base flow and maximum cumulative diversion calculation. Dr. Lawrence Band (2008) summed limitations and benefits of the *Policy*:

“The documents provided for review contain a set of references to the limited time and budget available for data collection and analysis, and present very limited field sampling at one specific time, with flow records drawn from different periods of time. Given these limitations, the approach adopted in the proposed policy, to provide more conservative restrictions on in-stream water use at the regional level, is a sound strategy.”

There are, however, some instances where the *Policy* strays from a sound scientific basis and potential major data gaps will likely confound the application of the system. The five elements of the *Policy* framework are listed below with observations of peer reviewers and my own comments.

1. “Water diversions shall be seasonally limited to periods in which instream flows are naturally high to prevent adverse effects to fish and fish habitat.”

In fact, the only limitation on water diversions would be on new appropriate water rights applicants and no study or action is envisioned for extraction from April through October, when flows are

## Comment Letter 22

severely limiting for juvenile salmonid rearing. Dr. Thomas McMahon (2008) cautions that the entire exercise will be confounded due to this deficiency:

“Implementation of a diversion season along with the proposed minimum base flow (MBF) and maximum cumulative diversion (MCD) standards to maintain the fall-winter hydrograph could offer a false sense of protection to the listed species if flow levels during other seasons are insufficient to support the completion of rest of the freshwater life cycle.”

The *Policy* gives little or no scientific defense of its choice of October 1 versus December 15 as the start up of the winter water diversion:

“Although the DFG-NMFS Draft Guidelines recommended a season of diversion from December 15 through March 31, an earlier diversion season start date is still protective of fishery resources when minimum instream flows and natural flow variability are maintained. This policy limits new water diversions in the policy area to a diversion season beginning on October 1 and ending on March 31 of the succeeding year.”

Band (2008) points out that “the recommended limits of October 1 to March 31 is a compromise between the two other options (all year diversions and December 15-March 31), but places the beginning of the diversion season at the beginning of flow increases and Chinook migration in most years.” Dr. Margaret Lang concurred and recommended the later start date: “The December 15 start date is much more likely to prevent water diversion during the extreme low flows present before the onset of consistent rainfall.” She notes that numerous years there is little runoff on the first major storms of the season, as soil pores and the groundwater matrix soak up most early rainfall.

2. “Water shall be diverted only when stream flows are higher than the minimum instream flows needed for fish spawning and passage.”

Peer reviewers (Lang, 2008; McMahon, 2008) suggest that impacts on rearing salmonids need equal consideration with those on migrating and spawning adults. Steelhead juveniles typically spend two years in freshwater (Barnhart, 1989) and coho salmon spend a full year feeding before migrating to the ocean (Groot and Margolis, 1991). Dr. Lang (2008) points out that factors such as “food availability, food delivery from upstream, and hiding cover, that are also important and not well characterized” by modeling exercises and cites Harvey et al. (2006) as demonstrating differences in growth rates of juvenile salmonids between diverted and undiverted streams.

Again there is no mention of limiting diversion from April through October, no limit proposed for riparian diversions that do not require off-stream storage, nor restrictions on ground water extraction to actually maintain and restore flows for salmon and steelhead, even if the *Policy* were enacted (Band, 2008; Gearheart, 2008).

3. The maximum rate at which water is diverted in a watershed shall not adversely affect the natural flow variability needed for maintaining adequate channel structure and habitat for fish.

This policy requires calculation of minimum base flow (MBF) and maximum cumulative diversion (MCD), but lack of recent or historic flow data and problems with application of models confound accurate estimates (Lang, 2008). Even if the MBF and MCD were accurately calculated, they do not properly account for interactions between diversions. Synergy between diversions in multiple tributaries will cause unintended consequences on flows, fish passage and alteration of substrate quality in downstream reaches that need to be more fully considered (Band, 2008; Gearheart, 2008).

22-10  
cont.

22-10  
cont.

**Comment Letter 22**

4. Construction or permitting of new on-stream dams shall be restricted. When allowed, on-stream dams shall be constructed and permitted in a manner that does not adversely affect fish and their habitat.

Although future permit activities may restrict the construction of new dams, there are 1771 illegal dams already constructed within the geographic area covered by the Policy (Stetson Engineers, 2007a) (Figure 3) for which permits are being considered. Avoiding cumulative effects from thousands of impoundments, many of which are on Class I streams that contain salmonids, will not be possible without widespread enforcement action to remove a significant number of these illegal dams.

Several peer reviewers express reservations about damming and diversion of small headwater tributaries (Band, 2008; McMahon, 2008). Band (2008) notes a high risk of cumulative effects despite mitigations proposed for such projects in the Policy. According to McMahon (2008) “dams on ephemeral streams have the potential to greatly dampen the early fall/winter freshets important for access to the upper reaches of small spawning tributaries by their capture of the entire flow within the stream until the reservoir is filled, potentially resulting in significant dewatering downstream.”

5. The cumulative effects of water diversions on instream flows needed for the protection of fish and their habitat shall be considered and minimized.

The Policy does not properly deal with cumulative effects of diversions (Gearheart, 2008; Band, 2008) nor those associated with long term changes to streams and watershed hydrology due to land use that effect surface and ground water availability (see Cumulative Effects). Gearheart expressed the following concern:

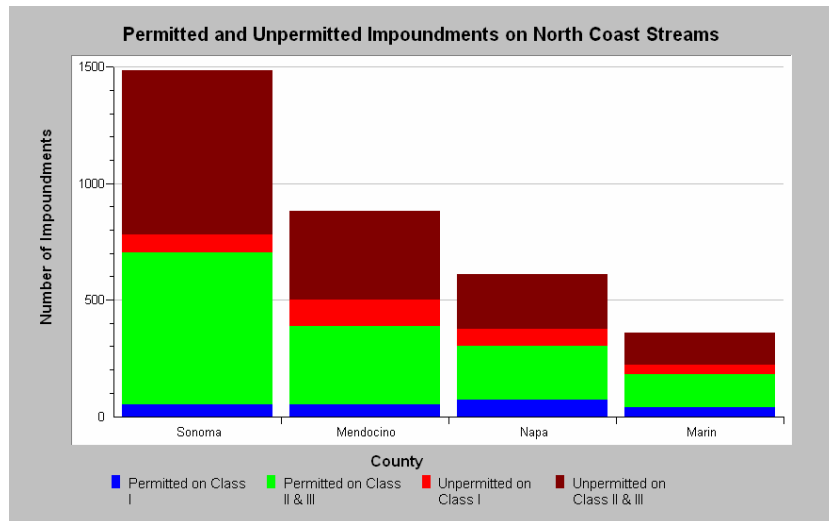
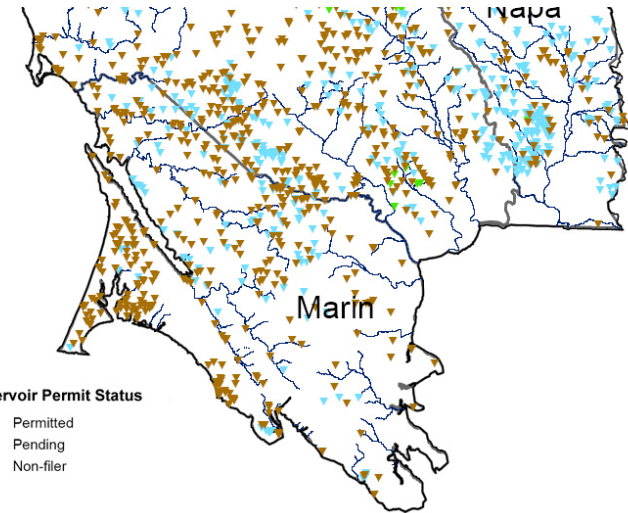


Figure 2. The number of permitted and unpermitted impoundments within the geographic area covered by the Policy is displayed above with illegal diversion impoundments outnumbering legal ones. Data from Stetson Engineers (2007a).

**Comment Letter 22**



Reservoir Permit Status  
 ▲ Permitted  
 ▲ Pending  
 ▲ Non-filer

Figure 3. The number of Marin County, southern Sonoma and Napa County diversion impoundments displayed above demonstrate the challenge that an appropriate right water applicant faces in inventorying quantities diverted. Stetson Engineers (2007a) Figure A-3.

“It appears to me as one evaluates the cumulative effect of scalping 5% of the peak as the storm hydrograph precedes down stream the reduction in the total flow reduces and the delay time (1/2 day recession -flow restricted) increases.”

Band (2008) suggests that flow depletion below stream convergence points will magnify fluctuations. This in turn will cause depositions of fine sediment and other undesirable channel changes that could affect spawning salmon and steelhead downstream (see Cumulative Effects).

Minimum Base Flow (MBF) and Maximum Cumulative Diversion (MCD): The Policy hinges on relatively accurate estimate of MBF and MCD. Although the scientific basis for calculation of these statistics is theoretically sound, accurate calculation is confounded by lack of historic records and problems with model simulations.

The Policy defines the MBF as “the minimum instantaneous flow rate of water that must be moving past the point of diversion (POD) before water may be diverted” and recommends 60% of the mean annual unimpaired flow ( $0.60 Q_m$ ) as needed for flows and fish passage in watersheds greater than 290 square miles either at the point of diversion, or at the upper limit of anadromy. Lang (2007) states that 68% ( $0.68 Q_m$ ) is actually needed for protection of fisheries resources and also points out that there may be substantial error in calculation of mean annual unimpaired flow because there are very sparse gauge data, often with periods of record of less than 10 years. Lang (2008) cautions additionally that model generated mean flow estimates may have significant error:

**Comment Letter 22**

“Scaling by watershed area and mean annual precipitation works reasonably well for peak and major storm flows dominated by the rainfall generated runoff (assuming the storm influences at nearby gauged sites are consistently similar to the watershed of interest) but at lower flows, more subtle factors such as watershed geology, slopes, ground cover, soil thickness, etc. influence the stream flow. The mean annual flow is as much a function of storm flows as low flows that do not generally correlate as well to drainage area.”

The maximum cumulative diversion (MCD) is defined in the policy as “the largest value that the sum of the rates of diversion of all diversions upstream of a specific location in the watershed can be in order to maintain adequate peak stream flows. The maximum cumulative diversion criterion is equal to five percent of the 1.5-year instantaneous peak flow.”

Lang (2008) recommended against the use of MCD in the Policy:

“The analysis by R2 Resources (2007) and Stetson Engineers, Inc (2007) clearly shows that maximum cumulative diversion limits set as volumes failed to meet the stated criteria of providing for channel maintenance flows. Stating the criteria as a volume would not meet objectives of the policy.”

Lang (2008) is joined by most other peer reviewers (Band, 2008; Gearheart, 2008; McMahon, 2008) in calling for additional data collection to better establish flow regime targets.

Water Availability Analysis: Before the SWRCB WRD can issue a permit for an appropriate water right, it must demonstrate that there is “unappropriated water available to supply the applicant” (CA Water Code § 1375) and that sufficient water remains for “recreation and the preservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources” (CA Water Code § 1243). A multi-party regional assessment is laid out as part of the *Policy* plan, but it also envisions a great deal of information being contributed by permit applicants and permit holders (see Watershed Groups).

The *Policy* section entitled Data Submissions (4.1.1.1) repeatedly refers to public domain spreadsheets and programs. The issue is not whether data analysis and models are done using public or private software, but whether the raw data are made available and the computer codes for models are made available so that results can be fully audited. Any revision of the *Policy* should have clear language that specifies full raw data availability and model transparency.

Water Supply Reports and Instream Flow Analysis Required of Applicants: The *Policy* provides the following description of study requirements facing new applicants:

“This policy requires a water right applicant to conduct a water availability analysis that includes (1) a Water Supply Report that quantifies the amount of water remaining instream after senior rights are accounted for, and (2) an Instream Flow Analysis that evaluates the effects of the proposed project, in combination with existing diversions, on instream flows needed for fishery resources protection.”

The water supply report is *not* required to describe flow conditions in the stream or determine surplus availability for April through November. Applicants are asked, however, to hire consultants to make a case that there is surplus water available in winter. This will not only be expensive, the consultants may actually be unable to determine the amount of cumulative diversion without an extensive survey because of unregistered riparian rights, pre-1914 water rights and those that have been established illegally (Figure 3). They will also be forced to use models and simulated data that produce considerable error (Lang, 2008) as discussed above.

**Comment Letter 22**

Effectiveness Monitoring: Most peer reviewers stress that extensive field data needed on an on-going basis to support adaptive management, or the implementation of the *Policy* will be seriously flawed (Lang, 2008; Band, 2008, Gearheart, 2008; McMahon, 2008). The tone of the *Policy* on this topic, however, is very disappointing and shows little commitment on behalf of the WRD with every passage in this section using *may* not will: “The State Water Board *may* develop and implement a policy effectiveness monitoring program.”

Enforcement: The SWRCB WRD has clear authority to regulate water extraction and to penalize those who appropriate water without a permit:

“Pursuant to Water Code section 1052, an unauthorized diversion or use of water is a trespass against the State subject to a maximum civil liability of \$500 per each day of unauthorized diversion or use of water. Water Code section 1055, subdivision (a), provides that the Executive Director of the State Water Board may issue an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) complaint.”

The problem is the WRD’s near absolute refusal to enforce the law. Stetson Engineering (2007a) lists 1771 unpermitted diversions in the North Coast region as defined by this project (Figure 2). They note the potential need to remove 1569 structures, but also note that 519 unpermitted structures now have pending permit applications. The pattern of non-enforcement is clear in a number of basins (Figure 3) and I have documented similar problems in northern California case studies below both inside and outside the *Policy* area (i.e. Napa, Navarro, Russian, Gualala, Scott, and Shasta).

The WRD has also been derelict in its duty with regard to CA Water Code § 1243 and 1375, which require that they protect recreation, fish and wildlife and that they establish a surplus before issuing permits, respectively. The WRD has failed to comply with these laws by simply not supplying permits other than after ponds and diversions have been illegally constructed. This has caused not only a loss of fish habitat but also treasured recreational opportunities enjoyed by past generations, such as swimming at the Scout Camp on the Wheatfield Fork of the Gualala or at Hendy Woods on the lower mainstem Navarro River.

Instead of active enforcement, the WRD relies on mechanisms like self-enforcement, whereby permit holders self-report violations, and on complaints from citizens. I know several individuals who have filed hundreds of complaints over several decades with the WRD and have had few resolved as a result (Bob Baiocchi; Stan Griffin, personal communication).

The reluctance to enforce the law is evident in the following passage from the *Policy*:

“Every violation deserves an appropriate enforcement response. Because resources may be limited, however, the State Water Board will balance the need to complete its non-enforcement tasks with the need to address violations. It must also balance the importance or impact of each potential enforcement action with the cost of that action. Informal enforcement actions, described below, have been the most frequently used enforcement response. *Such informal actions will continue to be part of this policy for low priority violations.*”

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## Comment Letter 22



**Figure 4.** Navarro River at Hendy Woods State Redwood Park is so flow depleted that only a stagnant pool not suitable for human contact remains. The mainstem Navarro was formerly rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead (Kimsey, 1952) and a major recreational draw during the hot days of summer and fall. CA Water Code § 1243 is clearly not being upheld in this basin. Photo by Pat Higgins from KRIS Navarro. September 21, 2001.

Some of the WRD criteria for prioritization include any violations:

- On Class I or Class II streams,
- That threaten or cause a take of endangered species,
- That constitute waste, unreasonable use, or unreasonable method of use,
- That illegally take water in a fully appropriated stream system, or
- That injure a prior right holder.

Despite pages of text on enforcement, there is no specific plan mentioned for decommissioning dams that are high priority. Almost all dams in the region effect at-risk salmonids and 308 illegal impoundments are on Class I streams (Figure 2) (Stetson Engineering, 2007 a). The Sierra Club (Pennington et al., 2008) points out that allowing diverters to avoid permit fees and costs of compliance offers them an unfair business advantage as well.

*Informal Enforcement:* “The purpose of an informal enforcement action is to quickly bring a violation to the water diverter’s attention and to give the diverter an opportunity to voluntarily correct the violation and return to compliance as soon as possible.” While quickly and voluntarily correcting violations is desirable, as one reads further into the *Policy*, deficiencies become apparent. Informal enforcement may only mean that WRD staff calls or emails the violator and then creates a file as a record of contact.

*Penalties:* The lack of willingness to enforce extends into the realm of use of fines as a disincentive:

“The ability to pay administrative civil liability is limited by diverter’s revenues and assets. In some cases, it is in the public interest for the diverter to continue in business and bring operations into compliance. If there is strong evidence that administrative civil liability would result in widespread hardship to the *service population* or undue hardship to the diverter, it may be reduced on the grounds of ability to pay.”

I have added emphasis to the term “service population” above because it shows the inherent bias of the WRD for diverters (their clients) as opposed to protection of public trust. They also express a willingness to skip the enforcement phase, if the diverters just agree to pay for cooperative management:

## Comment Letter 22

“Accordingly, flexibility should be provided to groups of diverters who endeavor to work together to allow for cost sharing, real-time operation of water diversions, and implementation of mitigation measures.”

Watershed Groups: The *Policy* proposes to use watershed groups to fund studies, assess flow availability, and mitigate all problems related to diversions. A watershed group is defined as follows:

“A watershed group is a group of diverters in a watershed who enter into a formal agreement to effectively manage the water resources of a watershed by maximizing the beneficial use of water while protecting the environment and public trust resources.”

Any watershed group formed by special interests that does not include public participation is unacceptable. Consultants working for water diverters would protect vested interests and the quality of science would not likely be as unbiased or equal to that collected by government scientists who have public trust responsibility.

The *Policy* defines further the role these watershed groups would play:

“The watershed group shall provide the technical information necessary for the State Water Board to determine water availability, satisfy the requirements of CEQA (if applicable), evaluate the potential impacts of water appropriation on public trust resources, make decisions on whether and how to approve pending water right applications for diverters in the watershed group, and make decisions on whether to approve the watershed group’s proposed watershed management plan.”

In other words, they want to turn their job and that of other State agencies over to local diverters. There are numerous streams in northwestern California that are already so over-subscribed they are dry in summer and fall. Many of the diversions may be unpermitted or constructed illegally and have permit applications pending. This strategy is not going to do anything for public trust and fish and it is likely illegal.

### Cumulative Watershed Effects

The California Environmental Policy Act (CEQA) requires that cumulative effects be considered and defines them as “indirect or secondary effects that are reasonably foreseeable and caused by a project, but occur at a different time or place.” The *Policy* is subject to CEQA yet fails to meet its requirements in considering cumulative watershed effects. Discussions of this topic are parsed below into 1) discussion of cumulative effects from networks of diversion on downstream reaches, and 2) on how all the watersheds under consideration are cumulatively effected by land use. The emphasis in the latter discussion is on changes in stream channel form and watershed hydrology that effect surface water availability.

Water Use Related Cumulative Effects: Band (2008) described numerous cumulative watershed effects likely from the interaction of diversions, even if all were operating in accordance with minimum base flows (MBF).

“The cumulative impacts of water diversions from all areas of the drainage network requires consideration of the network as an entity, and not just the sum of all individual reaches.”

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### Comment Letter 22

While each diversion might only capture less than 5% of the 1.5 recurrence interval flow at one location, Band (2008) calculated the interaction between diversions in the stream system could increase to 28% downstream. He sees the necessity of increasing model parameters “to analyze the impacts of sequential dependencies of reach conditions as they will not be randomly distributed.”

If interactions of multiple diversions are not factored into consideration, Band (2008) predicts “perturbations to the downstream hydraulic geometry, as well as bed sediment grain size, and seasonal variations in bed composition.” Of specific concern to Band (2008) is fine sediment delivery from early storms in streams where flow is depleted: “the first few increased flows of the year may flush fine grained sediment, perhaps without mobilizing coarser grain sizes, which may accumulate in reaches where discharge is drawn down.” These reaches might be ones used for spawning.

Band (2008) and Gearheart (2008) expressed concern about cumulative effects potential associated with dams on ephemeral streams (Class III). These headwater swales may constitute 50% of a watershed’s area and “the vast majority of coarse grained material delivered to larger streams with salmonid habitat are generated from small, headwater catchments” (Band, 2008). Figure 2 above shows permitted and unpermitted impoundments and there are 1357 permitted impoundments in the Policy’s area of interest and another 1771 unpermitted ones (Stetson Engineering, 2007a). Therefore, there is significant likelihood of advanced cumulative effects from interactions of releases from diversions.

Stetson Engineering (2007a) estimates that the capacity of illegal impoundments in the North Coast watershed region, as defined by the Policy, is 48,515 acre feet and that 3,234 surface acres of reservoirs now submerge former stream reaches or headwaters. These impoundments in turn are ideal habitat for bull frogs, which decimate native amphibian populations. They are often stocked with warmwater game fish that escape into water bodies below and may predate upon salmonids or displace them through competition (Higgins et al., 1992).

Ground water is not considered in the Policy, yet over-extraction is known to contribute to diminished water quality and greatly reduced fish habitat in many streams within the region (see Case Studies). Peer reviewers (Band, 2008; Gearheart, 2008; McMahon, 2008) point out that no real water budget can be calculated without knowing the influence of ground water withdrawals. The Department of Water Resources, a separate State agency, has oversight over ground water withdrawal, but all well logs are treated as proprietary and restriction of ground water use is uncommon.

Potential additional water withdrawal under riparian water rights is another flow-related cumulative effect. Riparian rights are those where water is extracted for use on lands that directly boarder the stream and any owner of a parcel immediately adjacent to a water course has the right to take water for domestic and agricultural use at any time unless specific deed restrictions are stated in the title to the land. Riparian rights do not require a permit from the WRD. Although the WRD requests that riparian water users file a statement of diversion and use, there is no penalty for not complying and few are filed.

Band (2008) mentions tailwater as a major issue needing consideration by the WRD as a potential effect. Agricultural waste water may have elevated temperature and nutrients and its impact is recognized as substantial on the Shasta River (NCRWQCB, 2006a).

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### Comment Letter 22

Upland Cumulative Effects and Surface Water Supply: Cumulative effects in northern California watersheds related to logging and associated road networks are well studied (Ligon et al., 1999; Dunne et al., 2001; Collison et al., 2003). Although much of the geographic area defined by the Policy is now in agricultural production, virtually all the watersheds have been logged at least historically. All of those logged after WW II have extensive road networks that alter watershed hydrology (Jones and Grant, 1996). High road densities act to extend stream networks and intercept ground water flows (Jones and Grant, 1996), resulting in increased peak flows and decreased base flows (Montgomery and Buffington, 1993).

Most of the streams within the Policy area are listed for sediment impairment on the SWRCB 303d list and targeted for remediation under the Clean Water Act TMDL program. A huge amount of sediment recognized as polluting north coast rivers is moving downstream in waves. The level of aggradation can be up to 25 feet (i.e. South Fork Trinity) (PWA, 1994) and high sediment yield has caused dozens of regional streams, such as those of the Lower Klamath (Voight and Gale, 1998), to lose surface flow even when there is no diversion (Figure 5).

The Policy needs to consider the question of water supply in a stream environment that is profoundly changed by cumulative effects. Increased flood peaks and excess sediment transport in North Coast rivers have caused a loss of pool habitat, an increased width to depth ratio, reduced large wood, and overall diminishment of salmon and steelhead habitat. Because the streams have become wider and shallower, they are more subject to warming (Poole and Berman, 2000). (The Policy skips the discussion of cumulative effects due to April-October flow depletion on stream temperatures by concerning itself only with the October-March time period.) The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB, 2006a) found that flow depletion in the Shasta River was contributing to temperature pollution and NRC (2004) found the same relationship on the Scott River (see Case Studies).

Anderson Creek in the Navarro River basin might serve as an example. When an early water right was granted for 2 cubic feet per second (cfs), pools were likely frequent with some 6-8 feet deep (CDFG, 1969), and the effect of the withdrawal was likely minimal. The stream has experienced substantial cumulative effects and pools are now infrequent and maximum pool depth is often 4 feet or less; *the effects on fish of the historically permitted quantity of water may now be significant*. Add to the equation decreased baseflows due to high road densities, recent logging and development and one can understand why streams are running dry and fish are going without water. All of these are factors that the Policy needs to consider in order to meet CEQA requirements and to determine water availability that truly reflects the needs of fish.

Cumulative effects should also be recognized as compromising recreational opportunities. Not only do north coast rivers lack sufficient flow for recreation, flow depletion and aggradation now cause stagnation that fosters toxic algae. Although the South Fork Eel River is not in the Policy area, it none the less serves as a regional example. Generations of Californians have vacationed on the South Fork Eel at Richardson’s Grove Redwood State Park or at Benbow Lake, but toxic blue-green algae species now make surface water contact during low flows ill-advised. There have been several accounts in the local press of dogs dying after ingesting SF Eel River water. Rural development in the Eel River watershed has fostered a similar pattern of unpermitted water use as in Policy area basins, that when combined with aggradation, leads to major loss of recreational opportunities.

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**Figure 5.** Lower Terwer Creek running underground in late fall 1990. High sediment yield related to watershed disturbance has caused massive aggradation. The stream loses surface flow in late summer and fall yet there is no diversion upstream. Photo by Paat Higgins from KRIS Klamath-Trinity Version 3.0. September 1991.

**Case Studies**

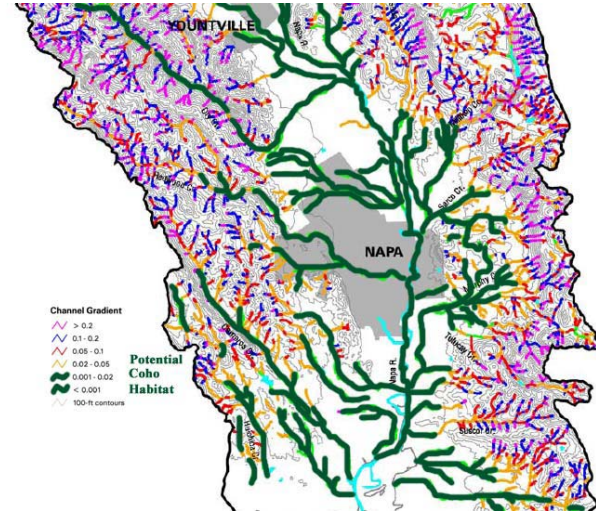
There are a number of watersheds in northwestern California that have flow levels that limit salmonid production and case studies are provided below for areas both inside and outside the geographic area covered by the *Policy*. Many of my reports are provided on the DVD that is being filed with these comments so that WRD can get more detailed information from them.

**Napa River:** I am intimately familiar with the Napa River watershed from having commented (Higgins, 2006a) on the *Napa River Sediment TMDL* (SFBWQCB, 2006) and on several proposed vineyard conversions (Higgins, 2006b; 2007). The diminishment of flow from historic levels is most clearly seen through examining what would have been coho salmon habitat. USFWS (1968) estimated the historic coho population in the Napa River at 2000-4000 fish. Coho prefer reaches with a gradient of less than <2% and suitable water temperature, with juveniles spending one year in freshwater. Figure 6 illustrates where coho are likely to have ranged in the middle Napa River watershed. The majority of low gradient mainstem and tributary reaches were found to be dry (Figure 7) or stagnant in 2001 by Stillwater and Dietrich (2002). Figure 8 is taken from Stetson Engineers (2007a) and shows the number of permitted and unpermitted diversions in the lower Napa River, including Carneros Creek. Stetson Engineers (2007a) noted that 43% of winter flow in Carneros Creek is likely diverted.

While Napa River coho are extinct, steelhead are still present, although there is a homogeneous disturbance in the watershed because of urbanization, timber harvest, vineyard development, dams for municipal water supply and changes in the stream channel. Steelhead are blocked from 30% of the Eastside of the watershed by large municipal water supply dams, the mainstem Napa River is now either dry or unsuitable for steelhead rearing, and Westside tributaries sustain steelhead in isolated pools. Stillwater and Dietrich (2002) noted that steelhead juveniles stranded in isolated pools lost weight during summer due to lack of insect drift delivered not being delivered by flows. Given the precipitous decline in steelhead habitat, it is my professional opinion that their population is likely dropping significantly. Chinook salmon still return to the Napa River, but their population is small and also at risk of loss.

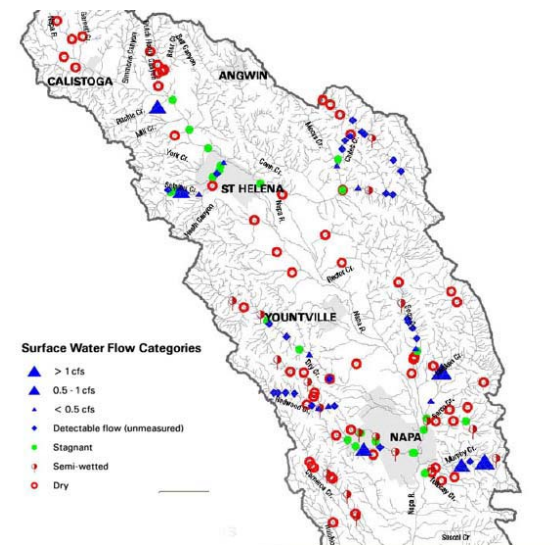
My *Napa River TMDL* comments (Higgins, 2006a) conclude that sediment and flow problems cannot be remedied without limiting watershed disturbance and that temperature and fish problems cannot be remedied without additional flows:

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**Figure 6.** Stream gradient map of the Napa River is overlain with dark green on reaches with gradient less than 2% (0.02) to show likely range of coho salmon prior to human disturbance. Map 6 from Stillwater and Dietrich (2002).

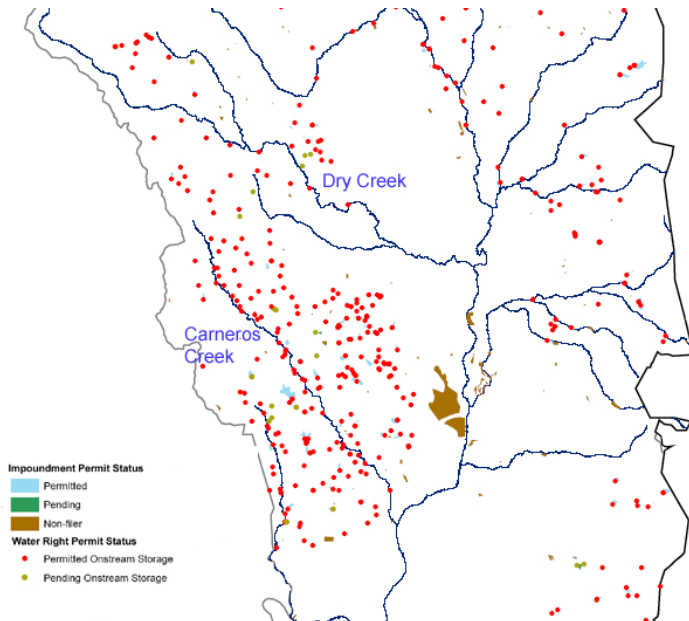
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**Figure 7.** Symbols on this Napa River map indicate that reaches likely formerly inhabited by coho now lack surface flow or are stagnant. Taken from Stillwater and Dietrich (2002) where it appears as Map 13.



**Comment Letter 22**



**Figure 8.** Diversions and impoundments in the lower Napa River basin in Huachuca, Cameros and Dry creeks at left. Impoundments include both those permitted and unpermitted. Stetson Engineers (2007a).

“The State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Division has the authority to install stream gages where ever necessary to insure protection of public trust, water quality and water rights. The TMDL should make explicit reference to reaches affected by low flows and call on the SWRCB WRD to take appropriate monitoring and enforcement actions.”

Navarro River: I am familiar with the Navarro River having worked in the basin as a CDFG seasonal aid in 1972, commented on proposed timber harvests in Rancheria Creek and Indian Creek in 1993-1994, and more recently helped complete the KRIS Navarro project (IFR, 2003a). The WRD is intimately familiar with the Navarro River as documented in previous comments on regional flow policy by Friends of the Navarro River Watershed (Hall, 2006) and the Sierra Club (2006).

In 1994 the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (Volcker, 1994) filed a water rights complaint with the SWRCB WRD for failing to adequately address instream flow needs under the Public Trust Doctrine in the Navarro River basin. In the complaint, Volker (1994) stated that:

“Illegal and unreasonable water diversions from the Navarro River and its tributaries, primarily for agricultural purposes, have significantly impaired instream fish and wildlife beneficial uses, to the point where the river was literally pumped dry during August and September of 1992. Such illegal and unreasonable diversions threaten again this fall to eliminate the natural flow of

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**Comment Letter 22**

the river and its tributaries necessary to sustain constitutionally and statutorily protected instream fish and wildlife beneficial uses.”

Volcker’s (1994) assertion that the Navarro loses surface flow was correct at the time and the condition is still chronic in summer (Figure 9). In processing the complaint, the WRD (SWRCB, 1998) found 121 illegal impoundments (Figure 10), none of which were removed and many of which have now applied for permits (Pennington et al., 2008). The SWRCB (1998) declined to take public trust protection action:

“The SWRCB could initiate a public trust action in the watershed. However, the cause of the anadromous fish decline may be principally due to factors other than flow, and there is not adequate information available regarding the flow needs of the fishery in the summer. Consequently, the Division recommends that a public trust action should not be initiated at this time. If the complainants, DFG, or some other entity develops adequate information regarding the summer flow needs of the anadromous fishery, this recommendation can be reevaluated.”

Illegal diversions of two types for Mendocino County watersheds are shown in Figure 11, which is taken from Stetson Engineers (2007a). The Navarro River appears at left with a combination of regulatory dams, diversions that do not impound water, and illegal impoundments.

Russian River: I am familiar with the Russian River due to work on a KRIS Russian database (IFR, 2003a) and from having provided comments on the Bohemian Grove NTMP (Higgins, 2007b).

As one of the centers of the booming wine industry, the Russian River is one of the most heavily diverted streams in northwestern California, as indicated by the prevalence of unpermitted diversions (Figure 11). Major tributaries lose surface flow during summer and early fall (Figure 12) and significant numbers of large pumps have been installed to tap ground water, some immediately adjacent to the river (Figure 13). The Sierra Club (2006) documented problems with over-diversion and widespread illegal water use in Maacama Creek causing severe damage to public trust.

Coho salmon are increasingly rare in the Russian River, but still known to occur in some tributary sub-basins. Figure 14 shows the existing appropriative rights and those proposed for all tributaries known to have harbored coho salmon in the past. Coho were present in Green Valley Creek all three years of CDFG surveys from 2000-2002, but present in Dutch Bill Creek only one year in that period. While there is only one permit on Green Valley Creek, there were 17 applications as of 2001 and Dutch Bill had 7 water rights permitted, but an additional 10 in the application process. Figure 15 shows identified illegal water withdrawal specifically on these streams (Stetson Engineers, 2007a). Legal and illegal diversions pose significant risk to the last streams where coho still persist in the Russian River.

California Department of Fish and Game habitat typing surveys of Green Valley Creek and Dutch Bill Creek show that both streams lose surface flow in some reaches (Figure 15). Pool frequency is also low relative to the CDFG (2004) target of 40% as optimal for salmonids and coho juveniles are known to require pools for freshwater rearing (Reeves et al., 1988). Additional permitted extraction of surface water is likely to both raise water temperatures and decrease depth and cover for juvenile coho salmon. The extent of dry habitats suggests that both streams are fully or possibly over-allocated and that coho habitat is already significantly diminished.

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**Comment Letter 22**



**Figure 9.** The lower mainstem Navarro River near Flume Gulch is shown at left during low flow conditions on September 21, 2001. The USGS flow gauge indicated that the average flow on this day was 1.1 cubic feet per second. The algae on the margins of the stream indicate stagnation and no fish were present at the time of observation. Photo from KRIS Navarro by Pat Higgins.

Kimsey (1952) sampled this exact location in August 12, 1962 and found steelhead trout of two age classes (young-of-year, 1+) and a flow of 15 cfs during what was an average water year.

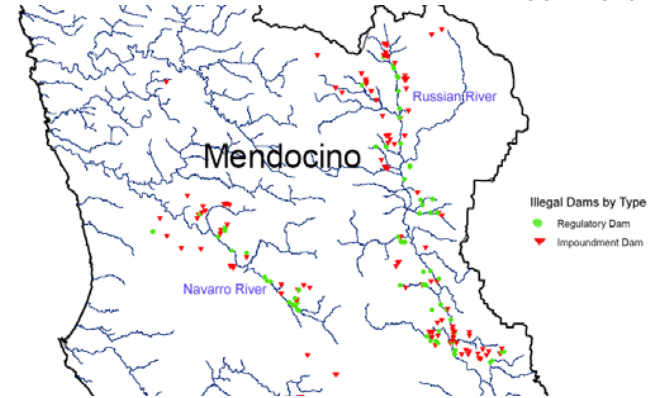
U.C. Davis (Johnson et al., 2002) found only seven suckers in many miles of Navarro stream surveys indicating that even this hardy species is disappearing.

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**Figure 10.** Aerial photo of agricultural development in the Navarro River basin circa 1998 shows ten ponds of different types typical of water storage. Vineyard development and aggradation has almost completely eliminated salmonid summer rearing habitat. Photo from KRIS Navarro.

**Comment Letter 22**



**Figure 11.** Locations of unpermitted diversion dams of two types in central Mendocino County with the Navarro at left and upper Russian River at right. Regulatory dams are diversions with no impoundments. From Stetson Engineering (2007a).



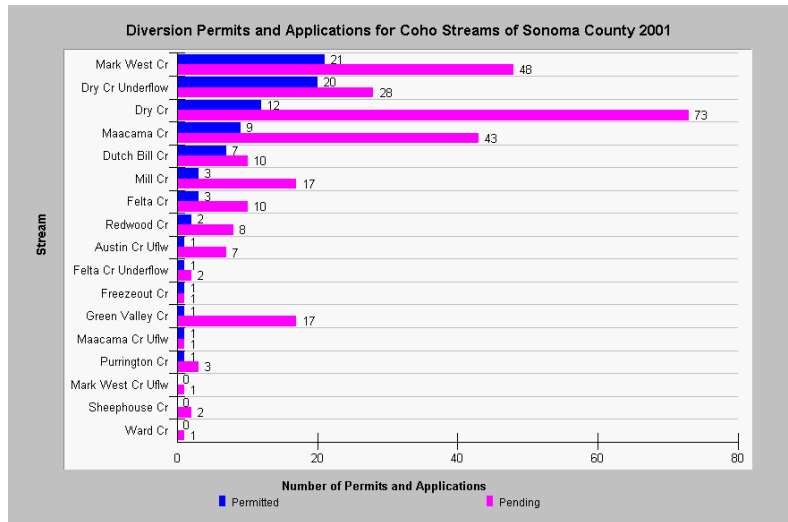
**Figure 12.** Looking downstream at the dry stream bed of the West Fork Russian River off the Eastside Road Bridge. The riparian vegetation lining both banks and extending back on the terrace at right is a result of a bioengineering project by Evan Engber. While trees have been successfully re-established to protect adjacent property and to stabilize channel conditions, over-diversion causes loss of flows. Photo by Patrick Higgins from KRIS Russian. July 13, 2003.

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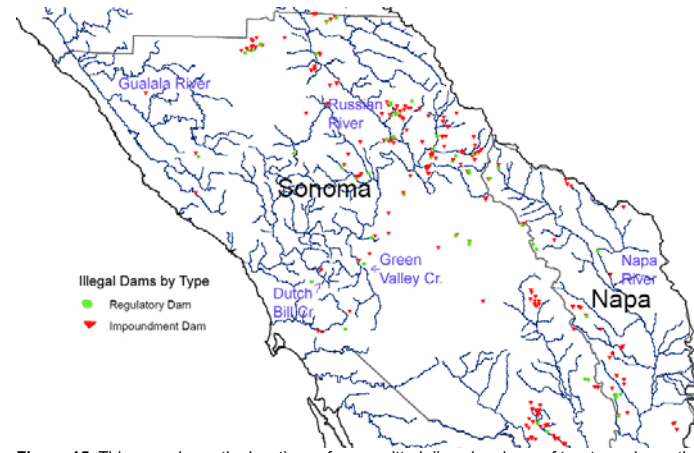


**Figure 13.** Large ground water pump appears right of center in the riparian zone of the Russian River looking west off East Side Road north of Hopland. KRIS Russian. Photo by Patrick Higgins. July 15, 2003.

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**Figure 14.** This chart displays the number of approved permits for appropriative water rights and those submitted for approval in Russian River tributaries known to have harbored coho salmon, including Green Valley Creek and Dutch Bill Creek. Data from the SWRCB WRD. March 2001. Chart from KRIS Russian.



**Figure 15.** This map shows the locations of unpermitted diversion dams of two types in southern Sonoma and Napa counties, including lower Russian River tributaries Green Valley and Dutch Bill Creeks, which have recently harbored coho. Regulatory dams are diversions with no impoundments. From Stetson Engineering (2007a).

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**Sonoma Creek:** My familiarity with Sonoma Creek is primarily due to my participation in the KRIS East Marin-Sonoma database project. Similar types of evidence are available to those used to demonstrate problems on the Russian River above. Habitat typing data (Figure 16) from upper Sonoma Creek indicates that reaches downstream of the headwaters go dry in summer. The cause of this loss of surface flow might be partially related to aggradation, but is still a sign that surface water availability has been diminished and that fish habitat is currently compromised. Figure 17 shows the dry bed of Carriger Creek, a tributary of Sonoma Creek, with what appears to be a large diversion pipe upstream. While Sonoma Creek itself has some problems with unpermitted diversion (Figure 18), diversion in the Tolay Creek basin indicates major illegal over-appropriation. It is likely that steelhead in Tolay Creek are at a very low level, if they persist at all.

**Gualala River:** I am familiar with the Gualala River from having worked on the KRIS Gualala database (IFR, 2003), completed a literature search and data assessment (Higgins, 1997), and commented on several proposed vineyard conversions (Higgins, 2003; 2004a, 2004b).

The Gualala River lies within southern Mendocino and northwestern Sonoma counties. It is recognized as impaired with regard to sediment (NCRWQCB, 2004) and has major problems with loss of surface flow and high water temperature (IFR, 2003b). CDFG (2001) characterized coho salmon in the Gualala River as "extirpated or nearly so."

The following passage from KRIS Gualala (IFR, 2003b) characterizes SWRCB WRD prior actions in the North Fork:

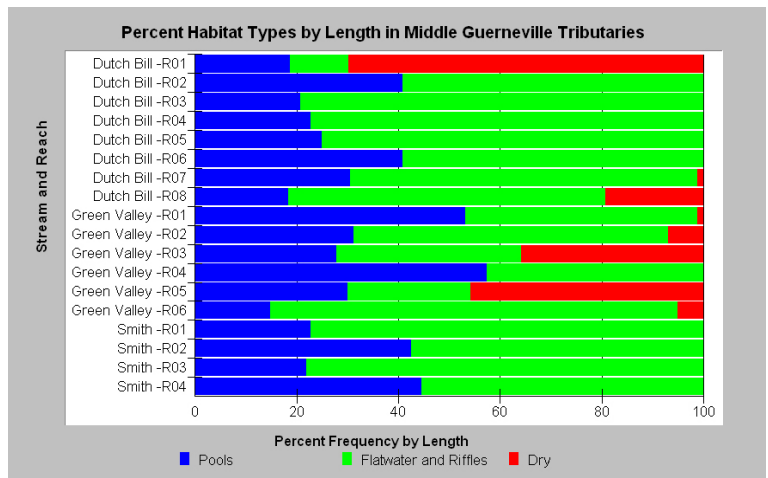


Figure 15. This chart shows CDFG habitat typing data for three lower Russian River tributaries. Notice that Dutch Bill and Green Valley Creek have significant dry reaches. Data from CDFG chart from KRIS Russian.

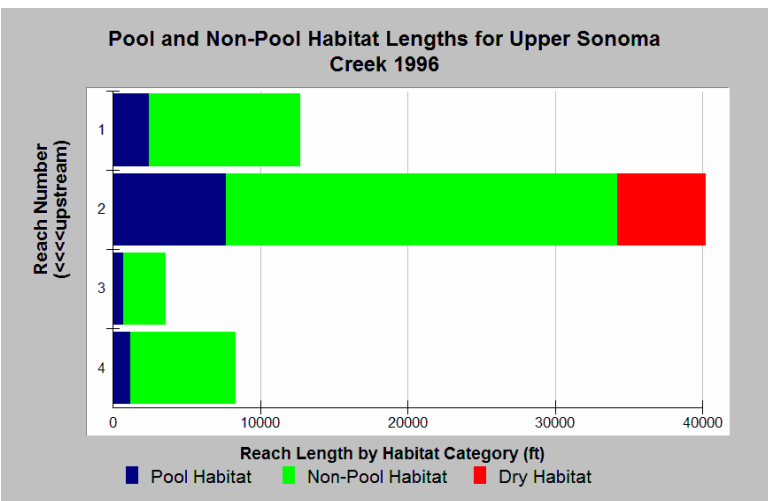


Figure 16. This chart shows Sonoma Creek Ecology Center habitat typing data for upper Sonoma Creek. The pool frequency is lower than optimal for salmonids (CDFG, 2004) and there are significant dry reaches. From KRIS East-Marín Sonoma.

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Figure 17. This photo shows Carriger Creek, a tributary of Sonoma Creek, with a dry stream bed and what appears to be a large diversion pipe along cutbank upstream. From KRIS East-Marín Sonoma.

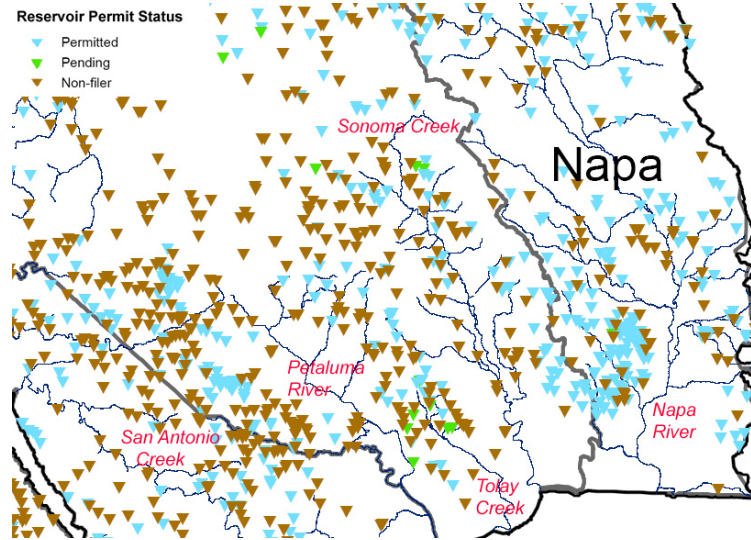


Figure 18. Locations of unpermitted diversion dams of two types, non-filers (brown) and pending (green). While there are many legal and illegal diversions on Sonoma Creek, cumulative effects risk is much greater in Tolly Creek, a much smaller basin, where there are 29 unpermitted diversions. From Stetson Engineering (2007a).

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**Comment Letter 22**

“The California Department of Fish and Game (Hunter, 1996) expressed concern about the diversion of the North Fork Gualala by the North Gualala Water Company, citing reduction in fish habitat if minimum stream flows were not retained. The State Water Resources Control Board (1999) prohibited diversion of surface water when the North Fork dropped below four cubic feet per second (cfs), then in August 2000, ruled that this order applied to two NGWC groundwater wells (SWRCB, 2000). This decision recognizes the importance of North Fork flows to the lower mainstem Gualala as well.”

The Gualala River combination of aggradation and increased water use due to vineyard expansion has created an expanding problem with stream reaches in this basin losing surface flow (Figure 19), including the lower mainstem, Wheatfield Fork, South Fork, Buckeye Creek and Rockpile Creek (Higgins, 2003; 2004). Habitat typing surveys by CDFG (2001), as part of the North Coast Watershed Assessment Program, found mainstem reaches going dry (Figure 20) where they maintained surface flow during the 1976-77 drought (Boccione and Rowser, 1977). Although rainfall in 1976-77 was only 16.0 inches, total rainfall in 2001 was 24.6 inches, yet flows in 1976-77 were 12.5 cfs and all major tributaries contributed surface flow. This indicates a major decrease in water yield and water supply.

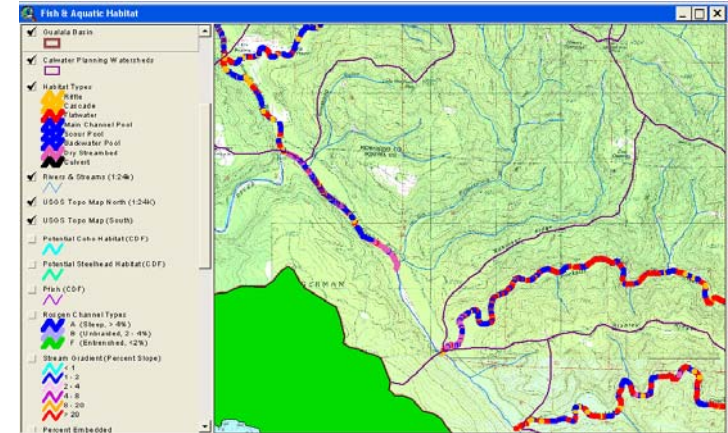
The extensive loss of surface flows in the Gualala River represents a major threat to the continuing survival of steelhead, which are still a major part of the local tourist-based economy.



**Figure 19.** The Wheatfield Fork, just upstream of its convergence with the South Fork, ran underground in 2001. Although the aggradation of the Wheatfield Fork is a factor contributing to lack of surface flows, water diversion for several vineyards and rural residential use exacerbate the problem. Photo by Pat Higgins from KRIS Gualala database.

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**Comment Letter 22**



**Figure 20.** CDFG habitat typing of the Gualala River in 2001 shows the lower mainstem Gualala River below Big Pepperwood Creek ran underground for an extensive reach. Lower Rockpile Creek also lost surface flows in more than a quarter mile. KRIS Gualala and Higgins (2003).

**West Marin Tributaries:** Salmon, Americano, Stemple and Walker creeks all have agricultural water extraction that both compromises water quality and limits habitat for steelhead and coho salmon. Figure 21 shows a close up of these West Marin tributaries with all impoundments, 1) permitted, 2) those with applications pending, and 3) illegal diversions with no contact from the operator. The epidemic problem of over diversion and potential for cumulative effects is self-evident.

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All these West Marin tributaries have extensive agricultural land use, mostly by dairies. Cattle may deposit fecal material directly into streams or it may enter as a result of overland flow. Grazing takes place up to stream banks leaving no riparian buffer capacity (Figure 22). Lack of canopy also promotes stream warming and flow depletion contributes promotion of both increased water temperatures and nutrient pollution.

Charts from KRIS West-Marin Sonoma (IFR, 2003a) show the degree of water quality impairment due to the cumulative effects of agricultural activity and flow depletion. Salmon Creek is the most northerly of tributaries considered, entering the Pacific Ocean north of Bodega Bay. Figure 23 shows dissolved oxygen (DO) values from several stations sampled by CDFG on Salmon Creek that are indicative of nutrient pollution. Super-saturated DO of greater than 10 mg/l at Highway 1 is linked to very high biological activity of algae blooms that thrive in the stagnant, nutrient-rich waters. Minimum DO levels at the Bodega location approached the recognized lethal limit for salmonids of 3.8 mg/l (WDOE, 2002). While D.O. is super-saturated during daylight hours due to photosynthesis, D.O. becomes depressed as algae respire at night or as algae dies off.

Merritt and Smith Consulting (1996) studied Americano Creek for the City of Santa Rosa. Figure 24 shows flow measurements indicating that surface flow near Garicke Road (Station E-6) was not present from April until November 1988 and from May-September 1989. Flow depletion also contributes to major pollution problems similar to those in neighboring creeks. Stemple Creek shows another symptom of nutrient pollution, high pH (Figure 25). A pH value of over 9.5 is directly lethal to rainbow trout (Wilkie and Wood, 1995).

Comment Letter 22

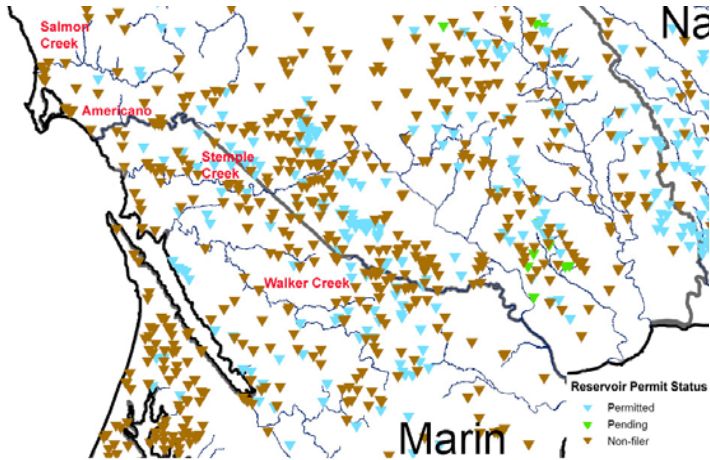


Figure 21. This map shows a zoom of the same type as Figure 2 with close up of West Marin County creek diversion impoundments that are permitted, have permits pending or are unpermitted (Non-filer). There is an obvious huge cumulative effects problem with diversion and water use. From Stetson Engineers (2007a).

22-10 cont.

Comment Letter 22

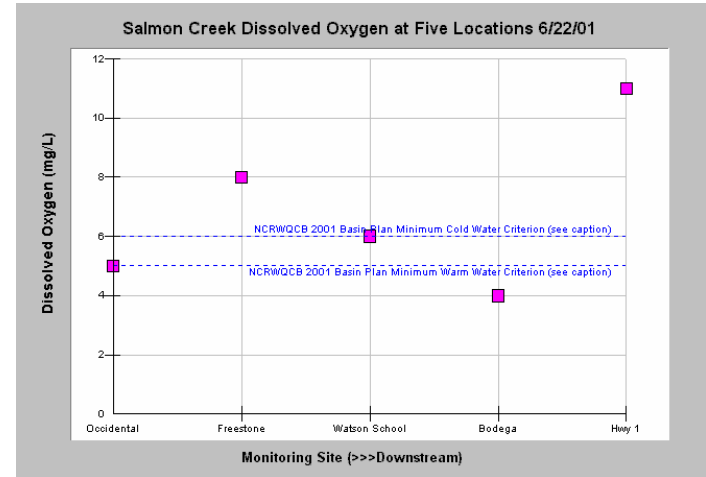


Figure 23. Dissolved oxygen at five stations (going downstream from left to right) in Salmon Creek. The high dissolved oxygen at Highway 1 is consistent with elevated pH values indicating photosynthetic activity characteristic of nutrient pollution. D.O. sags would occur at night. These data were collected by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board as a part of the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). June 22, 2001. From KRIS West Marin-Sonoma.

22-10 cont.



Figure 22. The photo at left shows the lower mainstem of Walker Creek with very poor fish habitat as a result of livestock grazing and flow depletion. The shallow, wide stream channel and lack of riparian vegetation makes the stream subject to warming. Photo from KRIS West Marin-Sonoma.

Creel census data from 1949-1974 indicate that hundreds of adult steelhead were harvested in some years and adult coho were present in the catch (Kelley, 1976). Kelley (1976) interviewed long time residents and anglers, who said that the coho salmon run in Walker Creek was much more robust prior to 1950.

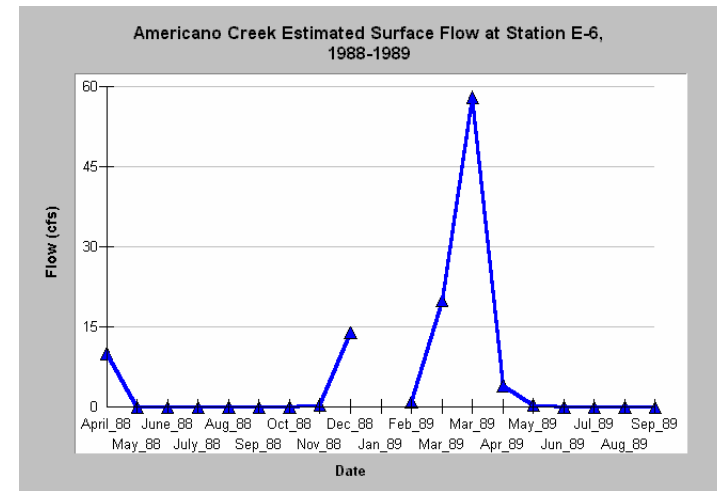


Figure 24. Surface flow was estimated approximately once monthly near Garicke Road (Station E-6) in Americano Creek from 1988-1989. Flow was not present after April in 1988 until November 1988 and from May-September 1989. Data from Merritt Smith Consulting for the City of Santa Rosa and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. KRIS West Marin-Sonoma.

Comment Letter 22

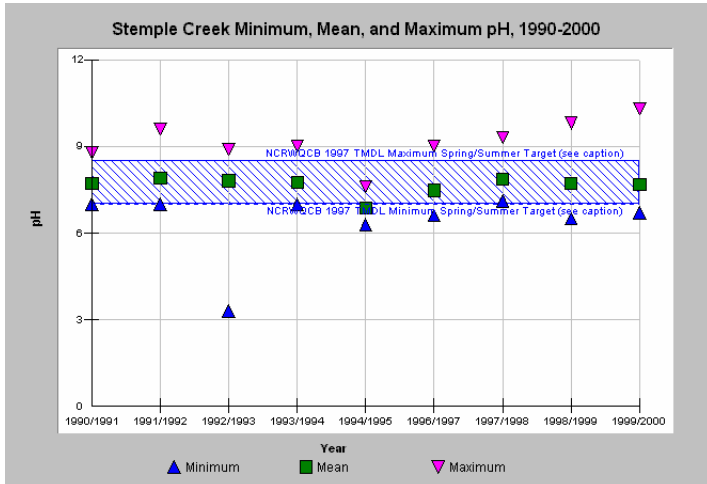


Figure 25. The pH of Stemple Creek exceeded stressful or lethal for salmonids (>9.5) as a result of nutrient enrichment from cattle waste in combination with flow depletion. Data from CDFG and chart from KRIS West Marin-Sonoma.

Walker Creek had coho salmon historically (Figure 26) but flow depletion and nutrient pollution have contributed to their disappearance. Kelly (1976) used electrofishing and netting for the Marin Municipal Water District sponsored studies that found coho, abundant Pacific lamprey juveniles and steelhead juveniles of all age classes in Walker Creek. Flows now annually fall to near 5 cfs or less from July through September (Figure 27). Reduced flow and grazing impacts have resulted in water quality problems similar to previously discussed tributaries related to nutrient pollution.

Scott River: Although the Scott River is not within the *Policy* area, it has very well recognized water quality and fisheries problems related to surface and ground water extraction (NRC, 2004). I am intimately familiar with this basin from helping with restoration planning (Kier Associates, 1991), restoration evaluation (Kier Associates, 1999), building three versions of KRIS databases, and four years of work on Scott River issues for the Klamath Basin Tribal Water Quality Work Group. Several papers on the Scott, Shasta and Klamath TMDLs are posted on their website and WRD can easily access documents on the Internet at [www.klamathwaterquality.com](http://www.klamathwaterquality.com).

I draw below from previous comments on the *Scott TMDL* (Higgins, 2006c) that are on the DVD with regional KRIS projects filed with these comments. The principal findings were as follows:

1. Flows have been decreased by ground water extraction,
2. Flows have declined to far below those required by the Scott River adjudication and often cause stream reaches and tributaries to go dry,
3. Low flow exacerbates water temperature problems, and
4. Flow and temperature problems combine with sediment to severely limit productivity of salmon and steelhead populations.

22-10  
cont.

22-11

Comment Letter 22

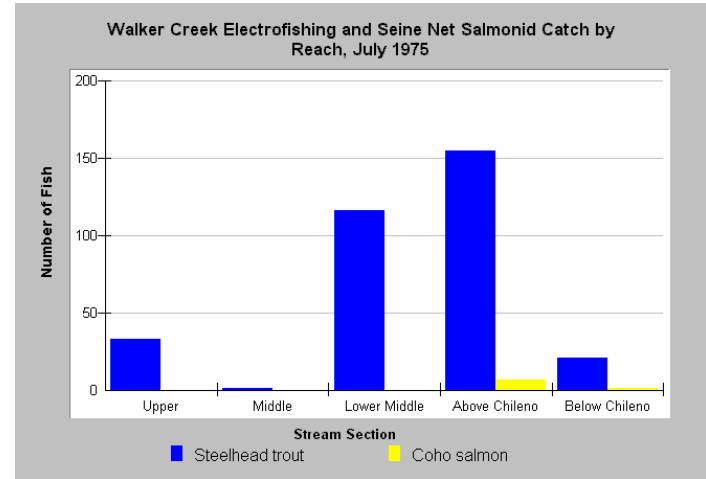


Figure 26. Fish sampling in Walker Creek in 1975 found coho salmon and numerous steelhead. Kelly (1976).

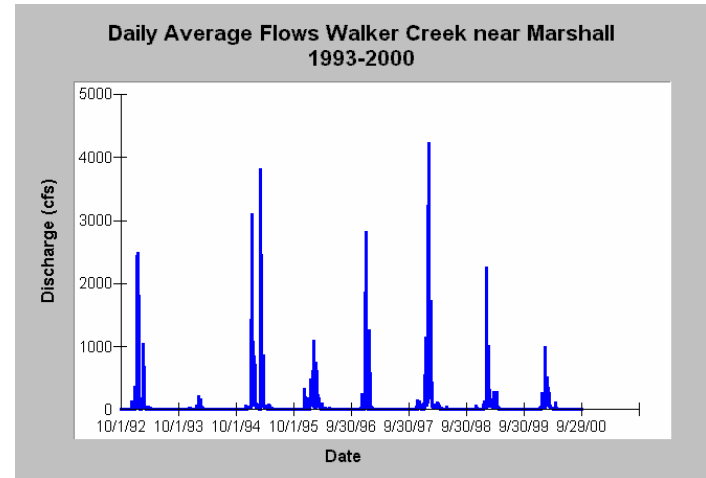


Figure 27. Flows in Walker Creek, tributary of Tomales Bay, dropped to 5 cfs or less on average annually according to USGS flow gauge records. Chart from KRIS West Marin-Sonoma.

### Comment Letter 22

The Scott River channel and many of its major tributaries are dried up annually, in violation of CDFG code 5937 (Figure 28 & 29), severely limiting rearing habitat for salmonids. Although the Scott River is adjudicated (SWRCB, 1980), flow levels fall below those required for months of the year (Figure 30). This causes major reductions in habitat quality in the lower Scott River, which formerly served as a summer refugia for juvenile salmonids.

The *Long Range Plan for the Klamath River Basin Conservation Area Fishery Restoration Program* (Kier Assoc., 1991) noted that ground water pumping in the Scott River valley depleted surface flows because of interconnections between surface and ground water. The Scott River has experienced major declines in surface flows coincident with installation of ground water pumps beginning in the 1970's. Pumps continue to be installed through NRCS and EQIP funding (Figure 31) and drops in ground water levels are becoming evident (Figure 32). The chart suggests that while annual maximum levels have remained relatively constant over time, annual minimum levels have declined since 1965, although they fluctuate with precipitation.

The National Research Council (2004) makes a clear case that flow depletion is at the root of temperature problems in the Scott River. As flows drop, transit time for water increases allowing an opportunity for stream warming. A thermal infrared radar (TIR) image of Shackleford Creek (Figure 33) was taken by Watershed Associates (2003) as part of the Scott River TMDL and shows dramatic effects of flow depletion on water temperature. Shackleford Creek is cool enough for juvenile salmonid rearing above points of diversion, then warms rapidly as its flow is depleted. Flow resumes below the major tributary Mill Creek, warms again as flow is reduced by irrigation until surface flows are lost, just upstream of the convergence with the Scott River.

Fall chinook salmon from the Scott River are an important component of the Klamath River run that supports ocean, sport and Native American fishing. Scott River fall chinook returns plummeted in 2004 and 2005 to the lowest level on record for two years in a row (Figure 34). Even after prolonged drought from 1986-1992 Scott River fall chinook returns ranged from 3000-5000 adults annually.

A major potential problem for chinook salmon is that they are stranded in the lowest reaches of the Scott River due to continuing stock water activities and other illegal diversions after October 1 (Figure 30). The fish are forced to spawn in lower reaches of the Scott River (Figure 35) where decomposed granitic sand levels are very high, which threatens egg survival as sand is transported during winter storms.

The SWRCB WRD needs to make the Scott River a priority for enforcement. Fall chinook are collapsing and coho salmon only have one strong year class of three, indicating a high risk of extinction. Immediate action is appropriate given the change in weather and flow patterns expected with a change of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) expected sometime from 2015 to 2025 (Collision et al., 2003) and with longer term drought cycles expected with global warming (see Climate Cycles and Change).

Shasta River: My experience on the Shasta River parallels that described for the Scott River and my TMDL comments (Higgins, 2006d) also serve as the source for information below. The Shasta River Adjudication (CDPW, 1932) does not require a minimum flow level similar to the Scott River Adjudication (CSWRCB, 1980) and average daily flows can fall to near 20 cfs (Figure 36), which has major consequences for elevated stream temperatures (NRC, 2004). Lack of coordination of irrigation operations may sometimes cause flows to fall below the listed average and present an even greater challenge for fish survival. Dwinell Reservoir (Figure 37) blocks the headwaters of the Shasta River and is a major source of pollution itself (NCRWQCB/UCD, 2005). Major tributaries like Parks Creek (Figure 38) and the Little Shasta River lose surface flows for several months a year.

### Comment Letter 22

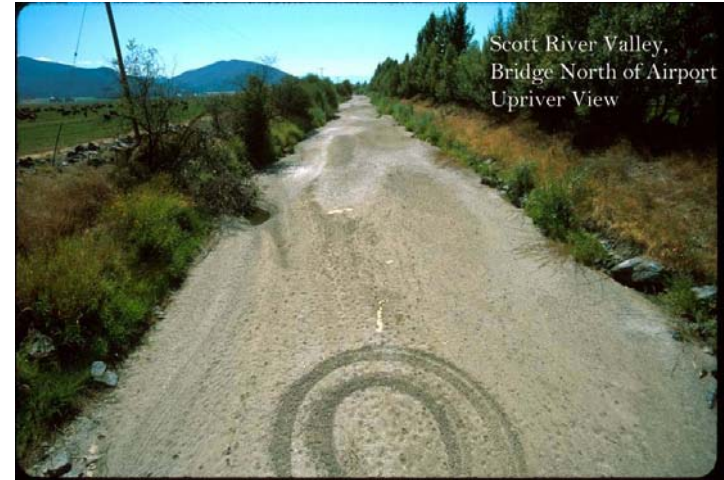


Figure 28. The dry bed of the Scott River in a reach near the airport looking upstream. This is a violation of CDFG Code 5937. Photo from KRIS Klamath-Trinity V 3.0 taken by Michael Hentz. 2002.



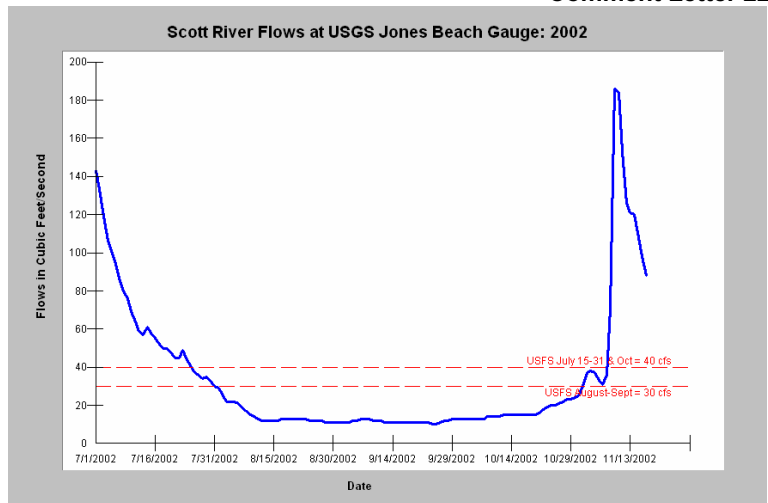
Figure 29. Shackleford Creek is shown here running dry at its convergence with Scott River in August 1997. The creek has coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout, but diversions dry it up annually during summer and fall. This is also in violation of CDFG Code 5937. Photo by Pat Higgins from KRIS V 3.0.

22-11  
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22-12

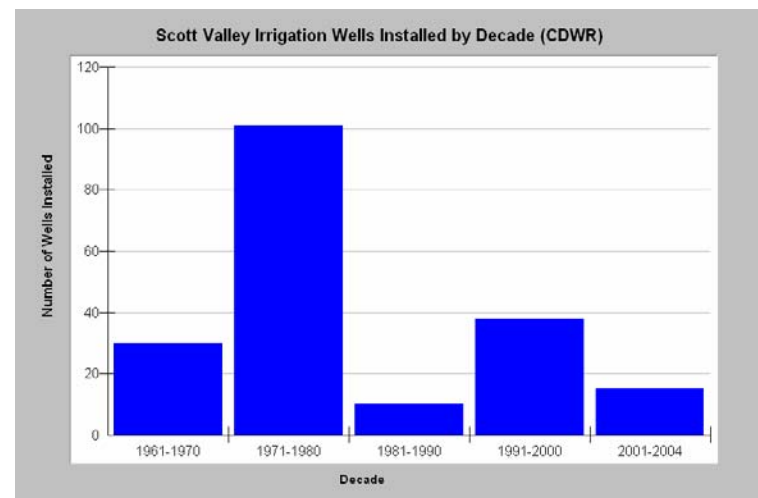
22-13



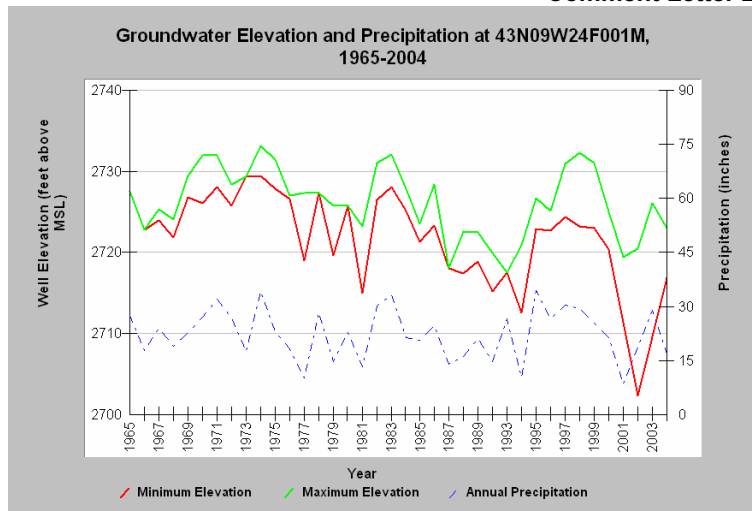


**Figure 30.** Jones Beach USGS flow gauge data from the irrigation season of 2002 show that flows failed to meet adjudicated levels for the USFS and flows needed for fish migration, spawning and rearing in August, September and October. Reference lines are those from the SWRCB (1980) adjudication.

22-11a

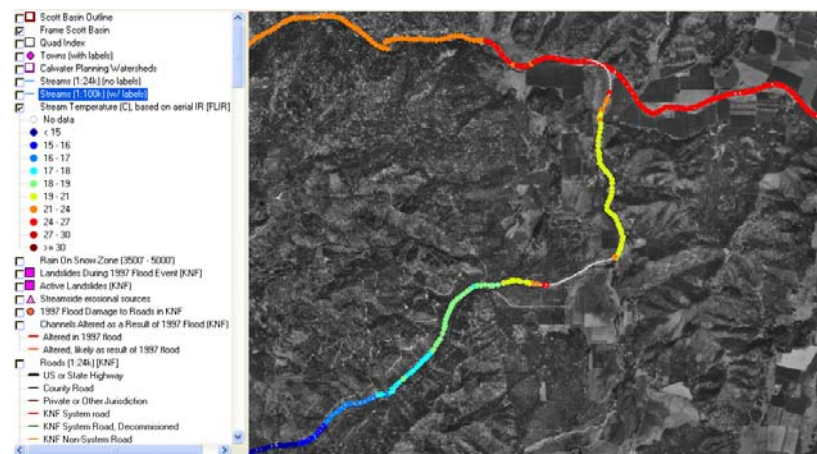


**Figure 31.** This chart shows the number of irrigation wells recorded by the California Department of Water Resources. Data may be only partial as not all parties installing wells file with DWR.



**Figure 32.** Department of Water Resources well 43N09W24F001M, approximately 5 kilometers south-southeast of Fort Jones, for the years 1965-2004. Minimum elevation declines are likely indicative of groundwater depletion. From QVIC (2006).

22-11a  
cont.



**Figure 33.** This map shows summary data of Scott River Thermal Infrared Radar (TIR) surveys for Shackelford Creek. Note that water temperature warms in a downstream direction as flow is depleted. Reaches with no temperature coded color are dry, indicating loss of surface flow in violation of CDFG Code 5937 and over-diversion in violation of SWRCB Codes 1243, and 1375. Data from Watershed Sciences (2003).

Comment Letter 22

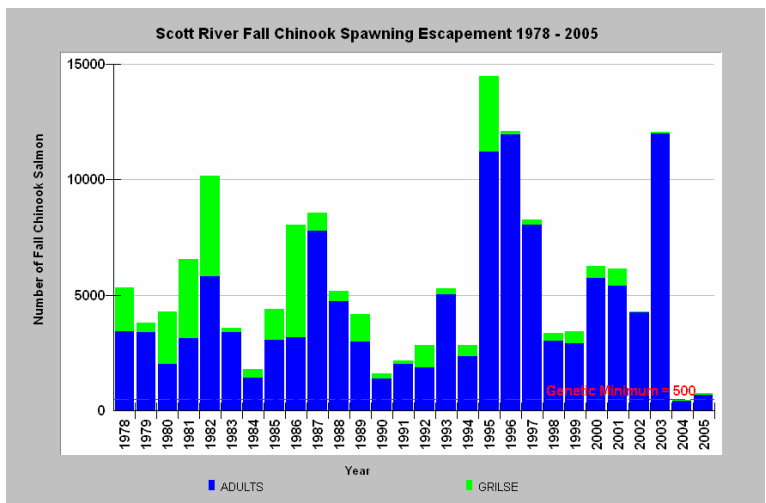


Figure 34. Scott River fall chinook spawning runs from 1978 to 2005 shows both 2004 and 2005 as the lowest years on record. Summer and fall flow conditions were near all time lows for preceding 2004-05 brood years (2001-2002). Data from CDFG.

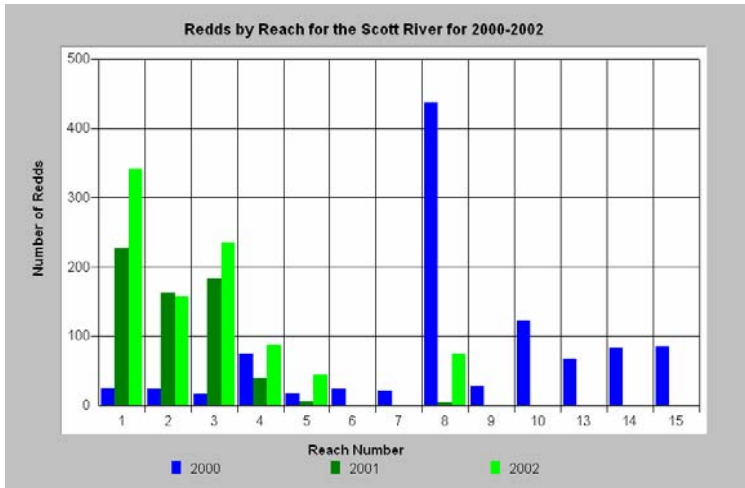


Figure 35. Data from CDFG spawner surveys show that fall chinook salmon spawned mostly in the lowest five reaches of the Scott River in 2001 and 2002, where eggs may be vulnerable due to potential for bed load movement or transport of decomposed granitic sands. Low flows in fall prevent salmon disbursement to upstream reaches where gravel conditions are superior and chances of egg survival greater. KRIS V 3.0.

Comments on Policy to Maintain Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams by Patrick Higgins

22-11a cont.

Comment Letter 22

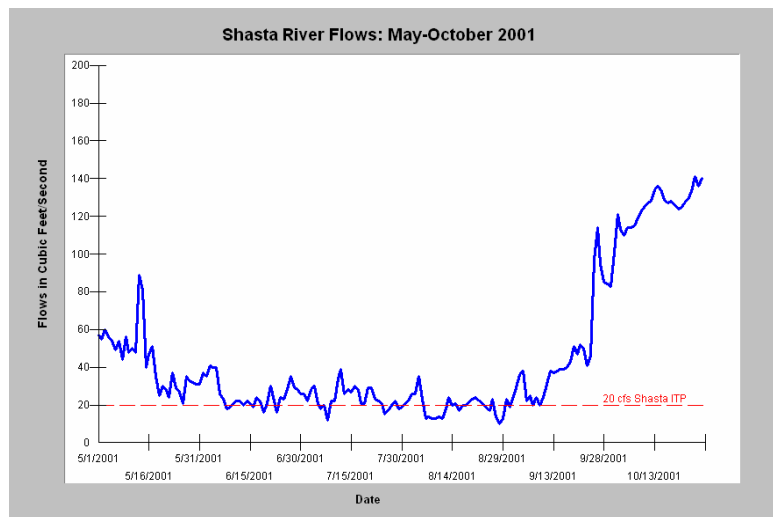


Figure 36. Average daily flow at the USGS Shasta River gauge for May through October 2001 shows a pattern of extremely low flows with many days falling below 20 cubic feet per second. This contributes to temperature problems as less water mass warms easily and agricultural runoff back to the river is hot.

22-13a



Figure 37. Dwinell Reservoir looking southeast off the dam with water levels at less than full pool in 2002. Long retention time and exposure to sunlight trigger algae blooms and nutrient pollution. Water releases from this reservoir are restricted to avoid adding to water pollution downstream. It has blocked downstream flow since 1928 in violation of CDFG 5937. Photo from KRIS V 3.0 by Michael Hentz.

Comments on Policy to Maintain Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams by Patrick Higgins

Comment Letter 22



**Figure 38.** Parks Creek is shown here below the diversion to Dwinnell Reservoir with surface flows almost completely depleted. This not only shuts off cool water that could buffer high Shasta River water temperatures. Winter flows are also diverted blocking adult fish passage and blocking spawning gravel recruitment to the mainstem Shasta River. Photo by Michael Hentz.

22-13a  
cont.

Mack (1958) measured flow in Big Springs Creek of 103 cfs, which is very similar to the measurements taken by the California Department of Public Works (1925) for the Shasta River Adjudication (CDPW, 1932). This spring source was at optimal temperatures for salmonid rearing and the California Department of Water Resources (1981) found that Big Springs Creek had the highest spawning use of any Shasta River reach or tributary. Kier Associates (1999) noted that the spring feeding Big Springs had been depleted due to ground water pumping to less than 20 cfs.

22-13

Major increases in diversion of surface and groundwater have changed the temperature regime of the Shasta River. Thermal infrared radar (TIR) imagery captured by Watershed Sciences (2003) illustrates how flow depletion affects Big Springs Creek and Shasta River water temperature (Figure 39). The image shows water temperatures below 20° C only immediately downstream of Big Springs Lake, but warming to 21.7° C (Watershed Sciences, 2003), which is stressful for salmonids (U.S. EPA, 2003). The NCRWQCB (2006b) recommends that flows increase at Big Springs to at least 50 cfs to restore water quality.

22-14

The Shasta River and Scott River will also be where new private Watermaster service will be pioneered. The service has been ineffective in protecting instream flows in these basins (Kier Associates, 1991; 1999). The cost of DWR Watermaster service is born by the water users and it has been rising in recent years. Recent legislation now allows the water users to hire private contractors to render the same service. Questions have been raised as to whether a private contractor working for the water users can be expected to elevate public trust interests over those of his clients.

22-15

The NRC (2004) asked for consideration of removal of Dwinnell Dam in order to restore fish passage and increase flows. Models of snow fall changes resulting from global warming indicate that only Mt. Shasta's snow pack will increase, which makes the Shasta River one of the best places to maintain salmonids in the Klamath Basin in the face of climate change.

Comment Letter 22



**Figure 39.** Thermal infrared radar (TIR) map of Big Springs Creek shows that the stream warms rapidly as a result of diversion and now is too warm for optimal salmonid rearing within a distance of less than three miles. Data from Watershed Sciences (2003) provided as GIS by NCRWQCB staff.

22-13a  
cont.

Climatic Cycles and Climate Change

The majority of the peer reviewers of the Policy (Lang, 2008; Gearheart, 2008; Band, 2008; McMahon; 2008) stated that SWRCB WRD needed to factor climate change into their planning. As mentioned above, NRC (2004) asserts that the Shasta River has the greatest restoration potential in the Klamath Basin in the face of global warming. Oscillations of climatic cycles will likely accentuate drought, which will act in concert with increased water demand from a growing population (Stetson Engineering, 2007b). While study of climate change is still progressing, shorter term cycles of rainfall and ocean productivity are now well recognized (Hare, 1998).

22-16

The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) cycle causes major shifts in ocean productivity from favorable to unfavorable for salmon approximately every 25 years off the coast of California, Oregon and Washington (Hare et al., 1999). Good ocean conditions are linked to wetter weather cycles and prevailed from 1900-1925 and 1950-1975 and returned to favorable again in 1995 (Collison et al., 2003). Poor ocean productivity and dry on-land cycles from 1925-1950 and 1976-1995 created very adverse conditions for salmon, particularly coho. The wet climatic cycle from 1950 to 1975 included the 1955 and 1964 floods. As the PDO cycle shifted, the 1976-1977 drought combined with highly aggraded stream beds to create a freshwater habitat bottleneck. Poor upwelling in the ocean also reduced growth and survival. Coho salmon populations on the California coast from Santa Cruz to Mendocino plummeted and many have never recovered (Figure 40).

The PDO influence is also evident in the Shasta River fall Chinook spawning returns (Figure 41). The highest return of 80,000 adults was just after Dwinnell Reservoir was built, despite being in a less productive ocean and climatic cycle (1925-1950). Even with access to less spawning habitat, runs in the 1960's exceeded 30,000 fall Chinook. The lowest ebb of the Shasta came during an extended drought from 1986-1992, when adult returns dropped to as low as 500 fish. Hopefully the WRD and DWR will get more water back in the Shasta River before the PDO switches in 2015-2025.

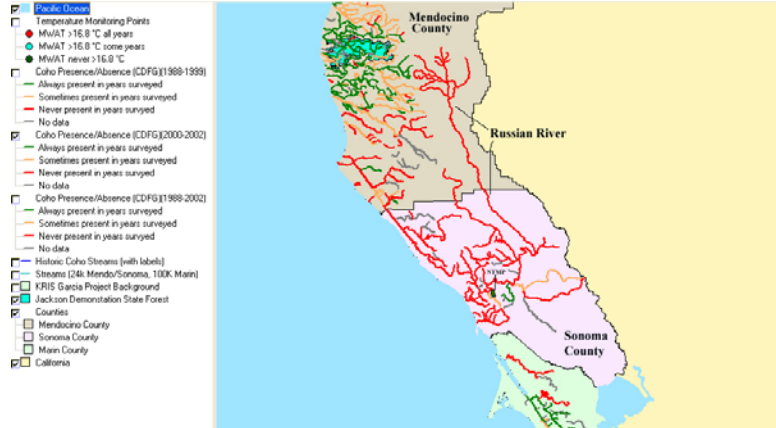


Figure 40. CDFG northern California coho salmon presence and absence maps show streams as green, if coho were always present, yellow if present in at least one year and red if absent in all three years from 2000-2002. Remaining populations are mostly near the coast within the redwood ecosystem and associated with more intact forests patches in coastal Marin County and around Jackson Demonstration State Forest. KRIS Russian.

22-17

**Restricted Geographic Scope Misses Basins With Greater Need**

The *Policy* implementation is restricted to coastal watershed from the Mattole River south to San Francisco Bay (Figure 1) and does not include either the Klamath or the Eel River basins, which have enormous fisheries potential, more wildlands, and arguably greater need for help resolving flow issues.

The Shasta and Scott river basins are both recognized as water quality impaired to the degree that fisheries resources are compromised. CDFG is currently attempting to issue Incidental Take Permits (ITP) under the California Endangered Species Act for agricultural operations in these watersheds (CDFG, 2006a; 2006b). Lack of flows is confounding coho recovery under both State and federal ESA and, similarly, over-diversion is thwarting attainment of water quality standards under recently completed Scott and Shasta TMDLs (NCRWQCB, 2006a; 2006b). Despite the critical need for resolution of water supply issues, SWRCB WRD involvement is not apparent in either the ITP process or TMDL Implementation. California Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff have taken a similarly passive role in management of groundwater, which is directly linked to surface water supply problems in both basins. DWR has also failed to provide effective Watermaster Service and a new law permits the privatization of the service, which poses a potentially substantial impediment for insuring public trust oversight.

Timely action to restore flow and improve water quality in the Scott and Shasta Rivers could get the best return on investment for the WRD, if fish production is the index. The Shasta River has recently produced more than 10,000 adult Chinook salmon (Figure 41) and still has a run of coho salmon. Similarly, a restored Scott River could produce 10,000 fall chinook and viable populations of coho and steelhead as well. As NRC (2004) points out, increasing flow in the Shasta River would decrease water temperature. Functional Scott and Shasta River canyons would once again revitalize the rearing capacity of the both rivers for steelhead.

22-19

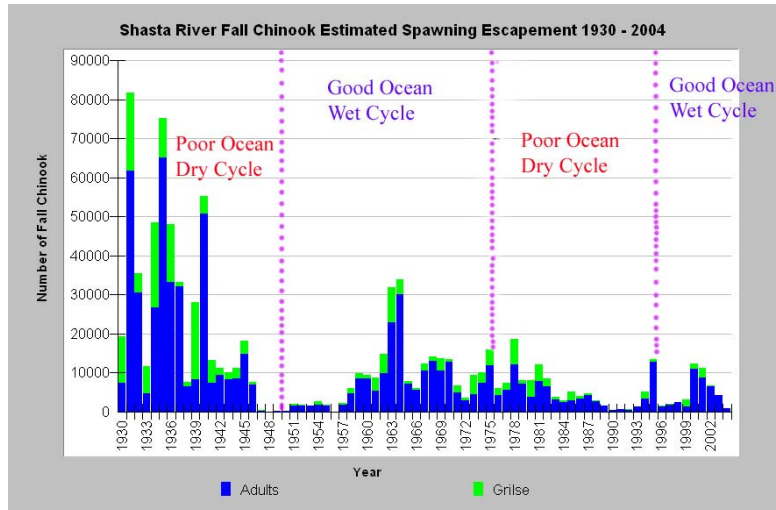


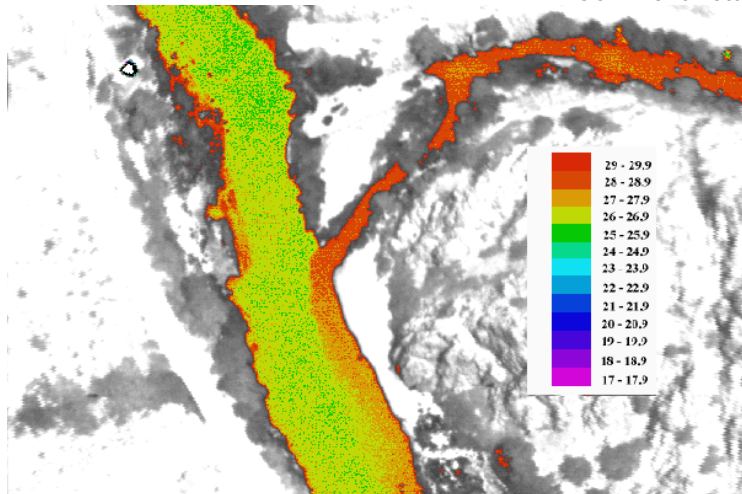
Figure 41. The CDFG Shasta Rack counts show fall Chinook returns from 1930 to 2004 with the PDO cycles overlaid. Returns fluctuate with climate and ocean cycles but the long term trend is down as a result of continuing loss and degradation of freshwater habitat. From Higgins (2006c) and KRIS V 3.0.

22-18

The Klamath River is recognized as being in crisis with regard to water quality and fish disease (Nichols and Foott, 2004) and the potential cumulative benefit of restoring flows and cold water from the Scott and Shasta Rivers should not be overlooked. Currently the Shasta and Scott contribute very little flow in summer to the mainstem Klamath River and what water they do contribute is warm and high in nutrients. McIntosh and Li (1998) used forward looking infra-red radar (FLIR) to examine water temperatures of the Klamath River. Figure 42 shows the FLIR image of the convergence with Shasta River water temperatures exceeding 29° C (84° F) and the Klamath River itself above lethal limits for salmonids. This influence is the opposite of the historic role the Shasta River played in moderating Klamath River water temperatures and nutrient loads.

The Eel River once had hundreds of thousands of salmon and steelhead, yet even the mainstem has gone dry in recent years just above Fernbridge in late summer. Flow depletion due to Pillsbury Dam reduces mainstem habitat, but the South Fork Eel is now also flow depleted. The latter has become so stagnant in recent years that blue green algae has proliferated that is toxic to dogs and makes recreational use impossible. Dozens of formerly productive tributaries for fisheries now run dry in summer and early fall. Because the Eel River watershed remains largely unpopulated and wild land, it has a great deal more chance for recovery than urbanizing watersheds or those with extensive agricultural activity.

Comment Letter 22



**Figure 42.** Thermal Forward Looking Infrared Radar Image (FLIR) showing the confluence of the Klamath River (flowing from the top of the image to the bottom of the image) and the Shasta River (flowing right to left in the image). The Shasta River is approximately 29 degrees C, which is well above lethal to salmonids. A warm water plume is observed in the Klamath River below. From McIntosh and Li (1998).

**Monitoring, Data Management and Adaptive Management**

Monitoring: The *Policy* calculation of protective base flows and water availability rely on fragmentary historical flow data and flawed synthetic data and “additional data collection on small stream hydrology and fish usage is needed to verify these relationships” (Lang, 2008). A major problem is that all monitoring envisioned is on winter flows (October-March) when surplus water is theoretically available, not on April-September flows that are known to be limiting fisheries.

There is a need for year around data collection in small and large streams throughout the region, with the priority identification of stream reaches where surface flows are lacking but where historically there was carrying capacity for salmon and steelhead. Band (2008) suggests gages “with real-time capability, likely co-funded with the USGS to take advantage of the National Water Information System (NWIS) real-time discharge system.”

McMahon (2008) recommends installation of inexpensive stage height and temperature sensors ([www.trutrack.com](http://www.trutrack.com)) that can be purchased inexpensively (\$200) and are easy to install. He also recommends that monitoring be focused on key salmon and steelhead reaches (biological hotspots). Band (2008) pointed out the necessity of monitoring for *Policy* implementation:

“Monitoring and management of the finite water resource network calls for the development of a more advanced sensor network to monitor stream temperature, turbidity, suspended sediment transport in addition to flow. The State of California should be in the position to develop and implement this type of network in collaboration with federal agencies and the university system.”

22-19  
cont.

22-20

Comment Letter 22

In other words, to fully deal with the questions of cumulative effects of water diversion and water supply, many similar data elements are needed to those of other processes like the Clean Water Act (TMDL), Endangered Species Act (ITP) and the National Forest Management Act. The SWRCB WRD needs to co-participate with other agencies so that multiple objectives of different processes can be met and the WRD benefits from corollary data collected by its partners.

The SWRCB WRD shows little technical capacity, other than that provided by consultants, and no track record of extensive field data collection. There is no commitment to a schedule for monitoring and the effectiveness monitoring section of the *Policy* shows bureaucratic reluctance. DWR shows a similar lack of capacity with regard to ground water monitoring and regulation. Consequently, the State should solicit emergency help from the U.S. Geological Survey to assess water supply and surplus availability (see Conclusion for discussion on the need to re-organize WRD and DWR).

Data Management: Regardless of how data collection and agency coordination are structured, there needs to be a common database for sharing results, trend monitoring and implementation of adaptive management. KRIS projects submitted with these comments supply a great deal of useful data, including GIS information. The SWRCB Water Rights Division should consider using this tool, already subsidized with over \$1 million in public money, especially since the KRIS software allows easy cost-effective updating capacity for trend monitoring.

If *Policy* implementation involves partnerships with private parties or groups, all raw data, computer codes for models and other related information must be available to the scientific community and to the public in electronic form. Without full transparency, no model or study output is scientifically valid (Collison et al., 2003) and history shows that public trust resources, such as salmon and steelhead, cannot be fully protected without the ability of the public to participate in oversight.

Band (2008) envisions using the data collected in the field to increase the predictive capacity of the flow model:

“An integrated GIS-spatial watershed model that incorporates natural runoff production, stream routing and all water diversions and return flows should be developed.....As part of an adaptive management approach, the modeling system would provide a formal set of expectations of different water resources policies in the watersheds.”

Adaptive Management: The National Research Council (2004), in recommending that adaptive management be used to recover the endangered fishes of the Klamath basin, described it as follows:

“Adaptive management is a formal, systematic, and rigorous program of learning from the outcomes of management actions, accommodating change, and improving management (Holling, 1978). Its primary purpose is to establish a continuous, iterative process for increasing the probability that a plan for environmental restoration will be successful. In practice, adaptive management uses conceptual and numerical models and the scientific method to develop and test management options.”

Dr. Carl Walters (1997) is credited with having coined the term adaptive management and has followed 25 case studies of riparian and coastal ecosystem restoration projects around the world, but found “only seven of these have resulted in relatively large-scale management experiments, and only two of these experiments would be considered well planned in terms of statistical design.” He notes that too little change in anthropogenic stressors is carried out in most cases so that natural variation are not distinguishable from project effects.

22-20  
cont.

## Comment Letter 22

“Various reasons have been offered for low success rates in implementing adaptive management, mainly having to do with cost and institutional barriers” (Walters, 1997).

The cost of monitoring associated with *Policy* implementation is not estimated nor are sources of funding identified. The institutional barriers that might impede successful adaptive management are well described above. The attempt to pass of monitoring costs to diverters (watershed groups) in exchange for their helping shape water management is unacceptable. The WRD needs to calculate staffing costs and define a partnership structure with other agencies that will satisfy data needs for adaptive management.

If 500 or 1,000 illegal dams are removed, we would have the potential to make a difference on the problem and would also frame an interesting and valid adaptive management exercise.

Instead of adaptive management, the SWRCB WRD has been exhibiting what NRC (2004) terms deferred action:

“In the deferred-action approach, management methods are not changed until ecosystems are fully understood (Walters and Hillborn, 1978; Walters and Holling, 1990; Wilhere, 2002). This approach is cautious but has two notable drawbacks: deferral of management changes may magnify losses, and knowledge acquired by deferred action may reveal little about the response of ecosystems to changes in management. Stakeholder groups or agencies that are opposed to changes in management often are strong proponents of deferred action.”

### Conclusion

When one studies Appendix E (Stetson Engineering, 2007a), it becomes apparent that Dr. Bob Gearheart’s (2008) characterization of his experience with water rights in the Upper Klamath in Oregon apply to the *Policy* area: “water rights were 1) over allocated, 2) unmeasured, and 3) mostly unregulated.” Implicit in the *Draft Policy* is that there is surplus water in North Coast streams in the geographic area in question. An accurate inventory of water resources might find that many or most streams are fully allocated, given changes in watershed hydrology and channel morphology in conjunction with existing levels of diversion and groundwater use. When the geographic extent and severity of the problem is fully assessed, one can see that Pacific salmon species will not thrive or even survive into the future without profound change in California water policy and management.

Recommendations: If the *Policy* goes forward under current agency framework:

- Only consider diversions after December 15.
- WRD works with USGS to set up gauges for year around flow measurement region wide, share all data in the public domain.
- No additional permits issued by WRD for streams that formerly supported juvenile salmonid rearing but now are dry for any period of the year and were not historically intermittent.
- Conduct full inventory of all water extraction on the ground in cooperation with USGS, including riparian rights, pre-1914 and illegal diversions within one year.
- Stop post-permitting of illegal diversions and make fines sufficient to be a disincentive.
- Work cooperatively w/ CDFG using 5937 and get flows back. Don’t reign in the wardens.
- DWR needs to work with USGS on collection of ground water data and more actively manage the resource and data needs to be made public.

## Comment Letter 22

- DWR should re-establish Watermaster Service so that it is done by a government agency not a private party due to public trust protection needs and provide more effective service.
- WDR, DWR, CDFG and NOAA Fisheries need to create a participatory data management system that has all data for the region, including spatial data, and can be used for adaptive management.

In light of over-diversion, critical shortages of water for fish, inexorably rising demand for water, and the rampant lawlessness of both surface and ground water diversion, it is clear that we have a regional crisis. The data and the case studies above show that there is a complete dereliction of duty by the WRD and a similar lapse in management of ground water by DWR.

In fact, much more profound reform is likely necessary, although there will be considerable opposition from agricultural interests and intransigent bureaucracies involved. What is really necessary is:

- 1) Change California Water Law to make riparian diversions require a permit,
- 2) Have Legislature request Attorney General investigation into lack of enforcement of SWRCB codes (1052, 1055, 1243, and 1375), including illegal extraction of ground water that is connected to surface water (i.e. Big Springs, Shasta River)
- 3) Consolidate surface water and ground water management and Watermaster Service under one State agency that has public trust as its over-riding objective, such as CDFG or Cal EPA.
- 4) Integrate planning with TMDL (Regional Boards), ESA/CESA (CDFG, NMFS), watershed restoration efforts (NRCS/NGO’s), and NFMA and Northwest Forest Plan (U.S. Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management) implementation to pool resources and all agencies and processes targeting Pacific salmon recovery.

Given the institutional incapacity of both the SWRCB WRD and DWR, it is hard to recommend either as a future lead agency under which water management would be carried out, and it is time to consider shifting authority. Regardless of how bureaucratic responsibility might be reallocated, the new management perspective must hold public trust protection as a priority and allow water extraction only when it does not harm fisheries and water quality. Also under any scenario the USGS is needed immediately to lead data collection and analysis.

Urgent action is needed in reform of water management to avoid a wave of Pacific salmon stock losses due to climate change and recognized shifts in climatic regimes, such as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) cycle (Hare et al., 1999). That means substantially improved freshwater habitat conditions by 2015-2025. It is time for State agencies to uphold the law, to begin cooperative work to remediate over-diversion of surface and groundwater, and to not only prevent fish stock extinctions, but to aim for restoration that provide a harvestable surplus of fish. Restoration of recreational beneficial uses will improve regional quality of life. Healthier rivers will also contribute to economic development related to tourism.

I would be happy to discuss any aspect of my comments with your staff.

Sincerely,



22-20  
cont.

22-20  
cont.

**Comment Letter 22**

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## Comment Letter 23

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...%20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_kingjh.htm

**From:** jhking [samonely@quik.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 4:44 PM

**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

**Subject:** Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

**To:** California Department of Fish and Game

601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001

Attention: Bob Williams

**Subject:** Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

As a member of Humboldt Watershed Council and Salmon Forever, two citizen groups trying to restore wild salmon populations in severely damaged Humboldt County watersheds, I ask you not to delegate responsibilities for monitoring and enforcement of watershed activities impacting salmon to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts.

23-1

Restoration of native salmon in our north county may depend to some extent on straying salmon from neighboring watersheds such as the Klamath River, which has been suffering great declines and would be critically impacted by further losses in the Scott and Shasta River tributaries. The permit programs CDFG has proposed for these valleys would allow the dewatering of the Scott and Shasta rivers to continue. This combined with further drying and rising temperatures expected with global warming will put salmon at tremendous risk.

23-2

Our experience in Humboldt County has shown that responsibility for enforcement of water quality and critical species habitat should not be left to industry-dominated boards such as the Board of Forestry, which, until recently, has been the lead agency with regard to our watershed issues. Under their watch, the timber companies which dominate the great majority of our watersheds have been self-monitoring, and those watersheds are now officially listed as impaired, and salmon populations have plummeted. CDFG should have access to all the streams they are responsible for protecting. Farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys should not be allowed to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public.

23-3

23-4

In granting permits for activities harmful to salmon and watershed health, these boards often rely on environmental documents that are inadequate and fail to use the best available scientific information, instead substituting low-level industry scientists or industry-friendly consultants, in essence, circumventing the spirit of the environmental review process. The most important inadequacy in environmental documents prepared for the Scott and Shasta permits is absence of references to such important studies as "Relative Effects of Climate and

23-5

## Comment Letter 23

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Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin”, Van Kirk, Robert W.1; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008 , pp. 1035-1052(18). ↑  
23-5  
cont.

Please scale back these permits to apply only the restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions, and maintain all CDFG's power and authority for monitoring and enforcing California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes. |  
23-6  
|

Thank you for you time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joyce H. King  
685 School Rd  
McKinleyville, CA 95519

Comment Letter 24

December 2, 2008

Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
Conservation Planning  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Northern California - North Coast Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001

2008 DEC 4 PM 12 24

BFO-REDDING

California Department of Fish and Game

RE: The Scott & Shasta EIR & ITP

\* The report does not have practical solutions to increase the population of salmon. 24-1

\* The report does not consider the evapotranspiration rate of the upland vegetation. 24-2

\* If exclusion fencing is used, what other species will be affected by the fencing? 24-3

\* What if the funding for fish protection runs out? Who will pick up the slack? 24-4

\* Leave me alone and stay off of my property. Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game is not welcome unless I request their presence. 24-5

Sincerely,

*Scott P. Murphy*

Scott P. Murphy

Printed Name

125 Eastside Rd.

Address

Etna CA 96007

City

## Comment Letter 25

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...IR%20public%20comments/Scott%20only%20comments/L\_obrien\_scott.htm

**From:** Meighan O'Brien [meighanobrien@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 11, 2008 9:00 AM

**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

**Subject:** Shasta/Scott river take permits

Mr. Bob Williams

California Department of Fish and Game

601 Locust Street

Redding, CA 96001

Dear Mr. Williams,

RE: Proposed permit changes by the California Department of Fish and Game to provide programmatic permits allowing take of Coho salmon to the Scott Resource Conservation District and the Shasta Resource Conservation District.

Please rise to the challenge of leadership at this critical point in all of our lives. Utilize your position in our government and encourage Gov. Schwarzenegger to do the same and DENY these permits. At the national level, we are seeing/living the disastrous consequence of unregulated, for profit ventures that have irresponsibly squandered our public resources and left our nation in economic debt, exorbitant unemployment and a wrecked infrastructure that will take a generation to rebuild.

Why would you choose to inflict a similar bankrupt, destructive policy on the waters and salmon and people of our state?

There are a couple of things we know for sure: Low water flows lead to extinction of Coho and Chinook salmon.

We also know when the salmon leave a river, the river leaves us.

Can we afford more dry/dead rivers?

Please act on behalf of our public trust, our future Do everything you can to protect our salmon, our rivers. Utilize your position to lead the farmers and ranchers to develop a sustainable economic practice. Grant incentives to change and grow into the next millennium. Dont grant permits that encourage the same old tired, deadly practices.

Do not grant permits that obviously destroy the very things we need as a people to survive. We cannot afford one more dead river.

Please, for all of our sakes, use your best knowledge, listen to real science and remember your joy as a child when you saw your first river and wild fish.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Meighan OBrien

1862 Bird Avenue

McKinleyville, CA 95519

25-1

## Comment Letter 26

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_proctor.htm

**From:** Abigael Proctor [abilouhill@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 9:12 AM

**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

**Subject:** RCD permits

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you to think seriously about granting permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. While these permits may open the doors for more enforcement of land management use, these permits may not will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout. I want your agency to ask itself if the permits really address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason being low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river. Will enforcement by the RCD's truly regulate flows?

26-1

The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action. No body enforcing regulatory laws will be the good guy, but somebody who will do they job well and efficiently should step up to take care of these fish. CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

26-2

26-3

Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008 , pp. 1035-1052(18).

26-4

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately and strongly monitored by CDFG.

26-5

Sincerely,

Abigael Proctor

From: sekaisin@fastmail.fm  
Sent: Sunday, December 07, 2008 1:32 AM  
To: governor@governor.ca.gov; bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
Subject: No Alteration Permits for the Shasta and Scott Rivers

Dear Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Mr. Bob Williams, CDFG:

As a California constituent and a concerned human, I am repulsed and offended by the Department of Fish and Game's proposed "Endangered Species and Stream Alteration Permits" regarding the Shasta and Scott Rivers.

I will say this in as few words as possible: no species, let alone endangered ones, should be altered by humans, permits granted or not.

The rivers have flowed the way they do for a reason, just as your blood veins do. To allow farmers and ranchers nearby--whether or not with permits, under the auspices of the Shasta and Scott Resource Conservation Districts or not--to alter the rivers flow or to alter the Coho and Chinook salmon's very existence by reducing the water flow, would be simply unethical and evil. Too much damage has already been done.

It could be argued (unsuccessfully in the long-term) that to deny the farmers and ranchers the legal ability to pump groundwater without regulation and divert and alter streams and rivers would also be unethical, in that the farmers and ranchers then make their products available at a cost to those who can afford to buy their salable foods--assuming the economy can hold up much longer and the trucking arteries of this nation can survive rising fuel costs. However, with the upcoming effects that Peak Oil (and therefore massive food shortages, without the easy and cheap availability of petrochemical fertilizers) and global climate change will have on current human populations, it becomes quickly obvious to anyone remotely informed that biodiversity itself is the much greater treasure to protect than the questionable benefits of continuing to promote massive agricultural operations that can only be viable, to the extent they ever were, for a very short time.

We do not have time to keep making mistakes that have already been made in the name of profit. I ask that you do what is ethically viable for the continuation of biodiversity and life on this planet.

Thank you.

Hellä Sekaisin

--

sekaisin@fastmail.fm



## Comment Letter 28

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_snodgrass.htm

**From:** Rondal Snodgrass [ravenswatch@asis.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 7:02 PM  
**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Fwd: Shasta and Scott River Permits

### **Subject: Shasta and Scott River Permits**

To Bob Williams  
California Dept. of Fish and Game

I am concerned that Endangered Species and Stream Alteration Permits proposed for both the Scott and Shasta rivers could violate the California Environmental Quality Act. Low flows seems to be the main issue in Coho, Steelhead, and Chinook recovery. Regulating water pumping directly from rivers and groundwater pumping are now necessary facts of water resource protection.. Please do not delegate your responsibilities to Conservation Districts that have primarily been dominated by water users. The public trust is the measuring stick for water regulation.

28-1  
28-2  
28-3

Thank you,

Rondal Snodgrass  
P. O. Box 221  
Bayside, CA 95524

**Comment Letter 29**

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_sobonya.htm

**From:** felicia sobonya [felicaterv@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, December 07, 2008 9:42 PM

**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

Please leave the survival of the salmon to those who know how to maximize their habitat, spawning and ultimate success.

Giving this to those who could care less is obviously a bad idea.

Felicia Sobonya  
Nevada City CA 95959

29-1

**Comment Letter 30.1**

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...0public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/L\_ashbaugh.htm

**From:** Lowell Ashbaugh [ashbaugh@ucdavis.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 4:06 PM  
**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Protection of Klamath River Coho

From: Lowell Ashbaugh  
677 Equador Place  
Davis, CA 95616

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001

Attention: Bob Williams at **bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov**

**Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR**

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

30.1-1

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and are at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

30.1-2

- CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.

30.1-3

- CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

30.1-4

- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin, Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4,

30.1-5

## Comment Letter 30.1

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...0public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_ashbaugh.htm

August 2008 , pp. 1035-1052(18).

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG. 30.1-6

Sincerely,  
Lowell Ashbaugh

-----  
Lowell L. Ashbaugh  
677 Equador Place  
Davis, CA 95616  
(530) 758-6722  
(530) 752-2848 (work)  
<http://trc.ucdavis.edu/ashbaugh/>

**Comment Letter 30.07**

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_brennan.htm

**From:** Brien Brennan [alvannan@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 9:44 PM  
**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
**Cc:** unofelice@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Klamath Coho salmon

Dear Mr. Williams,

The Endangered Species and Stream Alteration Permits proposed for the Shasta and Scott Rivers are a very bad idea, will not lead to the recovery of Coho and other salmon, violate the California Environmental Quality Act and should be scrapped altogether.

30.07-1

Here is why:

The Scott River salmon are a threatened species. The proposed permits will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

30.07-2

CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors or themselves. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would loose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.

30.07-3

CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

30.07-4

Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA inadequacies include: 1. failure to use the best available scientific information; 2. Failure to consider environmental consequences and mitigate for those consequences; 3. Inconsistency with other laws and regulation including C-ESA, Water Codes and Fish & Game Codes; 4. Failure to consider alternatives to the proposed action, and 5. Failure to fully describe the scale and scope of what is proposed and to put in place a plan to monitor whether the program is protecting Coho and other Public Trust Resources.

30.07-5

CDFG should scale back these permits to only cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts.

30.07-6

And finally, it is time for public officials at every level of governance to stop turning a blind eye to the upcoming effects of Peak Oil and global climate change. These two factors will profoundly transform our culture. Within the century, human population will decrease significantly, long-distance trade will all but cease, and communities not prepared for the changes will experience miserable years or decades of privation. It becomes quickly obvious to anyone in tune with the current global trends, that the needs of the natural world are more important than the needs of the economic system. Biodiversity itself is the much greater treasure to protect than the so-called "benefits" of agricultural operations that can only be viable—to the extent they ever were—for a very brief time.

30.07-7

Sincerely,  
Brien Brennan  
7200 South Fork Drive

# Comment Letter 30.07

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_brennan.htm

Red Bluff, CA 96080  
530-833-9970

**Comment Letter 30.21**

From: Margaret Draper  
Attorney at Law  
POB 176  
Bayside, CA 95524

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

**As a former Director of the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District**, I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should *not* grant these permits because:

30.21-1

- CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards. These boards are in the unfortunate position of having to enforce requirements on their peers in farming, and do not exist to enforce regulations. Much of what they do involves friendly persuasion. This did not work back in the 1980s, (witness the current situation) and it will not work now. I have heard insanity defined as continuing to do the same thing and expecting different results. What has *not* been tried is simple: strong regulations to stop all of the following:
  - 1] excessive withdrawal of groundwater,
  - 2] land-use practices that increase turbidity and temperature of water instream.
  - 3] implementation of severe consequences for not adhering to regulation.

30.21-2

- CDFG should not absolutely NOT agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is clearly contrary to the stated objectives of the CDFG, but is also contrary to state law and the public trust doctrine, and should be ended.

30.21-3

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address underlying problem - which is: the lack of underlying water! What an apt analogy...the issue is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

30.21-4

## Comment Letter 30.21

- Certainly the Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Agencies and RCD's in the area have known for a generation that the problem with regard to fish species recovering is lack of water, turbidity, and high temperature where there is water. One doesn't even need scientific studies to ascertain this: all you need is the testimony of people like myself who actually remember endless meetings with USCS and various fisheries biologists (from the time when 20 million dollars was allocated to improve the Klamath Watershed - Barry Keene's legislation), trotting out endless slide shows about the ongoing loss of aquatic species...due to lack of water, high temperature, and turbidity.
- The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008 , pp. 1035-1052(18).

30.21-5

Handing this problem over to the foxes to guard the chickenhouses for another generation is a tremendous loss to food production in America. There are plenty of cattle, and very few fish. We know that fish species are a superior food source and are healthiest when obtained from the wild.

30.21-6

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. Any competent EIR cannot escape the conclusion that the problem has been known for many years, and that faulty handling of the issue has worsened the problem. The EIR must fully analyze impacts, assessing progress relative to crises confirmed in the Klamath watersheds in the 1980s, and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

30.21-7

Sincerely,

Margaret Draper



**Comment Letter 30.25**

**From:** PGar [PGar@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 05, 2008 1:58 PM  
**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov; governor@governor.ca.gov  
**Cc:** Felice Pace  
**Subject:** Protect Klamath Coho!

- •

The proposed permits will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

30.25-1
  
- CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.

30.25-2
  
- CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

30.25-3
  
- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA inadequacies include: 1. failure to use the best available scientific information; 2. Failure to consider

30.25-4

**Comment Letter 30.25**

environmental consequences and mitigate for those consequences; 3. Inconsistency with other laws and regulation including C-ESA, Water Codes and Fish & Game Codes; 4. Failure to consider alternatives to the proposed action, and 5. Failure to fully describe the scale and scope of what is proposed and to put in place a plan to monitor whether the program is protecting Coho and other Public Trust Resources.

↑  
30.25-4  
cont.

- o CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

↑  
30.25-5

**Comment Letter 30.45**

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...IR%20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/L\_king.htm

**From:** sking62@suddenlink.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 07, 2008 1:59 PM  
**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed - Wide Permitting Program DEIR  
**To:**  
 Mr. Bob Williams  
 California Department of Fish & Game  
 Redding, CA 96001

**Subject:**  
 Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed - Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear Mr. Williams

The purpose of this email is to urge you to look into the proposal by the California Department of Fish & Game to delegate their responsibilities under the California Endangered Species Act and Fish & Game Code to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts. As the National Research Council has pointed out (<http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=0309090970>), the Shasta and Scott Rivers are key to the recovery of Coho salmon in the entire Klamath River Basin. The permit programs CDFG has proposed for these valleys would allow the progressive dewatering of the Scott and Shasta rivers to continue and this in turn would prevent recovery of Coho salmon, negatively impact Chinook salmon and make it much more difficult or impossible to correct the failure of the Shasta and Scott to meet water quality standards which protect beneficial uses of water.

30.45-1

The permits which CDFG has proposed granting to these districts are also a bad idea because:

CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The RCDs are not regulatory agencies and will not enforce compliance with permit conditions.

30.45-2

CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law.

30.45-3

Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008, pp.1035-1052(18).

30.45-4

Please tell the CDFG to scale back these permits. CDFG is proposing that these permits apply to the entire agricultural operations of participating farmers and ranchers - including the unregulated pumping of groundwater. Please tell CDFG to scale back these permits to cover only the restoration actions of the resource conservation districts.

30.45-5

# Comment Letter 30.45

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...IR%20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/L\_king.htm

Sincerely,  
Sam B. King  
2626 Elizabeth Road  
McKinleyville, CA 95519  
[sking62@suddenlink.net](mailto:sking62@suddenlink.net)

NOTE: If we don't act soon, irreparable damage will result which would prevent the resurgence of the native fisheries. The indian populations desperately need healthy rivers that can produce fish so necessary to their diet. The dams need to be removed quickly, and regulation to control the pumping of groundwater needs to be instituted and enforced. We must prevent these life-sustaining rivers from destroyed by the special interests of a few.

30.45-6

**Comment Letter 30.53**

**From:** Sabsmalik12@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 10:22 AM  
**To:** governor@governor.ca.gov; bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
**Cc:** unofelice@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Coho and Chinook Salmon  
 FAO Governor Schawrzenegger and the Dept of Fish and Game,

The proposed permits will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

30.53-1

CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish a& Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would loose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.

30.53-2

CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

30.53-3

Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA inadequacies include: 1. failure to use the best available scientific information; 2. Failure to consider environmental consequences and mitigate for those consequences; 3. Inconsistency with other laws and regulation including C-ESA, Water Codes and Fish & Game Codes; 4. Failure to consider alternatives to the proposed action, and 5. Failure to fully describe the scale and scope of what is proposed and to put in place a plan to monitor whether the program is protecting Coho and other Public Trust Resources.

30.53-4

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface

30.53-5

## Comment Letter 30.53

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...R%20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_malik.htm

water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

↑ 30.53-5  
cont.

Please stop this insanity

↓ 30.53-6

Sincerely

Saba Malik

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Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. [Try it now.](#)

From: Amanda Piscitelli  
1390 Grant Ave.  
Arcata, CA 95521

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

30.62-1

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

30.62-2

- CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.

30.62-3

• granting these permits will be in violation of public trust, water resources need to be protected.

CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

30.62-4

- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008 , pp. 1035-1052(18).

30.62-5

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

30.62-6

Sincerely, Amanda Piscitelli

**Comment Letter 30.79**

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/0...20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_wadman.htm

**From:** Marie Wadman [marie@divingswallow.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 1:15 PM  
**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
**Cc:** unofelice@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Endangered Species and Stream Alteration Permits proposed for the Shasta and Scott Rivers  
Dear Mr. Williams,

The proposed permits will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

30.79-1

CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.

30.79-2

CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

30.79-3

Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA inadequacies include:

- 1. Failure to use the best available scientific information;
- 2. Failure to consider environmental consequences and mitigate for those consequences;
- 3. Inconsistency with other laws and regulation including C-ESA, Water Codes and Fish & Game Codes;
- 4. Failure to consider alternatives to the proposed action;
- 5. Failure to fully describe the scale and scope of what is proposed and to put in place a plan to monitor whether the program is protecting Coho and other Public Trust Resources.

30.79-4

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

30.79-5

Sincerely,

Marie Wadman  
[marie@divingswallow.com](mailto:marie@divingswallow.com)



## **ADDITIONAL FORM LETTERS**

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Letters 30.1 through 30.85

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...0public%20comments/Join%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_ashbaugh.htm

**From:** Lowell Ashbaugh [ashbaugh@ucdavis.edu]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 4:06 PM

**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

**Subject:** Protection of Klamath River Coho

From: Lowell Ashbaugh  
677 Equador Place  
Davis, CA 95616

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001

Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

**Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR**

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

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file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20...ments/Join%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_ashbaugh.htm (1 of 2)12/11/2008 7:17:06 PM

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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August 2008 , pp. 1035-1052(18).

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,  
Lowell Ashbaugh

-----  
Lowell L. Ashbaugh  
677 Equador Place  
Davis, CA 95616  
(530) 758-6722  
(530) 752-2848 (work)  
<http://trc.ucdavis.edu/ashbaugh/>

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20...ments/Join%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_ashbaugh.htm (2 of 2)12/11/2008 7:17:06 PM

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Lynn S. Bain  
1320 N<sup>th</sup> St  
Eureka, Calif 95501

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,

*Lynn S. Bain*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Patricia Bergeron  
4050 N Hwy 101  
Eureka, Calif 95501

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,

*Patricia Bergeron*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Jennifer Berman

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

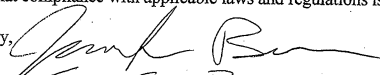
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Sincerely,

  
Jennifer Berman  
1596 Ocean Dr  
McKenleyville, CA 95519

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Ginger Bhakti  
2066 Golf Course Rd  
Bayside, CA 95524

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Carolyn Brandenburg  
1010 Oakwood at McKeheville, Ca. 95519

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

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Sincerely,

*C. S. ...*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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From: Josh Brown [[joshmbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:joshmbrown@hotmail.com)]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 10:17 AM  
To: [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)  
Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

From: Josh Brown  
  
2511 Davis Way  
  
Arcata, CA. 95521

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
  
601 Locust Street  
  
Redding, CA96001

Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

After reviewing the DEIR for the Scott and Shasta watersheds I urge you to not grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. These permits are flawed because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
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## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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Sincerely,

Josh Brown

---

Send e-mail anywhere. No map, no compass [Get your Hotmail® account now.](#)

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## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *LINDA A. CARR, P.O. BOX 176, LOLETA, CA 95551*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: JAMES CARR  
P.O. Box 176  
LOLETA CA 95551

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,

James A Carr

From: Reberah Chappel  
P.O. Box 372  
Ferndale, CA 95536

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Reberah Chappel

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: David Clark  
2325 Tulip Ct.  
Mckinville, Ca. 95519

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Yvonne Cooney  
1915 Humboldt St  
Eureka, CA 95501-3123

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

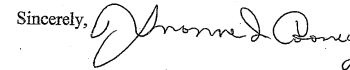
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Sincerely,





Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Dolcie Cooper*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: JEFF CORRAL-RIBORDY, MD  
1917 S ST  
EUREKA, CA 95501

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
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Sincerely,



## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20public%20comments/Join%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_cressey.htm

**From:** lyra cressey [lyracressey@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, December 06, 2008 3:58 PM

**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

**Cc:** unofelice@gmail.com

**Subject:** Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20...mments/Join%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_cressey.htm (1 of 2)12/11/2008 7:18:09 PM

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20public%20comments/Join%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_cressey.htm

Lyra Cressey

PO Box 34

Forks of Salmon, CA

96031

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Suspicious message? There's an alert for that. [Get your Hotmail® account now.](#)

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20...mments/Join%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_cressey.htm (2 of 2)12/11/2008 7:18:09 PM

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From:

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

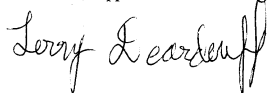
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Sincerely,



From:

Kira Deschoux  
PO Box 598  
Arcata, CA 95518

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR


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Sincerely,



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *M. DeSobriano, 7565 Elk River Rd, Eureka, CA 95503*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Marcy Dunn  
1624 Victor Blvd  
Redding, CA 95521*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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From: *Teresa Evans*  
*6281 Sesame Ln*  
*EWick, Ca. 95503*  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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*Teresa Evans*  
*6281 Sesame Ln*

From: *Edward Forsyth*  
*318 12th Street*  
*Arcata, CA 95521*  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,

*Edward Forsyth*  
*Edward A. Forsyth*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Ali Freedlund  
1304 Sunset Avenue  
Arcata, CA 95521  
ali@mattole.org

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely, Ali Freedlund

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Grace GOLD*  
*480 Hilledge Dr*  
*Laguna Beach, CA 92651*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely, *Grace Gold*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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From: *Gregg GOLD*  
*1513 Beverly Dr*  
*Arcata CA 95521*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
 601 Locust Street  
 Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,

*Gregg Gold*

From: *Rosalinda Gonzalez*  
*54 G street* or *21841 Jinetes*  
*Arcata CA 95521* or *Mission Viejo CA 92691*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
 601 Locust Street  
 Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,

*Rosalinda Gonzalez*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

12/8/08

From: Amy Gordon  
4270 Excelsior Road  
Eureka, CA 95503  
(707) 269-9519

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

You have proposed granting permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts. I have strong reservations about your proposals for the following reasons:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is **low flows** and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
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Amy Gordon

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Erin C. Hannelly  
PO Box 193  
Trinidad, CA 95570

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

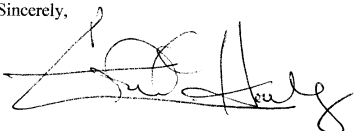
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CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely, 



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Jenny Hanson  
PO Box 490, Arcata, CA 95518

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
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Sincerely,

Jenny Hanson

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Catherine Hart  
1117 K Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,

Catherine Hart

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Feil Amy* 1736 Fish Hill  
Arcata, CA 95521  
12/8/08

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,

*Feil Amy*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Cindy Humphrey*  
1736 Fish Hill  
Arcata, CA 95521

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,

*Cindy Humphrey*

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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**From:** Nancy Ihara [nancyihara@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 6:30 PM

**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

**Subject:** Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

From: Nancy R. Ihara

231 Dean St.

Arcata, CA 95521

nancyihara@yahoo.com

To: California Department of Fish and Game

601 Locust Street

Redding, CA96001

Attention: Bob Williams at bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

Some years ago I travelled through Scott Valley. I have memories of a barely existent Scott River. Because of those memories I share the concerns of so many regarding the policies of your Department which threaten further the existence of this river and those of the Shasta River.

I urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
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## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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Sincerely,

Nancy R. Ihara

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20...comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_ihara.htm (2 of 2)12/11/2008 7:18:49 PM

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

The proposed permits will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

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Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA inadequacies include: 1. failure to use the best available scientific information; 2. Failure to consider environmental consequences and mitigate for those consequences; 3. Inconsistency with other laws and regulation including C-ESA, Water Codes and Fish & Game Codes; 4. Failure to consider alternatives to the proposed action, and 5. Failure to fully describe the scale and scope of what is proposed and to put in place a plan to monitor whether the program is protecting Coho and other Public Trust Resources.

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Eva Jensen*  
*1630 PST*  
To: *Eva Jensen CA 95507*  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,

*Eva Jensen*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Vaden Jantz*  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely, *Vaden Jantz*

From: *Todd Jenkins*  
617 11th Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Susan Johnson  
1308 Wood St  
Eureka, CA 95501

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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*Susan Johnson*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Jeannine Kaprielian  
1005 K St.  
Eureka, Ca. 95501

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,

*Jeannine Kaprielian*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Paula Barbara Kelly*  
*2670 Kelly Ave.*  
*McKinleyville, CA 95519*  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely, *Barbara C. Kelly*  
*Paul Kelly*

From: bkenn202@asis.com  
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 9:10 AM  
To: [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)  
Subject: Klamath Coho Comment Letter

Please make this letter part of the public record. Thank you.

From: Barbara Kennedy, 202 Lum Street, P.O. Box 29,  
Weott, CA 95571

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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Sincerely, Barbara Kennedy

-----  
This message was sent using IMP, the Internet Messaging Program.

From: *MELANIE KUHNEL*  
*1604 G ST*  
*REDDING CA 96001*  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
- CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.
- CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.
- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008, pp. 1035-1052(18).

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,

*Melanie Kuhnelt*



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Ron Kuhnel  
1604 G St 95501  
EUREKA CA 95501

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

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Sincerely,



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...R%20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_lance.htm

From: Jennifer Lance [[jlance@hughes.net](mailto:jlance@hughes.net)]  
Sent: Sunday, December 07, 2008 10:22 AM  
To: [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

- Subject: Endangered Species and Stream Alteration Permits proposed for the Shasta and Scott Rivers
- The proposed permits will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
  - CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.
  - CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.
  - Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA inadequacies include: 1. failure to use the best available scientific information; 2. Failure to consider environmental consequences and mitigate for those consequences; 3. Inconsistency with other laws and regulation including C-ESA, Water Codes and Fish & Game Codes; 4. Failure to consider alternatives to the proposed action, and 5. Failure to fully describe the scale and scope of what is proposed and to put in place a plan to monitor whether the program is protecting Coho and other Public Trust Resources.
  - CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Jennifer Lance  
[jlance@hughes.net](mailto:jlance@hughes.net)  
[jennifer@greenoptions.com](mailto:jennifer@greenoptions.com)

Founder, Editor, and Writer  
Eco Child's Play

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## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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<http://ecochildsplay.com>

Lead Writer/Editor  
Really Natural

<http://reallynatural.com>

Contributing Writer  
Red, Green, and Blue  
<http://redgreenandblue.org>

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Charlene Lentelme*  
*274 Hidden Valley Rd*  
*Bayview Ca 95524*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

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CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,

*Charlene Lentelme*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Scott Shasta DEIR - VS  
Lee, Jimmie - Deardorff (copy)

From: Linda Lee

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Tom Leskin  
5440 Cummings Road  
Eureka, CA 95503

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

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CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Selene M. Levesque*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
- CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.
- CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.
- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008, pp. 1035-1052(18).

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,

*Selene M. Levesque*

From: *Nancy Marie*  
*1718 Blake Ave.*  
*Arden, CA 95521*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
- CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.
- CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.
- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008, pp. 1035-1052(18).

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Marie*

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...ic%20comments/Join%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_mccann-sayles.htm

**From:** Alan McCann-Sayles [alanpol@humboldt1.com]

**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 8:54 AM

**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

**Subject:** Please stop the Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

California Department of Fish and Game

601 Locust Street

Redding, CA 96001

Attn: Bob Williams

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

Please Do not grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. I believe you should not grant these permits because:

They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.

CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

Also the environmental documents prepared for these permits seem inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Sincerely,

Alan McCann-Sayles  
1696 Ocean Drive  
McKinleyville, CA 95519

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Melvin McKinney*  
*P.O. Box 78 Cutter Ca. 95534*  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

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CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,

*Melvin McKinney*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Roberta Mickelson*  
*Po Box 944*  
*Trinidad, CA 95570*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

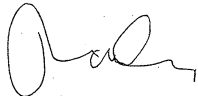
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CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,

 Roberta Mickelson

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Scott Shasta DEIR

**From:** Ken Miller [tamer1@suddenlink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 07, 2008 2:24 PM  
**To:** [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)  
**Subject:** Scott Shasta DEIR

From: Ken Miller, MD  
1658 Ocean Drive  
McK, CA 95519  
12/7/08

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

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Sincerely,

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Scott Shasta DEIR

Ken Miller, MD

From:

*Carol Newkirk*  
*3465 McLean Street*  
*Enuma, CA 95601*

To:

California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,

*Carol Newkirk*

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Jesse Noell

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008, pp. 1035-1052(18).

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,  
Jesse Noell, 8050 Elk River Rd. Eureka, CA 95503

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20Shasta-Scott%20comments/1\_peterson2--compare%20with%20other.htm

**From:** Jim Peterson [[tye\\_one\\_on@hotmail.com](mailto:tye_one_on@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 06, 2008 8:26 AM  
**To:** Arnold Schwarzenegger  
**Cc:** Bob Williams; Bob Nakagawa; Steve Korbay  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

---

From: James H. Peterson

909 Dana Drive #2F257

Redding, California 96003

To: California Department of Fish and Game

601 Locust Street

Redding, CA96001

Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

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## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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Sincerely,

James H. Peterson

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20...%20comments/I\_peterson2--compare%20with%20other.htm (2 of 3)12/12/2008 12:57:39 PM

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Gerald C. Rees Jr.  
1860 Wavecrest Ave  
McKinleyville, CA  
95519

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
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CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely, 

From: Rick Reese and Lisa Keller  
2330 W. Shell St.  
Martinez, CA 94553

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

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CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Jeanne Reilly*  
PO Box 635  
Blue Lake, CA 95525  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
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CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely, *Jeanne Reilly*

From: ALAN SAMUEL 1013K ST CUR 95501  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
- CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.
- CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.
- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008, pp. 1035-1052(18).

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely, *Alan Samuel*

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...%20public%20comments/Join%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_scales.htm

**From:** Austin Scales [jascales@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, December 07, 2008 5:22 PM

**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

**Cc:** unofelice@gmail.com

**Subject:** Regarding the Klamath Salmon

Dear Mr. Williams,

The proposed permits will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.

CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA inadequacies include: 1. failure to use the best available scientific information; 2. Failure to consider environmental consequences and mitigate for those consequences; 3. Inconsistency with other laws and regulation including C-ESA, Water Codes and Fish & Game Codes; 4. Failure to consider alternatives to the proposed action, and 5. Failure to fully describe the scale and scope of what is proposed and to put in place a plan to monitor whether the program is protecting Coho and other Public Trust Resources.

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,

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## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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Austin Scales

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Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Sherman Schepin*  
*Box 1142*  
To: *Blue Lick CA 95520*  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

- They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.
- CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.
- CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.
- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008, pp. 1035-1052(18).

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...R%20public%20comments/Joint%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/1\_scher.htm

**From:** Sarah Scher [[sarahpol@humboldt1.com](mailto:sarahpol@humboldt1.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 8:44 AM  
**To:** [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)  
**Subject:** Please DO NOT grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts  
From: Sarah Scher, MD  
770 Tenth Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

Please DO NOT grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. I believe you should not grant these permits because:

They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

CDFG should not delegate responsibility for enforcing the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish & Game Codes to local resource conservation district boards which are dominated by farmers and ranchers who would be required to enforce the law on their neighbors. The Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts have stated many times that they are not regulatory agencies and would lose the support of landowners if they were to take regulatory action.

CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off the streams they are responsible for protecting. Allowing farmers and ranchers in the Shasta and Scott Valleys to deny river and stream access to Fish & Game officials and the public is contrary to state law and should be ended.

I further believe that the environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Scher

--

What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow men. That is the entire law, all the rest is commentary.

--Talmud

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## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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Hurt not others with that which pains yourself.

--Udana-Varga, Buddhism

This is the sum of duty; do naught to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain.

--The Mahabarata, Hinduism

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.

--Hadith

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: BRETT SHULAN  
936 IIR ST  
ARCATA CA  
95521

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

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- Environmental documents prepared for these permits are inadequate, incomplete and do not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The most important inadequacy is failure to use the best available scientific information including: "Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin", Van Kirk, Robert W.<sup>1</sup>; Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Volume 44, Number 4, August 2008, pp. 1035-1052(18).

CDFG should scale back these permits to cover restoration actions of the resource conservation districts and agricultural surface water diversions. The EIRs must fully analyze impacts and assure that compliance with applicable laws and regulations is adequately monitored by CDFG.

Sincerely,  12/7/08

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Star Siegfried R.D., I.B.C.C.*  
*145. Boynton Prairie Rd.*  
*Arata, Ca 95521*  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,

*Star Siegfried*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *John St. Marie*  
*1404 Foster Ave #3*  
*Arata, CA. 95521*  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,

*John St. Marie*

## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06%...20public%20comments/Join%20Shasta-Scott%20comments/I\_stringer.htm

**From:** CeeJaySee@aol.com

**Sent:** Friday, December 05, 2008 3:19 PM

**To:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov

**Subject:** Attn: Bob Williams Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program D

From:

Connie Stringer

25079 Bachelor Lane

Bend, OR 97701

To: California Department of Fish and Game

601 Locust Street

Redding, CA96001

Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

They will not lead to the recovery of Coho salmon and present an additional risk to Coho, Chinook salmon and Steelhead trout because they do not address the core reasons these fish are threatened and at risk. That core reason is low flows and the progressive dewatering of these key Klamath tributaries as a result of unregulated groundwater pumping and (in the Shasta) unregulated pumping of water directly from the river.

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## Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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Sincerely,

Connie Stringer

---

Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. [Try it now.](#)

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Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Kerry Sweeney*  
*PO Box 775*  
*Ferris, CA 95536*  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

Dear California Department of Fish & Game,

I am writing today to urge you not to grant permits to the Scott and Shasta Resource Conservation Districts as you have proposed. You should not grant these permits because:

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Sincerely,

*Kerry Sweeney*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Liz Thompson*  
*1513 Beverly Dr.*  
*Arcata, CA 95521*  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,

*Liz Thompson*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: JACQUELINE THORPE  
1136 K ST.  
EUREKA CA. 95501

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

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From: Carol Vander Meer [[carol.vandermeer@gmail.com](mailto:carol.vandermeer@gmail.com)]  
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 8:07 AM  
To: [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)  
Subject: letter from Carol Vander Meer opposing proposed Scott and Shasta RCD permits  
From: Carol Vander Meer  
P.O. Box 12, Arcata, Ca 95518

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,  
Carol Vander Meer

--  
Carol Vander Meer  
[carol@friendsofthedunes.org](mailto:carol@friendsofthedunes.org)  
707-444-1397  
cell: 707-834-4113

### Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: Mary Lou Weaver  
2850 Sunny Grove Ave  
McKinleyville CA 95519

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,  
*Mary Lou Weaver*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: David Weinstein  
1985 Birch Ave  
McKinleyville CA 95519  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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From: Nora Winge  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,



Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: *Wayne Wood*

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

Subject: Proposed Scott and Shasta Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR

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Sincerely,

*Wayne Wood*  
1596 Ocean Dr.  
McKinleyville, Ca 95519

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From:

*Joel R Ziegler*  
4500 Fickel Mill Road  
Arcata, CA 95521

To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)

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Sincerely,

*Joel R Ziegler*

Form Letters 30.1 through 30.85

From: LION ZLATKORIK  
688 TANGLEWOOD  
MURFEE, CA 95953  
To: California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attention: Bob Williams at [bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov)


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Sincerely, 

# Karuk Tribe of California



**Department of Natural Resources**  
Post Office Box 282  
Orleans, CA 95556  
(530) 627-3446 Fax (530) 627-3448

**Administrative Office**  
Post Office Box 1016  
Happy Camp, CA 96039  
(530) 493-5305 Fax (530) 493-5322

**Karuk Tribal Health Clinic**  
Post Office Drawer 249  
Orleans, CA 95556  
(530) 627-3452 Fax (530) 627-3445

December 9, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Email: [SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov)

RE: Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program

Mr. Bob Williams,

The Karuk Tribe is submitting comments on the Scott River Watershed Wide Permitting Program. Restoration of the Scott River Watershed is vital to the health of Tribal Trust fish species. Please contact Susan Corum, Water Quality Coordinator, (530) 469-3456, [scorum@karuk.us](mailto:scorum@karuk.us), if you have any questions regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

Earl Crosby

Interim Director  
Department of Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) appears to have noted receipt of the relevant materials (e.g., QVIR 2005) and recommendations (QVIR 2006) submitted earlier by the Quartz Valley Tribe concerning the proposed development of a Scott River coho salmon Incidental Take Permit (ITP), few if any of the issues of substance raised by the Tribe in their submittals to CDFG have actually been addressed by the Department in its *Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)*.

34-1

The DEIR is driven by an ITP proposal submitted by the Scott River valley farming community (Siskiyou RCD 2005). The DEIR fails to address the issues of streamflow and groundwater depletion and their associated water quality problems which are the documented root causes of coho salmon decline in the Scott River watershed.

While the measures recommended might improve some conditions for coho salmon, at the margin and at substantial cost, taken together they will not improve stream conditions sufficiently to assure that actions to be permitted under the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program will not cause further jeopardy to the species. The DEIR does not, therefore, meet the requirements of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) nor those of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and it is, in our view, open to successful challenge in court should CDFG proceed to adopt only a lightly revised final version of this EIR.

34-2

The DEIR clearly fails CEQA’s requirements for the use of best available science. The DEIR adopts assumptions reached in Siskiyou RCD’s gray literature (i.e. Quigley et al. 2001 and Yokel 2006) and treats these as established authorities although the reports have never been provided scientific review. These reports fail to incorporate data collection from areas of the basin other than the Scott valley, therefore conclusions are made from monitoring locations granting permission and may not be representative of large portions of the valley. Studies designs tend to be poor due to landowner access and QA/QC measures are inadequate. For example, without water quality conditions suitable for salmonids in the Scott River canyon, salmonid adults may not be able to migrate into the valley to spawn. Likewise juvenile outmigration and rearing can be greatly effected; reports since 2005 by both the USFS Klamath National Forest and Quartz Valley Tribe have documented unsuitable conditions, throughout the reach surveyed from Shackleford Creek to the mouth, for salmonids during the summer monitoring period.

34-3

The lack of discussion of major issues such as the connection between surface- and groundwater severely undermine the DEIR’s credibility.

34-4

Data sharing is another requirement of CEQA. While the DEIR says that the Siskiyou RCD will share data with CDFG, there is no explanation of how that information will be shared with the scientific community and the public. CEQA also requires that the lead agencies create a “data base which can be used to reduce delay and duplication in preparation of

34-5



subsequent environmental impact reports” yet there is no discussion in the DEIR of the intent or obligation of CDFG to share raw data.

↑ 34-5  
| cont.

Monitoring under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program would target only those sites where projects are to be carried out. There is no clear commitment to the use of standard monitoring methods capable of providing monitoring data sufficient for determining whether the whole Scott River ecosystem is trending in a positive direction for coho salmon. Rather, the monitoring proposed appears to be restricted to monitoring the effect of specific restoration projects on the immediate vicinity of such projects. Once again, we assume this is due to landowner access however, according to the North Coast *Basin Plan* one beneficial use of the Scott River is navigation. This indicates permission is only needed to access the creek, once within the high-water mark you can walk anywhere on the river.

| 34-6

While the DEIR mentions cooperation with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and its North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) in implementing the Total Maximum Daily Load for the Scott River (NCRWQCB 2006), the absence of a commitment to monitoring water temperature at established monitoring sites or to using sediment trend measurements like pool volume (Hilton and Lisle 1993) suggest there will be little substantive coordination with the SWRCB or the NCRWQCB.

| 34-7

Finally, many of the actions that CDFG, the SWRCB’s Water Rights Division (WRD) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) would perform under the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program certainly do not need this program in order to go forward. These agencies have, in fact, neglected these enforcement duties, resulting cumulatively in continuing, elevated “take” of coho salmon.

| 34-8

To the extent that the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program will simply legitimate current land and water use practices in the Scott River valley, without requiring a larger commitment to the protection of coho salmon, the State shall be giving the color of legitimacy to such actions and prospects for the recovery of public trust resources in the Scott River valley shall be set back substantially.

**DETAILED COMMENTS**

**Jeopardy Issues**

CDFG asserts in its DEIS that April 25, 2005 conditions are the baseline for the proposed project and argues that only positive change will result from the Program. In fact the evidence presented in the DEIR shows drastic reductions in surface flow in the Scott River in recent years as a result of increased surface and groundwater use (Van Kirk and Naman 2008). The document admits that the flow levels adjudicated to the U S Forest Service for salmon protection in the Scott River canyon (SWRCB 1980) are not being met.

| 34-9

The DEIR repeatedly discusses coho salmon habitat destruction in the Scott River valley as a matter of fact, but it then fails to make clear how such destruction will be abated to prevent the further “take” of the species. Instead the DEIR suggests that instream structures and mitigations designed to reduce impacts (i.e. publicly-funded fish screens) will somehow improve the coho salmon population.

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That fact is that the same activities that have led to the collapse of the Scott River ecosystem and its ability to support coho salmon will continue under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. The incremental changes to existing practices will not prove sufficient to enable coho population rebuilding. Coho salmon will therefore remain in jeopardy of extinction due to the actions permitted by the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program. The requirements of CESA and CEQA shall not have been met.

The DEIR states that:

“This Permit may be terminated by the Department at its sole discretion if circumstances or new information provides evidence that continued program implementation may result in jeopardy to coho salmon, or if such termination is required by law or court order. For the purpose of the Permit, ‘jeopardy’ includes, but is not limited to, to the probable extirpation of any coho salmon cohort.”

In fact, there is strong evidence showing that Scott River coho salmon are currently in jeopardy and are likely to remain so. As clearly established by prior submissions (QVIR 2005, 2006), there is currently a problem with two weak year classes, which meets the CDFG definition of jeopardy, above. Table 1 is taken from a report by the Siskiyou RCD (2005) and shows downstream migrant catch of coho salmon in the Scott River with coho missing or at extremely low levels in 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2003. Scott River adult coho salmon returns are often estimated at fewer than 500 adults annually during weak year classes, which is known to be a critically low level for maintaining genetic diversity (Gilpin and Soule 1990) to maintain long term survival. Year class failures are hard for coho to recover from because females spawn as three year old fish almost exclusively.

Table 1. Coho in California Department of Fish and Game Scott River downstream migrant trap records as taken from Siskiyou RCD (2005) Table 6c.

<b>Grand Total by Species:</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
<i>Steelhead</i>	10181	17693	5943	7127	7980	4158	5008	21982	79887	135319	69823	<b>365101</b>
<i>Coho</i>	15	433	0	253	3	8	538	30	69	30019	50	<b>31418</b>
<i>Chinook</i>	2	266	0	3	1	0	0	365	3191	0	0	<b>3828</b>
<b>Totals =&gt;</b>	<b>10198</b>	<b>18392</b>	<b>5943</b>	<b>7383</b>	<b>7984</b>	<b>4166</b>	<b>5546</b>	<b>22377</b>	<b>83147</b>	<b>165338</b>	<b>69873</b>	<b>400347</b>

The DEIS states that Siskiyou RCD will report to CDFG regarding where coho are located in the Scott River watershed; however, their current distribution should be fully acknowledged and disclosed as part of the baseline conditions description. Landowner access for coho spawning and rearing studies in the Scott basin each year is poor. Relying on the RCD’s knowledge of these areas is inadequate and/or will require assumptions to be made based off of a biased and incomplete data set. On Shackleford Creek at the QV reservation, biologists have observed suitable and occupied spawning areas. The spawning areas were then covered by large cobble due to the excessive sediment loads and thier geomorphological movements in response to winter flows. This type of habitat change is occurring across the watershed and it would be foolish to assume an area is salmonid suitable without actually surveying it for both water quality, quantity and habitat characteristics. However, due to landowner access and the internal capacity of the SQRCD, complete surveys are not possible. In the revised EIS, CDFG needs to show how weak year

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classes would be recovered sufficiently so as to no longer be subjected to jeopardy by the actions permitted in the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program .

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**Surface Water and Groundwater Issues**

Since the lack of streamflow is one of the principal constraints on coho salmon recovery in the Scott River basin (Kier Associates 1991, NRC 2004), a real solution to water allocation and water supply is needed, but not supplied, in the DEIR or likely under implementation of the Watershed Wide Permitting Program.

California Fish and Game Code §5937 says that CDFG will not allow streams to be dewatered. Many streams throughout the Scott River basin are routinely dried up each year during low flow season in violation of §5937. The DEIR does not mention any plan for CDFG’s enforcement of §5937 under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. Instead, compliance will be largely through “self-enforcement”:

“Notwithstanding any right the responsible party has to divert and use water, the responsible party shall allow sufficient water to pass over, around, or through any dam the party owns or operates to keep in good condition any fish that may exist below the dam, as required by CDFG Code §5937.”

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The DEIR states matter-of-factly that the Scott River Adjudication (SWRCB 1980) “allocates 36.0 cfs to the Farmers Ditch (22.3 cfs for consumptive use and 13.7 cfs for ditch losses). Typically, in August and September the ditch has the right to divert the entire natural flow of the Scott River.” Likewise, photo documentation of such activity occurring on both tributaries Shackleford and Etna Creeks have been collected. This activity is illegal under CDFG Code §5937 and certainly antithetical to coho recovery. A series of three photos (Figure 1) of the Etna Creek diversion is below and clearly shows inadequate flows downstream of the diversion for salmonid habitat. The first photo is looking upstream from the diversion, the second is looking at the diversion and the third photo is looking downstream from the point of diversion. All photos were taken in August of 2003 by NCRWQCB staff, Bryan McFadin.

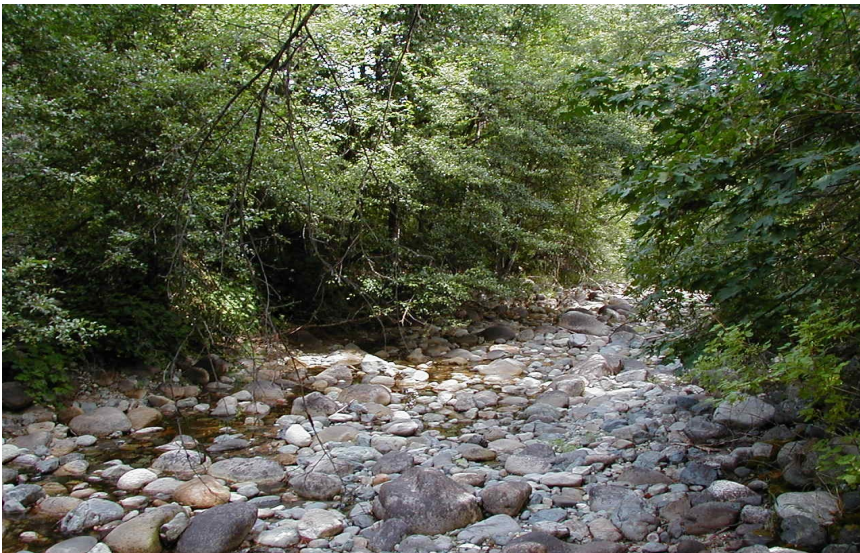


Figure 1 Photos of Etna Creek Diversion, top photo–looking upstream of diversion, middle photo – looking at the diversion, and bottom photo – looking downstream of the diversion. Photo taken by Bryan McFadin, NCRWQCB staff, August 2003.

Neither does the DEIR deal with non-enforcement by the SWRCB’s WRD of California Water Codes § 1052 and § 1243, which state, respectively, that no dams will be constructed without a permit and that sufficient flows in California streams will be maintained to allow for “recreation and the preservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources.” The flow depletion to the point of dewatering of the mainstem Scott River reaches (Figure 2) is ignored in the DEIS and the failure to meet adjudicated levels in the Scott River canyon as required under the SWRCB (1980) adjudication (Figure 3) are dismissed on the basis that the USFS water right is a junior right. Table 2 shows the minimum water flow levels needed to protect fishlife per the USFS’ adjudication of Scott River flows at the Scott River canyon. Currently (December 2008), the Scott River canyon is receiving 100 cfs at the USGS gauging station for the migration of coho salmon. However, the adjudication calls for 200 cfs between November and March (Figure 3). Currently tributaries around the valley are dry at the confluence with the Scott leaving coho the mainstem for spawning. This is less ideal given the increased velocity of the main channel, lack of side channels and the sediment aggregation of the mainstem.



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Figure 2. The dry bed of the Scott River in a reach near the airport looking upstream, a clear violation of CDFG Code 5937. Photo from KRIS Klamath-Trinity V 3.0 taken by Michael Hentz. 2002.

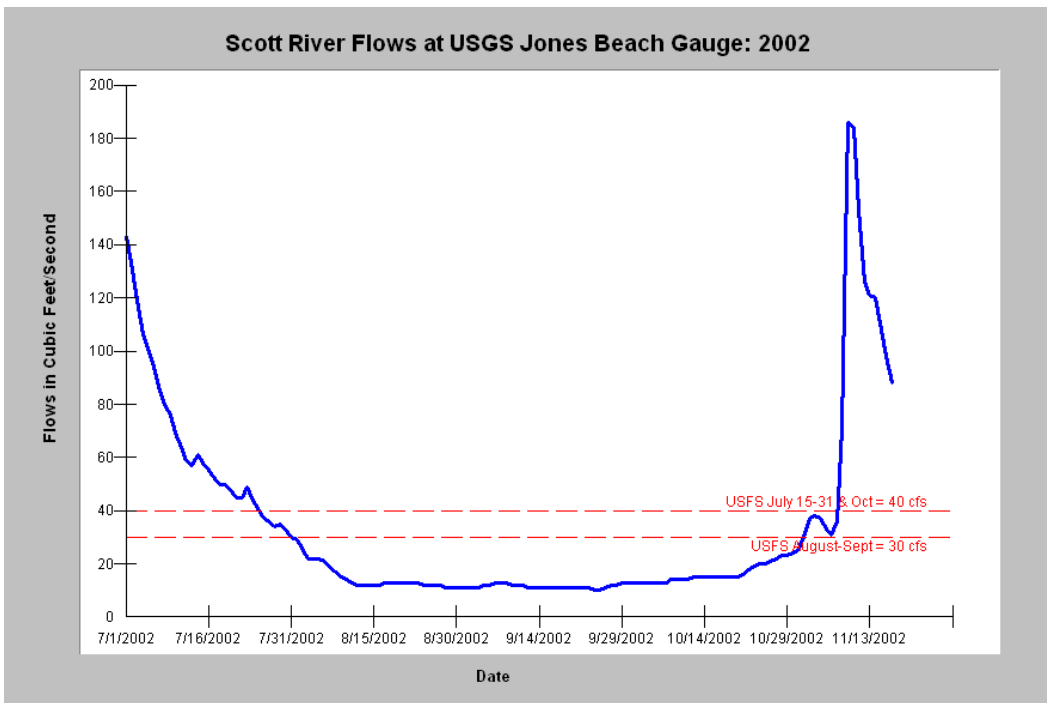


Figure 3. Jones Beach USGS flow gauge data from the irrigation season of 2002 show that flows failed to meet adjudicated levels for the USFS and flows needed for fish migration, spawning and rearing in August, September and October.

Table 2. Scott River Adjudication instream flow allotment for U.S. Forest Service needs for instream flow in Scott River canyon (CDWR, 1980 as cited in Kier Assoc., 1991).

Period	Flow Requirement in Cubic Feet per Second
November – March	200 cfs
April - June 15	150 cfs
June 16 - June 30	100 cfs
July 1 - July 15	60 cfs
July 16 - July 31	40 cfs
August – September	30 cfs
October	40 cfs

In fact both CDFG and SWRCB are remiss in their public trust responsibilities for not assisting USFS in securing flows sufficient to maintain coldwater fish in the Scott River.

DWR and its Watermaster Service would be sub-permittees of the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. The DEIR mentions DWR’s role in groundwater studies. The DEIR describes increased coordination with the Watermaster, who after 30 years of inaction and non-enforcement will somehow spring into action and coordinate with CDFG to resolve streamflow issues. The DEIR’s statement that “the watermaster in some instances will need to take certain actions to avoid or minimize the take of coho salmon as it relates to operating

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water diversions and managing water in the Program Area,” is not to be taken seriously given the past track record.

In yet another section the DEIR says that a private watermaster might also be a sub-permittee or that such status would be conveyed “through an ITP outside the Program.”

The likelihood of a locally-employed private watermaster increasing enforcement for the benefit of coho salmon when he is an employee or contractor to the water users themselves stretches the imagination.

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The huge problem with groundwater allocation and over use is acknowledged in the DEIR, but no solution offered. In fact the increase in groundwater use described by Van Kirk and Naman (2008) (Figure 4) is consistent with the continuing installation of groundwater wells (Figure 5) and decreasing groundwater levels from well logs on the Scott River Valley floor (QVIR 2006). When patterns of long term flows are assessed for whether critical low flow levels drop below 40 cfs, the amount determined to be critical for the viability of salmon on US Forest Service public lands in the Scott River canyon, one can see the pattern of increasing flow depletion ultimately leading to years when adjudicated flow levels from July to October are never met (Figure 6).

The DEIR hypothesizes that all streams on the Westside Scott River Valley went dry historically, but does not provide convincing evidence in its support. In fact, available evidence indicates that this hypothesis is incorrect. For example, CDFG (1974) memos from the 1970’s state that many of these streams (Kidder, Etna, Patterson) were going dry during summer for the first time. Logging and road building in the erodible terrain of the Westside Scott have caused major problems with erosion that have contributed to lack of surface flow (QVIR 2005). In the case of Shackleford Creek, the DEIR and CDFG likely ascribe to this hypothesis because they don’t want to be drawn into enforcement of 5937, but the thermal infrared radar surveys (Watershed Sciences Ltd, 2004) show conclusively that the dewatering of Shackleford Creek (Figure 7) and water quality impairment are caused by diversions. Taft and Shapavalov (1935) noted that Shackleford Creek was being dewatered by diversion in 1934 leaving the stream bed dry where it had been historically perennial.

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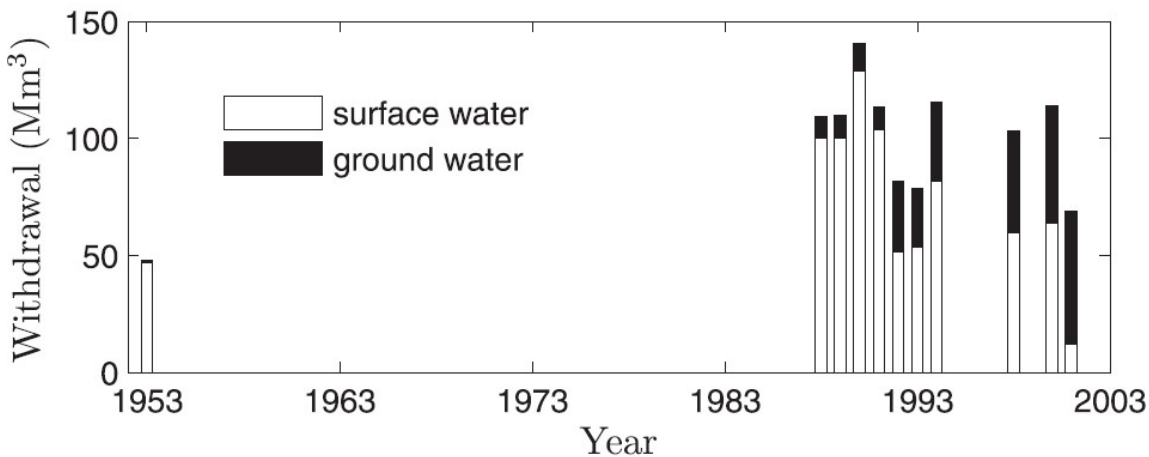
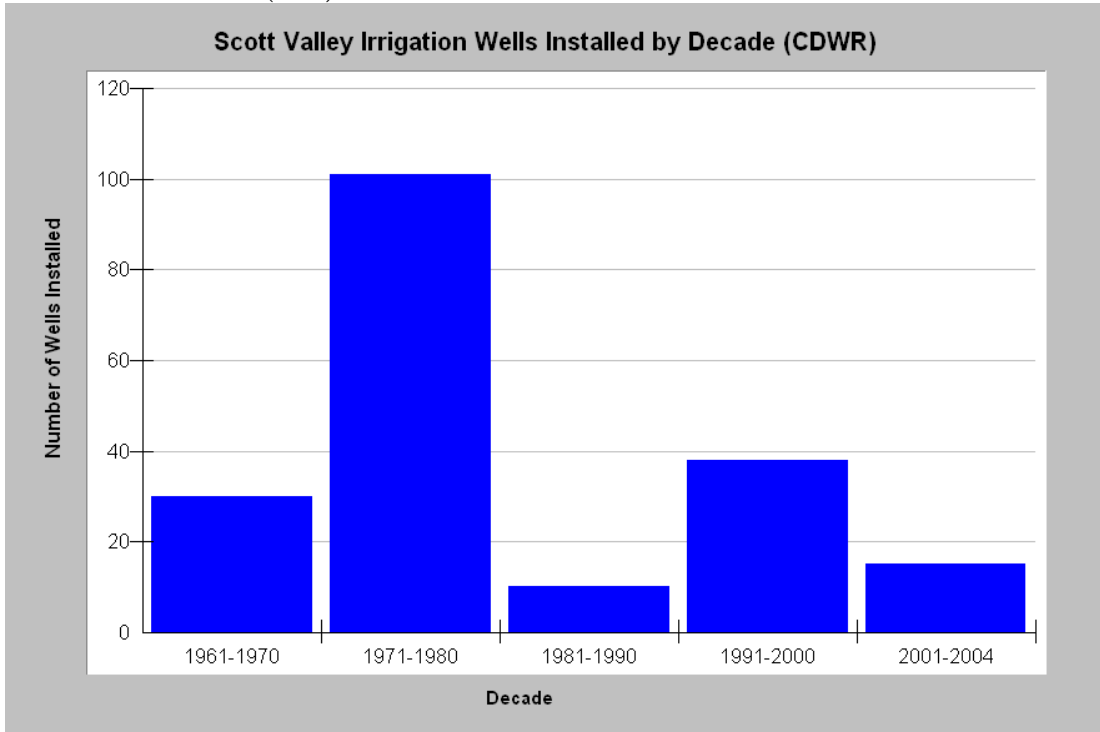


Figure 4. Groundwater and surface water use in the Scott River valley in millions of cubic meters showing a dramatic increase in overall water use, but especially in groundwater use. (This is Figure 7 in Van Kirk and Naman (2008).



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Figure 5. This chart shows the number of irrigation wells installed, by decade, according to California Department of Water Resources records. Not all parties installing wells file with DWR.

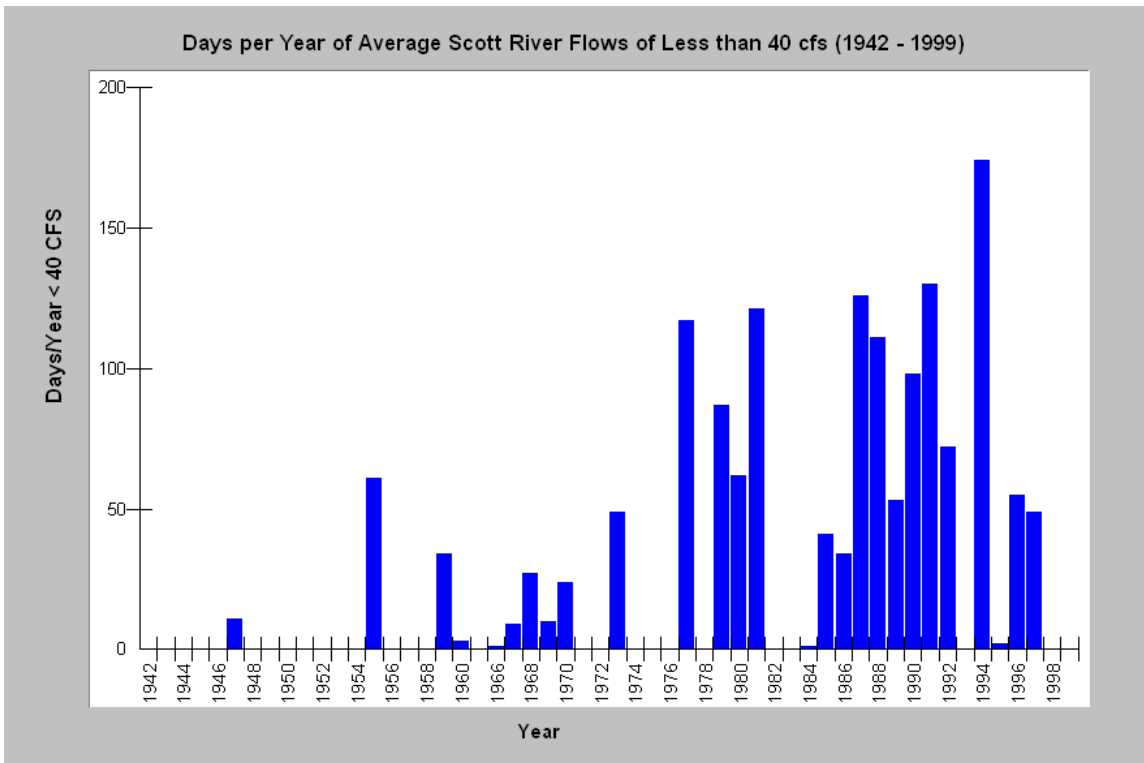




Figure 6. USGS flow data for the Scott River show a dramatic increase in the number of days of less than 40 cubic feet per second streamflow in the Scott River at Ft Jones -- a major increase in such days over the period of record. The 40 cfs level is significant with regard to flows adjudicated to the USFS to maintain salmon viability on public lands. Data from USGS and chart from KRIS V 3.0.

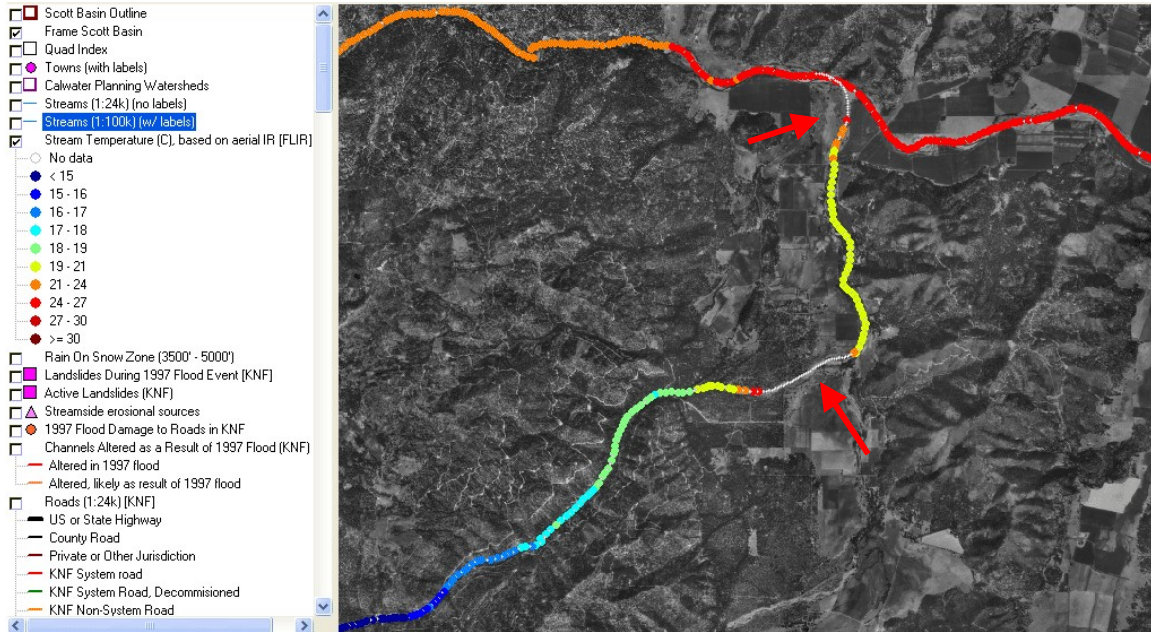


Figure 7. This map shows summary data of Scott River Thermal Infrared Radar (TIR) surveys for Shackleford Creek. Note that water temperature warms in a downstream direction as flow is depleted. Reaches with no temperature coded color are dry (red arrows). Data from Watershed Sciences (2004).

Because CDFG does not provide a credible plan for reducing groundwater extraction, while over-allocation is leading to take of coho salmon, this aspect of the DEIR is particularly deficient and would ultimately continue the take and jeopardy status under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program.

With regard to surface water, the Scott River coho salmon Watershed Wide Permitting Program would set a particularly bad example where the State or other entities would pay diverters to leave water in the stream when coho salmon were there (Scott River Water Trust), despite the fact that diverters are legally obligated to leave water in the stream already. The Watershed Wide Permitting Program would allow coverage under CESA for actions illegal under other CDFG and California Water codes (§5937 and §1243). The Scott River Water Trust would enable irrigators to negate the additional costs associated with groundwater pumping through the reimbursement of leaving their adjudicated surface water right instream. However, groundwater pumping actions could also have impacts of reducing in-stream flows. The Scott River adjudication has recognized a zone of ground and surface water interaction and other areas in the basin with this type of connection will be better identified through implementation of the groundwater study plan. Therefore, it is really too soon to recommend and/or support such measures be implemented at this time.

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**Baseline Conditions and DEIR Scientific Foundation**

The DEIR states that

“Some of the activities the Program covers are historic, on-going activities that over time have caused and will continue to cause environmental impacts within the Program Area, including, for example, take of coho salmon. These activities and their impacts are part of the baseline and are expected regardless of the Program; that is, they will not be caused by the Program.”

This statement fails to note the role CDFG and other State agencies have played in allowing coho salmon resources to become so reduced as to have to be listed as Threatened or Endangered under both the Federal and California ESA, and placing the Scott River population in jeopardy. In adopting the tone and assumptions of Siskiyou RCD documents (Quigley et al. 2001, Siskiyou RCD 2005), the DEIR strays from good, legally defensible science by focusing analysis and conclusions on valley sites (specifically locations monitored granting access), limited in data collection parameters, frequency, site locations and distribution and often ascribes anthropogenically-caused damage to ecosystem function as “natural conditions.” Failing to understand the linkages between human induced habitat changes means that the DEIR does not address root causes of decline and recommendations for action barely overlap with a priority list that might be arrived at through a more valid scientific approach using a standard Pacific salmon restoration framework (i.e. Bradbury et al. 1995).

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The DEIR describes human activities that cause habitat loss, but never clearly define linkages or need to change land use practices that are causing take of coho salmon:

“Most of the lasting impacts observed today are the collective result of multiple actions and land management decisions, and it is often difficult to tease out the relative influence of any one particular action. Regardless, it is important to understand that historical or continuing practices such as beaver trapping, placer mining, flow regulation, and channel modification can affect contemporary river characteristics for decades, or longer.” (p. 154)

Recognizing impacts is not enough, actions need to be taken to reverse coho habitat decline and prioritization of remediation needs to be based on peer reviewed, legally defensible science. The SQRCD primarily represents the agricultural landowners and it seems most appropriate that the CDFG in coordination with USFWS, NOAA and Tribes develop recommendations for priority remediation needs related to land uses (e.g. agriculture) for coho salmon. The Shasta and Scott Coho Recovery Team (SSRT) failed to incorporate Tribal coordination until the completion of the document (Scott and Shasta Coho Recovery Plan) at which time one Tribe, Quartz Valley, was invited to join the group.

34-15

Channelization and Diking: True baseline conditions of the Scott River Valley floor before disturbance would have included vast wetlands and beaver habitat (Kier Associates 1991) that promoted surface and groundwater connections and created abundant cold water habitat for coho salmon (Pool and Berman 2000, ODEQ 2008). The DEIR and CDFG fail to understand that floodplains need to be reconnected because disrupted channel conditions

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promote warming, reduce water storage and eliminate refugia essential to salmonid survival, particularly in large rivers systems like the Scott River that are temperature impaired (U.S. EPA 2003). U.S. EPA (2003) eloquently summarizes the importance of alluvial reaches such as the Scott Valley:

“Alluvial floodplains with a high level of groundwater exchange historically provided high quality habitat that served as cold water refugia during the summer for large rivers in the Columbia River basin and other rivers of the Pacific Northwest. These alluvial reaches are interspersed between bedrock canyons and are like beads on a string along the river continuum. Today, most of the alluvial floodplains are either flooded by dams, altered through diking and channelization, or lack sufficient water to function as refugia.”

The current condition of the mainstem Scott River and its larger tributaries are profoundly altered (Figure 8) and they are not likely to improve without substantial changes in practices (see Restoration Needs). The DEIR notes that channel straightening on the East Fork is exacerbating problems with bank erosion and causing loss of pools and side channels, but only upper reaches in isolated places are recommended for treatment, our probable conclusion, based on the current restoration trends, is that landowner access is only being granted in the upper reaches. This type of approach to restoration is not enough to recover coho salmon.



Figure 8. The mainstem Scott River and Etna Creek are confined, channelized and disconnected from wetlands and springs that likely provided coho salmon refugia before human disturbance. Note also that wells next to streams have the potential to deplete cold subsurface contributions. Aerial photo from is from 2005.

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cont.

Riparian Conditions: The DEIR fails to understand that shade is only one element of riparian function (Pool and Berman 2000). Wide buffers similar to historic gallery forest conditions (true baseline) provided nutrient and bacteria buffering from overland flow, partial temperature buffering for the stream through creation of a cool microclimate, and assisted in maintaining a stable channel thereby reducing erosion. The loss of riparian in some cases, such as Moffett Creek (Figure 9), may be in direct response to drops in groundwater levels (QVIR 2005), and this is another critical issue that the DEIR does not address and that would not be remedied under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. Once streams have lost their riparian zones, their stream channel becomes very wide and shallow contributing to stream warming. Widespread use of easements or acquisitions is needed to allow riparian recovery on a scale necessary to restore coho (see Restoration Needs).

Nutrient, bacteria and pesticide pollution is also increased with the lack of riparian vegetation. French Creek is a major Scott River coho salmon producer (Maurer 2001) but it is assumed that coho salmon juveniles rear in forested reaches above alluvial valley floors because of poor habitat conditions resulting from agricultural practices, including riparian degradation (Figure 10). However, it is possible, based on salmonid behavior observed during refugia studies by the Tribe and cooperators, that fish are finding groundwater upwelling refuges and holding there as flows drop and ambient temperatures increase until the stream reach dries at which point then the groundwater refuge accretion stops. The CDFG fish rescue and relocating program is currently being utilized to move fish from these locations (without scientific research supporting the action) to areas of the river which are assumed to have suitable temperatures for rearing. Some fish may be migrating upstream to these areas but the percentage, relative to the population of rearing salmon, is unknown. In 2008 from Patterson Creek 21,000 coho juveniles were rescued from the lower reaches and relocated (Mary Olswang communication @ Scott River Watershed Council Fish Committee meeting September 2008). The Karuk Tribe would like to see a “Salmonid Rescue and Relocate Study” implemented in the Scott River to assess the environmental impacts of this action that has been occurring for the past 50 years.

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Wetlands and Hydrology: Wetlands store water, remove nutrients and bacteria and often discharge cold water that is associated with refugia for Pacific salmon species (U.S. EPA 2003), including coho salmon. The DEIR states that water temperature conditions in the Big Slough would have been warm, but that is not likely the case before disturbance because of typical wetland function (Pool and Berman 2000, ODEQ 2008). The DEIR talks about the unique conditions in the area west of the Scott River between Etna and Kidder Creeks, but does not accurately characterize human-induced changes, instead asserting that conditions are natural. Figure 11 shows where agricultural practices have obliterated the channels of Johnson and Crystal Creeks and Figure 12 shows that Big Slough has been systematically filled to the detriment of ecosystem function for coho salmon. Not only are discussions of wetlands lacking in the DEIR, but Figure 3.4-3 that is supposed to show wetlands is so blurry it is nearly useless. The DEIR does not address the need to reconnect wetlands and groundwater, which is one of the reasons the implementation of the Watershed Wide Permitting Program will not avoid continued jeopardy for the Scott River coho salmon population.

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Water Quality: The National Research Council (2004) makes a clear case that flow depletion is at the root of temperature problems in the Scott River. As flows drop, transit time for

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water increases allowing an opportunity for stream warming. If flow problems are not remedied, then temperature problems will not be either and, consequently, temperature sensitive coho salmon (McCullough 1999, Sullivan et al. 2000) will not likely be recovered. The DEIR claims that the Scott River mainstem was too hot historically, citing Quigley et al. (2001) as a basis, but ignores the likely historic role of refugia that would have been associated with side channels, beaver ponds and cold tributary mouths (U.S. EPA 2003).

The temperature map provided with the DEIR (Figure 3.2:1.1) uses a bracket for temperature categories from 14.8-17.8 C maximum floating weekly average water temperature (MWAT), but an MWAT of 16.8 C is recognized as the regional threshold for presence and absence based on field data (Welsh et al. 2001). Therefore, one cannot even determine whether locations are suitable for coho salmon from the map in the DEIR. This typifies the problem associated with exclusively relying on the Siskiyou RCD for scientific analysis and is another example of why raw data related to the ITP and its implementation need to be supplied to the scientific community and the public.



Figure 9. The Moffett Creek channel lacks definition and riparian trees because of drops in the groundwater due to pumping. The stream was once perennial and harbored coho salmon.



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cont.



Figure 10. French Creek in an alluvial valley reach, which would have been optimal for coho historically, shows degraded riparian conditions, signs of sediment over-supply, flow depletion and disconnection from the floodplain. Aerial photo 2005.

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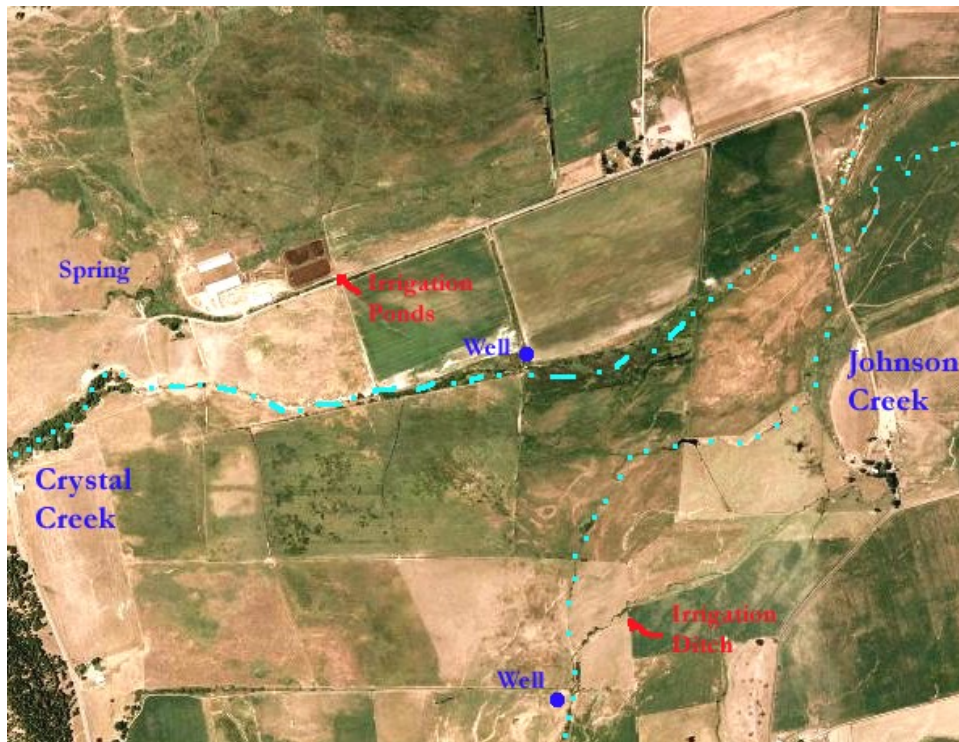


Figure 11. Crystal Creek's channel is at left (blue dots = USGS 1:24000 streams), but it disappears as it crosses the western Scott Valley floor and Johnson Creek is similarly disrupted. Notice that wells are immediately adjacent to old stream courses.

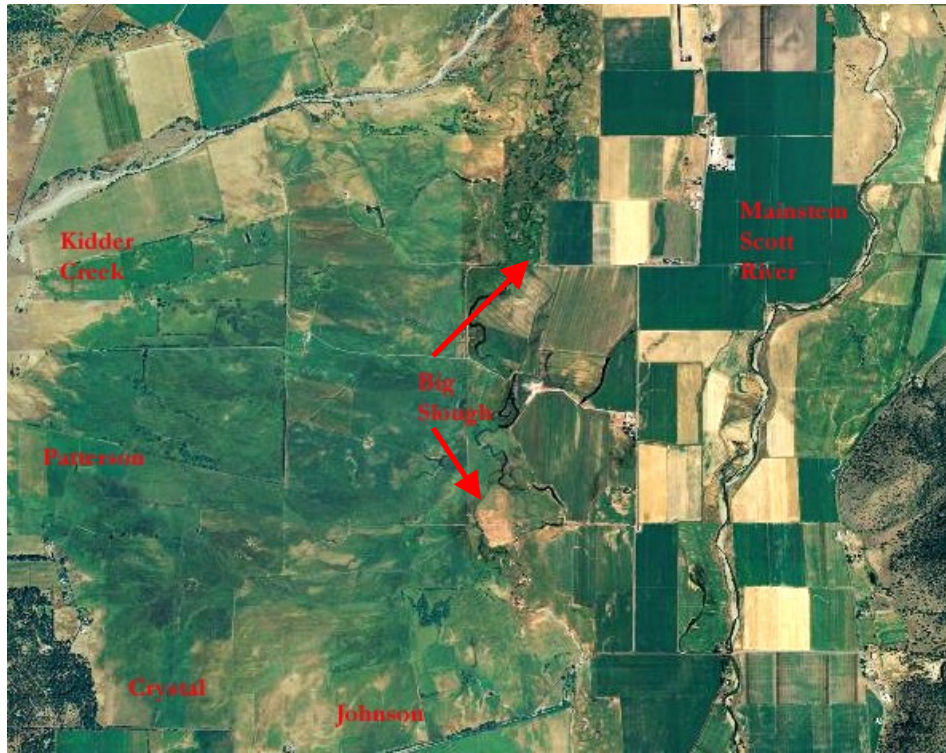


Figure 12. The channel of Big Slough has been filled and cut off (arrows) as have feeder channels from Johnson, Crystal and Patterson Creeks. Note also mainstem channelization.

The DEIR is similarly lacking its analysis of sediment trends in the Scott River mainstem and tributaries. It emphasizes decreasing fine sediment less than 0.85 mm between 1989 and 2000, when fines in this size class are generally not the problem in the Westside Scott River channels under study. In fact, data from Sommarstrom (2000) show that sand size particles (<6.4 mm) are still on the order of two to three times higher than recommended to meet water quality standards (NCRWQCB 2006). Kondolf (2000) showed that particles <6.4 mm decreased salmonid egg and alevin survival by 50% when they exceed 30% of the stream bed and results from the mainstem Scott show some locations have more than 80% sand in 2000 (Figure 12). Only Etna Creek, French Creek and one of mainstem Scott River locations showed decreasing trends while six mainstem sites showed increases.

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Cumulative Watershed Effects: CEQA requires a consideration of cumulative impacts because “the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects”. When the combined cumulative impact associated with the project and other projects is not significant, an EIR shall provide analysis and facts supporting this conclusion (Pollack 2002). In order to meet this standard the DEIR would need to show how cumulatively the Watershed Wide Permitting Program will rebuild weak coho year classes by improving coho habitat, including flows, and it has failed in this regard.

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The DEIR shows a map of debris torrents and flood damage from de la Fuente and Elder (1998), and describes negative changes in channel conditions. However, there is no discussion about the consequences of channel changes in the alluviated canyon reaches of Middle and Kelsey Creeks and Townsend Gulch, which became unsuitable for coho salmon

as a result. The problems in these tributaries, that formerly served as summer refugia for mainstem migrants and summer rearing and out-migrating juveniles, is combined with the loss of mainstem function caused by decreased surface flows that fail to meet USFS adjudication levels as described above.

The DEIR states that it is easy to stop sediment from roads, but does not deal with issues at the core of hydrologic perturbation, such as the amount of denuded and early seral areas combined with compacted surfaces such as roads and landings. The high amount of damage from the January 1997 storm showed indications of increased peak flows and a survey of vegetative conditions confirm signs of hydrologic risk (QVIC 2005, 2006). The DEIR notes channel damage to the East Fork Scott River from floods, but fails to link it to increased peak discharges associated with high road densities and early seral forest conditions (Jones and Grant 1996). The DEIS recommends gravel enhancement and placement of instream structures, but the success for such measures is limited when upland rates of disturbance are high and potential for increased peak flows and sediment yield is elevated (Frissell and Nawa 1992). Kier Associates (1999) documented high incidence of failure of instream structures in highly disturbed Lower Klamath River watersheds (see Restoration Needs).

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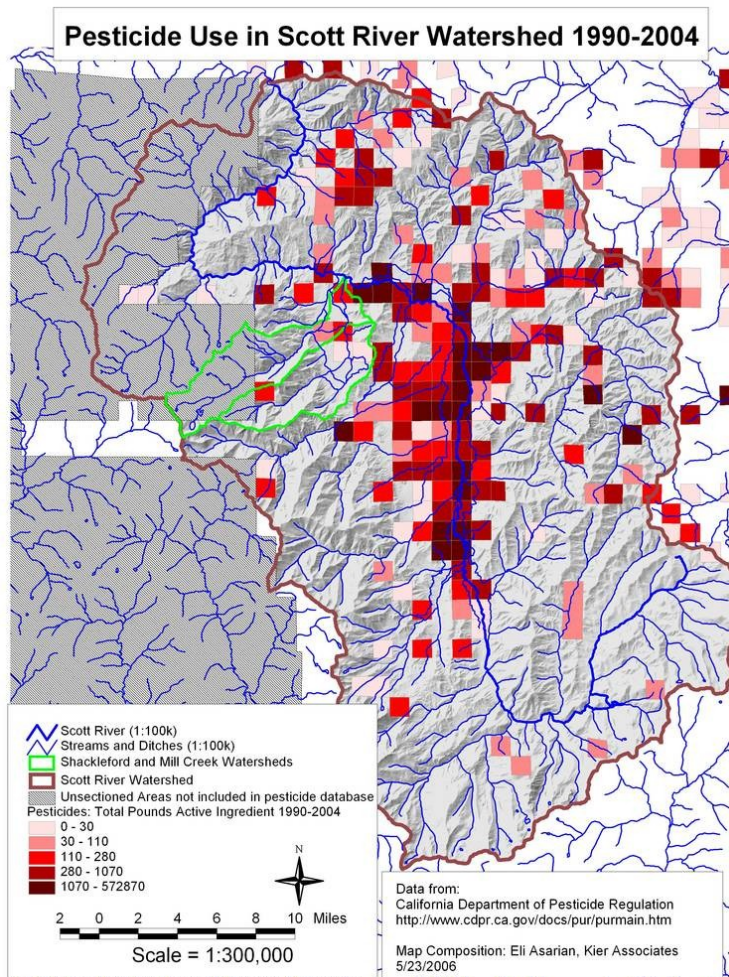




Figure 13. Map showing pesticide use in the Scott River basin. Colors represent cumulative total amount of pesticides used between 1990 and 2004. Data from the California Pesticide Use Reporting Database.

Pesticides and Herbicides: Despite a request in scoping comments (QVIR 2006) for a discussion of pesticide and herbicide use associated with agricultural practices in the Scott River basin, the DEIR fails to mention them. Figure 13 shows the records from the California Pesticide Database and use of chemicals to control weeds in the Scott River basin is concentrated in riparian zones. Thousands of pounds are being applied and many of the compounds used are known to be harmful to salmonids (Ewing 1999, NCAP 1999). NMFS (2008) recently found in a Biological Opinion to the U.S. EPA that products containing chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion have significant effects on endangered species. These three pesticides are currently in use in the Scott River basin (see Table 3, and additional data in the California Pesticide Use Reporting Database<sup>1</sup>). Gilliom et al. (2006) point out that while some highly utilized chemicals like hexazinone may break down quickly in the atmosphere, they can be very persistent in groundwater and USGS surveys commonly find this substance in agricultural aquifers. Not dealing with the pesticide and herbicide issue related to Scott River agricultural activities is a CEQA violation.

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Table 3. Top ten pesticides used in the Scott River and Shackleford-Mill Creek watersheds from 1990 to 2004. California Pesticide Use Reporting Database.

Use Rank	Shackleford/Mill	Scott River
1	Paraquat Dichloride	Paraquat Dichloride
2	Trifluralin	Hexazinone
3	Hexazinone	Diuron
4	Metribuzin	Glycophosphate
5	Glycophosphate	2,4-D Dimethylamine Salt
6	2,4-D Dimethylamine Salt	Metribuzin
7	2,4-D Butoxyethanol Ester	2,4-D Butoxyethanol Ester
8	Norflurazon	Trifluralin
9	MCPA, Dimethylamine Salt	2,4-D, Isooctyl Ester
10	Atrazine	Chloropyrifos

### Monitoring and Adaptive Management

CEQA requires that data provided to support environmental reviews must be “generally available to the public” and “reasonably available for inspection.” While the DEIR states that the Siskiyou RCD will provide data to CDFG, there is no mention of mechanisms or plans to share data with the scientific community and the public. Collison et al. (2003) point out that the scientific validity of any project can only be judged when raw data are provided. CEQA also states that “information developed in individual environmental impact reports be incorporated into a data base which can be used to reduce delay and duplication in preparation of subsequent environmental impact reports” (§ 21003). This requirement is even more important with regard to the Scott River Watershed Wide Permitting Program because in many cases private parties that are employees or contractors for extraction interests will be collecting the data. The recent precedent of CDFG is to not provide raw

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ehib.org/tool.jsp?tool\\_key=18](http://www.ehib.org/tool.jsp?tool_key=18)

data from private land owners using the rationale that, if information is disclosed, it would put the parties at a competitive disadvantage. Exemptions from full data sharing under CEQA recognize only “trade secrets” as a valid reason (§21160) and the circumstance of Scott Valley farmers and ranchers do not meet the criteria:

”Trade secrets,’ as used in this section, may include, but are not limited to, any formula, plan, pattern, process, tool, mechanism, compound, procedure, production data, or compilation of information which is not patented, which is known only to certain individuals within a commercial concern who are using it to fabricate, produce, or compound an article of trade or a service having commercial value and which gives its user an opportunity to obtain a business advantage over competitors who do not know or use it.”

34-22  
cont.

If CDFG and the Siskiyou RCD were genuinely interested in recovering coho salmon they would willingly share data through a publicly available system, such as from the CDFG website.

Monitoring under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program would involve only site specific studies to see if restoration projects were working, when in fact what is needed is basin wide trend monitoring using standard techniques to quantitatively measure whether conditions become more supportive of coho salmon. For example, water temperature data needs to be collected systematically at widespread locations annually, pool volume trends (V\*) (Hilton and Lisle 1992) need to be monitored in French Creek and other Westside tributaries with decomposed granitic sediment problems and bulk gravel samples should be collected at least every five years at the same locations as previously monitored (Sommarstrom et al. 1990, Sommarstrom 2000).

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The DEIR states that the Siskiyou RCD “may opt to utilize photographs for additional effectiveness monitoring, when it believes photographs will enhance its ability to report on effectiveness of implemented activities and practices.” The fact that the Permittee is not willing to provide photo documentation as a routine for every project does not show a tendency for full disclosure necessary for public trust protection and is unsatisfactory. While CDFG sees an increased role for itself in monitoring juvenile and adult coho salmon, the DEIR states that it is contingent on “additional funds for equipment, operations, and temporary field personnel.” It does not discuss how coho salmon monitoring needs would be accomplished under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program if funding is not forthcoming.

### Steps Needed for Scott River Coho Salmon Population Viability

The measures called for in the DEIR such as incremental changes in grazing practices, paying for maintenance of stream flow, and planting shade trees in riparian zones will not likely reverse coho decline or avoid further jeopardy. The preponderance of high intrinsic potential coho salmon habitat in the Scott River is on the valley floor and in lower tributary reaches (Williams et al. 2006). These low gradient reaches were formerly the most productive for coho salmon and they must be restored at least in part to regain population viability. Reeves et al. (1995) point out that viable refugia must be set aside for successful Pacific salmon recovery. Because of warm inland air temperatures and the historical

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dependence of coho on stable, slow water side channels and features like beaver ponds, at least selected alluvial valley reaches need to be fully reconnected to their floodplains. Coho salmon are much more likely to be recovered if easements or acquisition of extensive riparian zones in Shackleford, French Creek, South Fork and East Fork are arranged, livestock excluded, water rights re-apportioned and channels reconnected to the floodplain. These streams are among the last to have significant numbers of coho salmon and must be secured as a priority (Bradbury et al. 1995) because sub-populations within them retain critical gene resources.

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cont.

The DEIR only mentions easements in passing, but they are a major tool in Maine for Atlantic salmon restoration (NMFS 2004), where some streams like the Pleasant River have almost their entire riparian zones protected. The DEIR also touches on reintroduction of beaver as part of the solution, but without acquisition of easements it is unlikely. There are some good projects like Flow Enhancement Mitigation 6 in the upper East Fork Scott drainage that are steps in the right direction, but reconnection of this potential refugia may take seven years and the unaddressed problems on the lower East Fork may confound ultimate success.

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While the DEIR deals exclusively with agricultural impacts to Scott River coho salmon, effects of timber harvest in the basin are widespread. Reeves et al. (1993) note that timber harvest in over 25% of a watershed in less than 30 years leads to 10-45% reduction in pool frequency, decreased availability of large wood and diminished species diversity of Pacific salmon. Disturbance rates of uplands need to be decreased and forest stand conditions recovered in elevation susceptible to rain-on-snow events (2500-4000') or elevated peak discharge is likely to continue to disrupt channel conditions similar to the January 1997 storm (de la Fuente and Elder 1998, Kier Associates 1999). As a matter of urgency, CDFG needs to work with the NCRWQCB and California Department of Forestry to protect riparian zones from harvest in stream reaches known to be used by coho salmon. Change-scene detection from CDF using Landsat5 imagery from 1994 and 1998 (Fisher 2003) shows that riparian zones were heavily logged in that period (Figure 13). If continuing problems persist with short timber harvest rotations and logging road construction, it may be desirable to swap federal and private land in various Scott River tributary watersheds and manage land as Key Watersheds (FEMAT 1993) to allow full hydrologic recovery and to prevent cumulative effects that disrupt downstream reaches set aside for coho protection.

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Probably the greatest need for restoring Scott River coho salmon is for CDFG, SWRCB WRD, DWR and the NCRWQCB to do a better job of enforcing existing laws. With the exception of the NCRWQCB, this does not seem likely since there is no specific language in the DEIR that shows this intent. In fact, the DEIR states that only non-enforcement CDFG personnel can visit permittee and sub-permittee's property and that 48 hours notice would be required.

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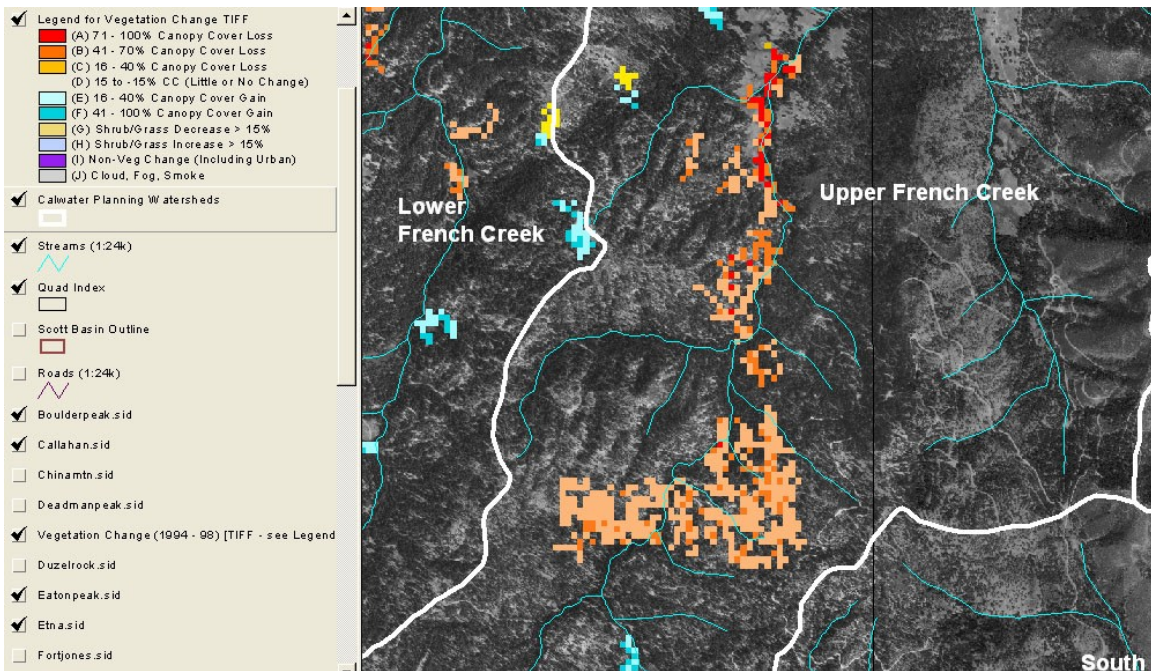


Figure 13. Vegetation change derived by comparing 1994 and 1998 Landsat images shows substantial decrease in riparian canopy of along almost the entire length of French Creek (red = 70-100%, orange = 41-70%). USGS 1:24000 streams are in light blue. Data are from CDF and USFS Spatial Analysis Lab.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The proposed ITP and DEIR lack a process to quantify or measure coho “take” therefore is unclear how protection actions will function or mitigation for “take” can be justified.

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The DEIR describes agricultural impacts in generic terms, without details or linkages to coho ecology. A clear understanding of agricultural impacts is needed to protect and or mitigate “take” of coho salmon. The basic understanding of coho ecology in the Scott River and Shasta River is limited due to many factors including; the lack of on the ground assessments and studies on agricultural impacts, limited landowner cooperation and limited funding. There is a general reluctance by CDFG to prioritize funding studies and research because these projects lack tangibles (e.g. miles of habitat restored) otherwise found with on the ground restoration projects.

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The “Programmatic Approach” described in the DEIR is problematic because it assumes all impacts from agricultural users are shared while some users may have greater impacts than others. Accountability of impacts from individual users is diluted due the programmatic approach therefore enforcement of ITP protection measures is limited.

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Studies that link coho ecology to problems derived from agricultural practices covered in the proposed ITP should be implemented and considered so that actions in the DEIR are scientifically justified. Furthermore, funding on the ground restorations actions has been prioritized by CDFG, but without the proper linkages to coho salmon ecological needs. This is relevant because the same salmon restoration actions CDFG typically funds are listed in

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the ITP as mitigation measured for losses of coho salmon, but without scientific evidence such actions will benefit coho.

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| cont.

**CONCLUSION**

The DEIR and the proposed Scott River Watershed Wide Permitting Program for coho salmon marks a dramatic shift from historical struggles by CDFG to maintain flows and fish in the basin. While the DEIR buys into the Siskiyou RCD argument that Westside Scott River tributaries naturally went dry, CDFG (1974) memos from the 1970’s state that many of these streams (Kidder, Etna, Patterson) were going dry during summer for the first time. CDFG (1974) was fighting with the SWRCB WRD to provide more flow for the Scott River: “The flows required to maintain fishery values and support heavy agricultural diversions clearly are not in the system during the latter part of July, August, and often in September.” Now this statement stretches through October, November, and in falls with little rain, through December.

Now CDFG has given up the fight for protection of flows, fish and public trust and wishes to delegate its authority back to water extraction interests. The following passage from the DEIR is illustrative of this point:

“The ITP will require that the Siskiyou RCD to improve baseline instream flows and/or water quality in critical reaches of the Scott River and its tributaries and at critical life stages of coho salmon by installing water efficiency improvement projects and/or water management improvement projects on sub-permittees properties or by changing or adding points of diversion to keep flows in streams to point of use. Within one year of effective date of the ITP, SQRCD will provide to CDFG, for its review and approval, a list of priority stream reaches for flow enhancement and/or water quality based on coho salmon life stage need.”

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The problems embedded in the foregoing passage are numerous. The statement that the Siskiyou RCD will improve flows “and/or water quality” implies that improving water quality and meeting water quality standards is optional, when in fact it is legally required. As the passage continues, we find that CDFG and the Permittee will only restore flow to “critical reaches” during “critical life stages for coho salmon”, implying that non-coho bearing streams or reaches out of the season of coho use will continue to be dried up in violation of §5937. There are many diversions extracting large amounts of water above the highest point of anadromy in the Scott basin, for example Shackleford Creek alone has three. The topper is the Siskiyou RCD will come back to CDFG within a year and will define which Scott River reaches will be recovered for coho salmon. CDFG codes do not allow some streams to be sacrificed and others to be saved, and it is particularly inappropriate for the water users and diverters to make critical decisions regarding coho salmon conservation.

The DEIR not only fails CEQA compliance tests on use of “best science”, cumulative watershed effects and data sharing, it also runs counter to CEQA’s direction on efficient use of resources which is “to conserve the available financial, governmental, physical, and social resources with the objective that those resources may be better applied toward the mitigation of actual significant effects on the environment”. CDFG has spent \$750,000 on preparation of a DEIR that is deficient regarding key scientific issues and insufficient to avoid continuing

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jeopardy to the Scott River coho salmon population. CDFG should have spent that money on enforcing existing laws and getting stream flow back in the Scott River.

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Previous comments (QVIR 2005, 2006) have pointed out that there is an urgent need to rebuild at risk Pacific salmon populations in advance of climatic oscillations in the north Pacific Ocean (Hare and Mantua 1999), which will shift to unfavorable ocean conditions and dry on land sometime between the years 2015 and 2025 (Collison et al. 2003). Timelines in the ITP need to reflect urgency, whereas the current DEIR allows seven years for some critical steps like getting fish passage at the Scott Valley Irrigation District diversion dam.

| 34-34

Scott River coho salmon cannot be managed at current extremely low levels because the likelihood of loss due to storms or other stochastic events is high (Rieman et al. 1993). Coho populations must be aggressively rebuilt by providing refugia (Reeves et al. 1995) in habitats that have high intrinsic potential (Williams et al. 2006) and anthropogenic stressors like cows in the riparian zone need to be eliminated to allow full riparian and hydrologic recovery (Kaufmann et al. 1997).

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The current DEIR and proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program would provide subsidies (i.e. paying for short-term water) and legal protections to farm and ranch operations in the name of protecting endangered species. Rather than enforcing existing laws and protecting public trust resources, CDFG has neglected its duties and instead proposed a Program that would offer only marginal benefits to coho salmon while allowing larger ongoing cumulative threats (i.e. excessive water use) to continue unabated. Without addressing the factors that have driven coho salmon into jeopardy, the Watershed Wide Permitting Program will be ineffective and hence should not be enacted.

| 34-36

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December 9, 2008

RE: Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program

Mr. Bob Williams,

The Quartz Valley Indian Reservation’s Environmental Protection Department has reviewed and is providing detailed comments on the Draft *Environmental Impact Report for the Scott River Watershed –Wide Permitting Program*.

35-1

As you are aware, the Reservation is located on Shackelford Creek in Quartz Valley, a sub-basin within the Scott River Watershed. Quartz Valley offers spawning and rearing habitat to coho salmon and it is in the best interest of the Tribe to protect, restore and preserve this habitat for the existing and future prosperity of the Tribal way of life.

Upon review of the Program’s Draft EIR, we find it inadequate in meeting the obligations set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act. Enforcement of existing laws and regulations is necessary to recover salmonids in the Scott River Watershed. Currently there is a lack of enforcement of existing DFG laws for such activities proposed to occur under the Scott River Watershed –Wide Permitting Program. It is DFG’s responsibility to enforce and uphold these laws to recover the federal and state listed coho salmon.

35-2

We thank you for your time and consideration of the detailed comments provided.

Sincerely,

Crystal Bowman  
Environmental Director  
Quartz Valley Tribal Environmental Program

MEMORANDUM REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) appears to have noted receipt of the relevant materials (e.g., QVIR 2005) and recommendations (QVIR 2006) submitted earlier by the Quartz Valley Tribe concerning the proposed development of a Scott River coho salmon Incidental Take Permit (ITP), few if any of the issues of substance raised by the Tribe in their submittals to CDFG have actually been addressed by the Department in its *Draft Environmental Impact Report* (DEIR).

35-3

The DEIR is driven by an ITP proposal submitted by the Scott River valley farming community (Siskiyou RCD 2005). The DEIR fails to address the issues of streamflow and groundwater depletion and their associated water quality problems, which are the documented root causes of coho salmon decline in the Scott River watershed.

While the measures recommended might improve some conditions for coho salmon, at the margin and at substantial cost, taken together, they will not improve stream conditions sufficiently to assure that actions to be permitted under the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program will not cause further jeopardy to the species. The DEIR does not, therefore, meet the requirements of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) nor those of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and it is, in our view, open to successful challenge in court should CDFG proceed to adopt only a lightly revised final version of this EIR.

35-4

The DEIR clearly fails CEQA's requirements for the use of best available science. The DEIR adopts assumptions reached in Siskiyou RCD's gray literature (i.e. Quigley et al. 2001 and Yokel 2006) and treats these as established authorities although the reports have never been provided scientific review. These reports fail to incorporate data collection from areas of the basin other than the Scott valley; therefore, conclusions are made from monitoring locations granting permission and may not be representative of large portions of the valley. Study designs tend to be poor due to landowner access and QA/QC measures are inadequate. For example, without water quality conditions suitable for salmonids in the Scott River canyon, salmonid adults may not be able to migrate into the valley to spawn. Likewise, juvenile outmigration and rearing can be greatly effected; reports since 2005 by both the USFS Klamath National Forest and Quartz Valley Tribe have documented unsuitable conditions, throughout the reach surveyed from Shackelford Creek to the mouth, for salmonids during the summer monitoring period.

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The lack of discussion of major issues such as the connection between surface- and groundwater severely undermine the DEIR's credibility.

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Data sharing is another requirement of CEQA. While the DEIR says that the Siskiyou RCD will share data with CDFG, there is no explanation of how that information will be shared with the scientific community and the public. CEQA also requires that the lead

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agencies create a “data base which can be used to reduce delay and duplication in preparation of subsequent environmental impact reports” yet there is no discussion in the DEIR of the intent or obligation of CDFG to share raw data.

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Monitoring under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program would target only those sites where projects are to be carried out. There is no clear commitment to the use of standard monitoring methods capable of providing monitoring data sufficient for determining whether the whole Scott River ecosystem is trending in a positive direction for coho salmon. Rather, the monitoring proposed appears to be restricted to monitoring the effect of specific restoration projects on the immediate vicinity of such projects. Once again, we assume this is due to landowner access however, according to the North Coast *Basin Plan* one beneficial use of the Scott River is navigation. This indicates permission is only needed to access the creek, once within the high-water mark you can walk anywhere on the river.

35-8

While the DEIR mentions cooperation with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and its North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) in implementing the Total Maximum Daily Load for the Scott River (NCRWQCB 2006), the absence of a commitment to monitoring water temperature at established monitoring sites or to using sediment trend measurements like pool volume (Hilton and Lisle 1993) suggest there will be little substantive coordination with the SWRCB or the NCRWQCB.

35-9

Finally, many of the actions that CDFG, the SWRCB’s Water Rights Division (WRD) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) would perform under the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program certainly do not need this program in order to go forward. These agencies have, in fact, neglected these enforcement duties, resulting cumulatively in continuing, elevated “take” of coho salmon.

35-10

To the extent that the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program will simply legitimate current land and water use practices in the Scott River valley, without requiring a larger commitment to the protection of coho salmon, the State shall be giving the color of legitimacy to such actions and prospects for the recovery of public trust resources in the Scott River valley shall be set back substantially.

**DETAILED COMMENTS**

**Jeopardy Issues**

CDFG asserts in its DEIS that April 25, 2005 conditions are the baseline for the proposed project and argues that only positive change will result from the Program. In fact, the evidence presented in the DEIR shows drastic reductions in surface flow in the Scott River in recent years as a result of increased surface and groundwater use (Van Kirk and Naman 2008). The document admits that the flow levels adjudicated to the U S Forest Service for salmon protection in the Scott River canyon (SWRCB 1980) are not being met.

35-11

The DEIR repeatedly discusses coho salmon habitat destruction in the Scott River valley as a matter of fact, but it then fails to make clear how such destruction will be abated to prevent the further “take” of the species. Instead, the DEIR suggests that instream structures and mitigations designed to reduce impacts (i.e. publicly funded fish screens) will somehow improve the coho salmon population.

That fact is that the same activities that have led to the collapse of the Scott River ecosystem and its ability to support coho salmon will continue under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. The incremental changes to existing practices will not prove sufficient to enable coho population rebuilding. Coho salmon will therefore remain in jeopardy of extinction due to the actions permitted by the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program. The requirements of CESA and CEQA shall not have been met.

The DEIR states that:

“This Permit may be terminated by the Department at its sole discretion if circumstances or new information provides evidence that continued program implementation may result in jeopardy to coho salmon, or if such termination is required by law or court order. For the purpose of the Permit, ‘jeopardy’ includes, but is not limited to, to the probable extirpation of any coho salmon cohort.”

In fact, there is strong evidence showing that Scott River coho salmon are currently in jeopardy and are likely to remain so. As clearly established by prior submissions (QVIR 2005, 2006), there is currently a problem with two weak year classes, which meets the CDFG definition of jeopardy, above. Table 1 is taken from a report by the Siskiyou RCD (2005) and shows downstream migrant catch of coho salmon in the Scott River with coho missing or at extremely low levels in 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2003. Scott River adult coho salmon returns are often estimated at fewer than 500 adults annually during weak year classes, which is known to be a critically low level for maintaining genetic diversity (Gilpin and Soule 1990) to maintain long-term survival. Year class failures are hard for coho to recover from because females spawn as three year old fish almost exclusively.

Table 1. Coho in California Department of Fish and Game Scott River downstream migrant trap records as taken from Siskiyou RCD (2005) Table 6c.

<b>Grand Total by Species:</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
<i>Steelhead</i>	10181	17693	5943	7127	7980	4158	5008	21982	79887	135319	69823	<b>365101</b>
<i>Coho</i>	15	433	0	253	3	8	538	30	69	30019	50	<b>31418</b>
<i>Chinook</i>	2	266	0	3	1	0	0	365	3191	0	0	<b>3828</b>
<b>Totals =&gt;</b>	<b>10198</b>	<b>18392</b>	<b>5943</b>	<b>7383</b>	<b>7984</b>	<b>4166</b>	<b>5546</b>	<b>22377</b>	<b>83147</b>	<b>165338</b>	<b>69873</b>	<b>400347</b>

The DEIS states that Siskiyou RCD will report to CDFG regarding where coho are located in the Scott River watershed; however, their current distribution should be fully acknowledged and disclosed as part of the baseline conditions description. Landowner access for coho spawning and rearing studies in the Scott basin each year is poor. Relying on the RCD’s knowledge of these areas is inadequate and/or will require assumptions to be made based off a biased and incomplete data set. On Shackelford Creek at the QV reservation, biologists have observed suitable and occupied coho

35-11  
cont.

spawning areas. The spawning areas were then covered by large cobble due to the excessive sediment loads and their geomorphologic movements in response to winter flows. This type of habitat change is occurring across the watershed and it would be foolish to assume an area is salmonid suitable without actually surveying it for both water quality, quantity and habitat characteristics. However, due to landowner access and the internal capacity of the SQRCD, complete surveys are not possible. In the revised EIS, CDFG needs to show how weak year classes would be recovered sufficiently so as to no longer be subjected to jeopardy by the actions permitted in the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program.

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**Surface Water and Groundwater Issues**

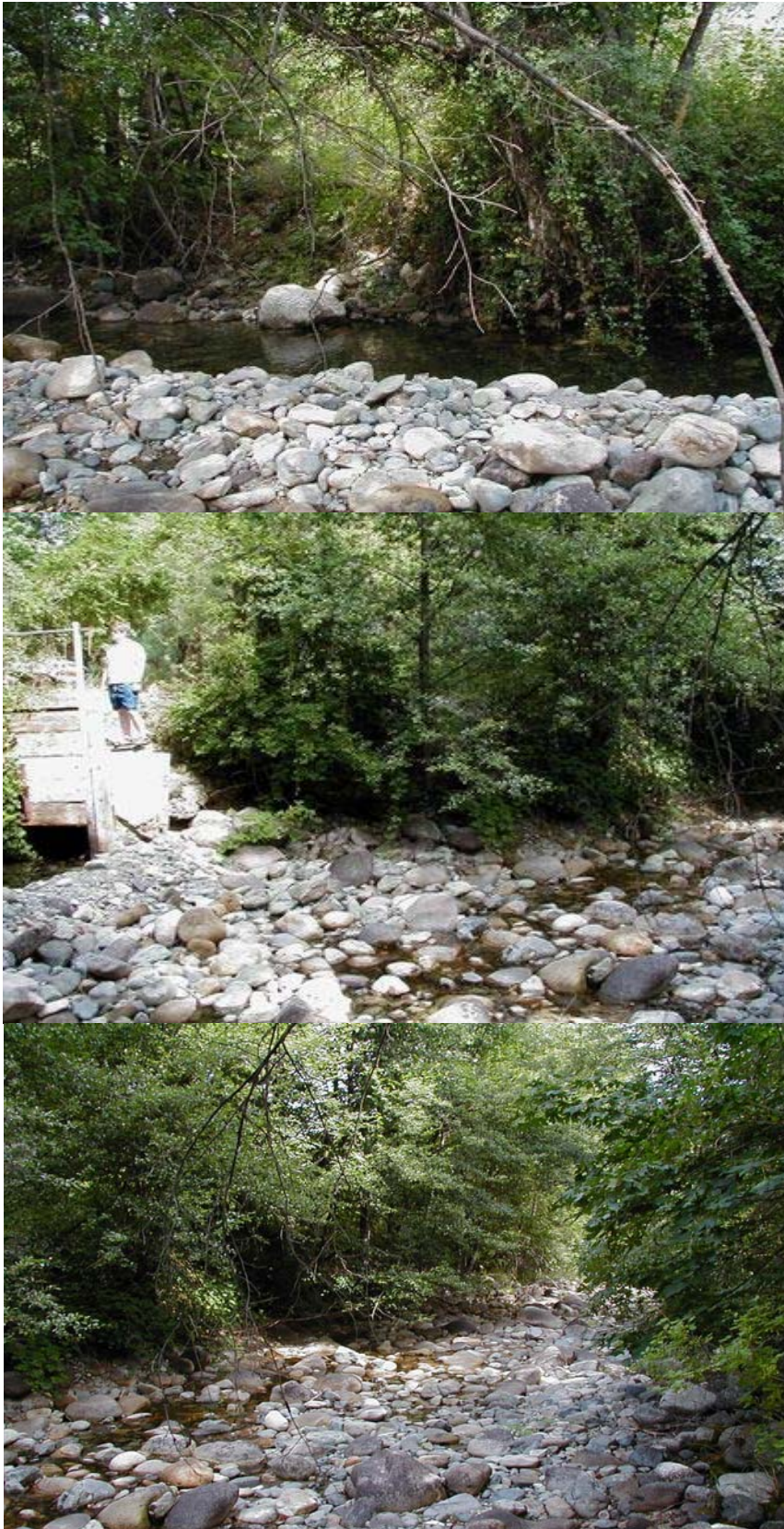
Since the lack of streamflow is one of the principal constraints on coho salmon recovery in the Scott River basin (Kier Associates 1991, NRC 2004), a real solution to water allocation and water supply is needed, but not supplied, in the DEIR or likely under implementation of the Watershed Wide Permitting Program.

California Fish and Game Code §5937 says that CDFG will not allow streams to be dewatered. Many streams throughout the Scott River basin are routinely dried up each year during low flow season in violation of §5937. The DEIR does not mention any plan for CDFG’s enforcement of §5937 under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. Instead, compliance will be largely through “self-enforcement”:

35-12

“Notwithstanding any right the responsible party has to divert and use water, the responsible party shall allow sufficient water to pass over, around, or through any dam the party owns or operates to keep in good condition any fish that may exist below the dam, as required by CDFG Code §5937.”

The DEIR states matter-of-factly that the Scott River Adjudication (SWRCB 1980) “allocates 36.0 cfs to the Farmers Ditch (22.3 cfs for consumptive use and 13.7 cfs for ditch losses). Typically, in August and September the ditch has the right to divert the entire natural flow of the Scott River.” Likewise, photo documentation of such activity occurring on both tributaries Shackleford and Etna Creeks have been collected. This activity is illegal under CDFG Code §5937 and certainly antithetical to coho recovery. A series of three photos (Figure 1) of the Etna Creek diversion is below and clearly shows inadequate flows downstream of the diversion for salmonid habitat. The first photo is looking upstream from the diversion, the second is looking at the diversion and the third photo is looking downstream from the point of diversion. All photos were taken in August of 2003 by NCRWQCB staff, Bryan McFadin.



35-13

Figure 1 Photos of Etna Creek Diversion, top photo—looking upstream of diversion,



middle photo – looking downstream of the diversion, and bottom photo – looking downstream of the diversion. Photo taken by Bryan McFadin, NCRWQCB staff, August 2003.

Neither does the DEIR deal with non-enforcement by the SWRCB’s WRD of California Water Codes § 1052 and § 1243, which state, respectively, that no dams will be constructed without a permit and that sufficient flows in California streams will be maintained to allow for “recreation and the preservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources.” The flow depletion to the point of dewatering of the mainstem Scott River reaches (Figure 2) is ignored in the DEIS and the failure to meet adjudicated levels in the Scott River canyon as required under the SWRCB (1980) adjudication (Figure 3) are dismissed on the basis that the USFS water right is a junior right. Table 2 shows the minimum water flow levels needed to protect fishlife per the USFS’ adjudication of Scott River flows at the Scott River canyon.

Currently (December 2008), the Scott River canyon is receiving 100 cfs at the USGS gauging station for the migration of coho salmon. However, the adjudication calls for 200 cfs between November and March (Figure 3). Currently tributaries around the valley are dry at the confluence with the Scott leaving coho the mainstem for spawning. This is not as ideal given the increased velocity and sediment aggregation in the main channel and the lack of side channels.



Figure 2. The dry bed of the Scott River in a reach near the airport looking upstream, a clear violation of CDFG Code 5937. Photo from KRIS Klamath-Trinity V 3.0 taken by Michael Hentz. 2002.

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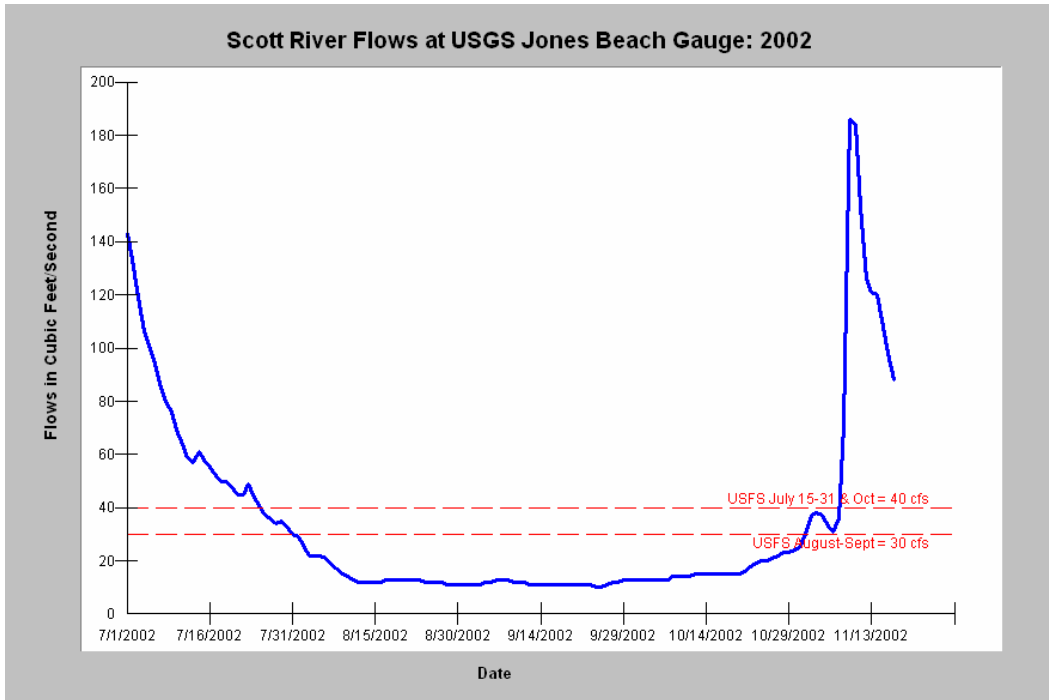


Figure 3. Jones Beach USGS flow gauge data from the irrigation season of 2002 show that flows failed to meet adjudicated levels for the USFS and flows needed for fish migration, spawning and rearing in August, September and October.

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Table 2. Scott River Adjudication instream flow allotment for U.S. Forest Service needs for instream flow in Scott River canyon (CDWR, 1980 as cited in Kier Assoc., 1991).

Period	Flow Requirement in Cubic Feet per Second
November – March	200 cfs
April - June 15	150 cfs
June 16 - June 30	100 cfs
July 1 - July 15	60 cfs
July 16 - July 31	40 cfs
August – September	30 cfs
October	40 cfs

In fact, both CDFG and SWRCB are remiss in their public trust responsibilities for not assisting USFS in securing flows sufficient to maintain coldwater fish in the Scott River.

DWR and its Watermaster Service would be sub-permittees of the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. The DEIR mentions DWR’s role in groundwater studies. The DEIR describes increased coordination with the Watermaster, who after 30 years of inaction and non-enforcement will somehow spring into action and coordinate with CDFG to resolve streamflow issues. The DEIR’s statement that “the watermaster in some instances will need to take certain actions to avoid or minimize the take of coho salmon as it relates

to operating water diversions and managing water in the Program Area,” is not to be taken seriously given the past track record.

In yet another section the DEIR says that a private watermaster might also be a sub-permittee or that such status would be conveyed “through an ITP outside the Program.”

The likelihood of a locally-employed private watermaster increasing enforcement for the benefit of coho salmon when he is an employee or contractor to the water users themselves stretches the imagination.

The huge problem with groundwater allocation and over use is acknowledged in the DEIR, but no solution offered. In fact the increase in groundwater use described by Van Kirk and Naman (2008) (Figure 4) is consistent with the continuing installation of groundwater wells (Figure 5) and decreasing groundwater levels from well logs on the Scott River Valley floor (QVIR 2006). When patterns of long term flows are assessed for whether critical low flow levels drop below 40 cfs, the amount determined to be critical for the viability of salmon on US Forest Service public lands in the Scott River canyon, one can see the pattern of increasing flow depletion ultimately leading to years when adjudicated flow levels from July to October are never met (Figure 6).

The DEIR hypothesizes that all streams on the Westside Scott River Valley went dry historically, but does not provide convincing evidence in its support. In fact, available evidence indicates that this hypothesis is incorrect. For example, CDFG (1974) memos from the 1970’s state that many of these streams (Kidder, Etna, Patterson) were going dry during summer for the first time. Logging and road building in the erodible terrain of the Westside Scott have caused major problems with erosion that have contributed to lack of surface flow (QVIR 2005). In the case of Shackleford Creek, the DEIR and CDFG likely ascribe to this hypothesis because they do not want to be drawn into enforcement of 5937, but the thermal infrared radar surveys (Watershed Sciences Ltd, 2004) show conclusively that the dewatering of Shackleford Creek (Figure 7) and water quality impairment are caused by diversions. Taft and Shapavalov (1935) noted that Shackleford Creek was being dewatered by diversion in 1934 leaving the stream bed dry where it had been historically perennial.



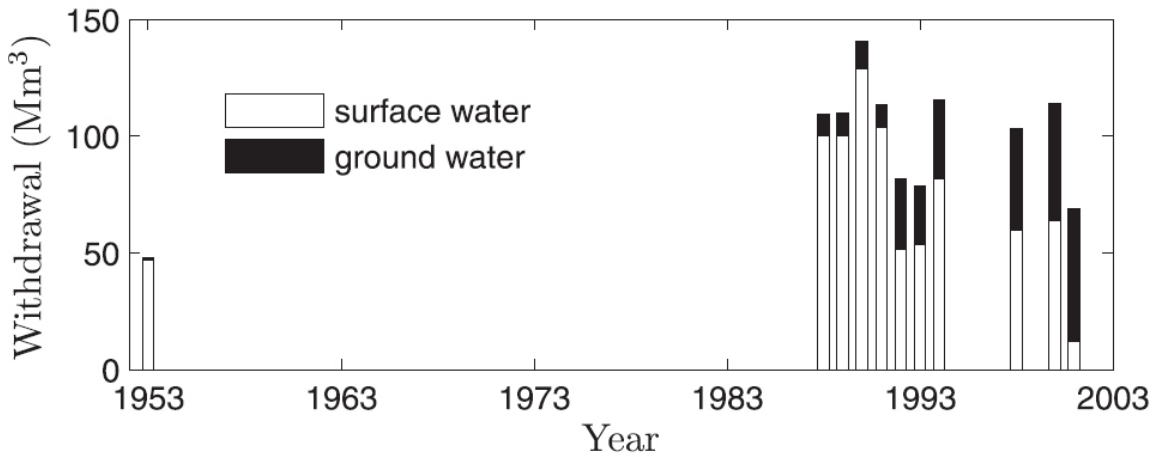


Figure 4. Groundwater and surface water use in the Scott River valley in millions of cubic meters showing a dramatic increase in overall water use, but especially in groundwater use. (This is Figure 7 in Van Kirk and Naman (2008).

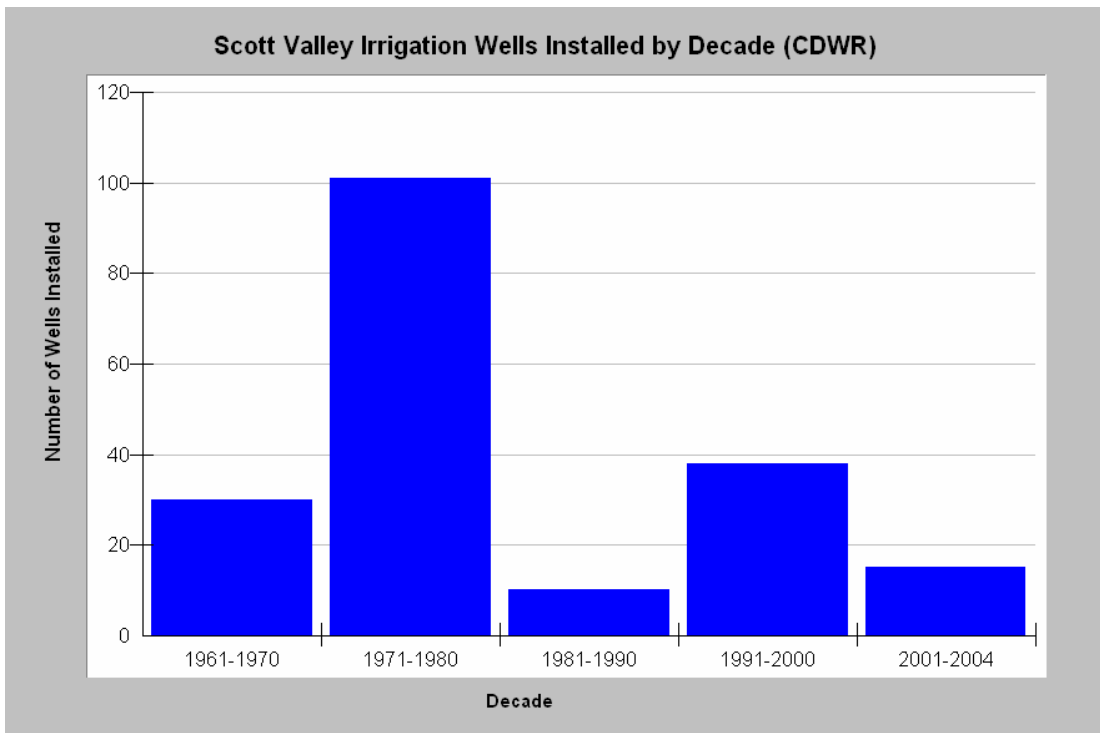


Figure 5. This chart shows the number of irrigation wells installed, by decade, according to California Department of Water Resources records. Not all parties installing wells file with DWR.

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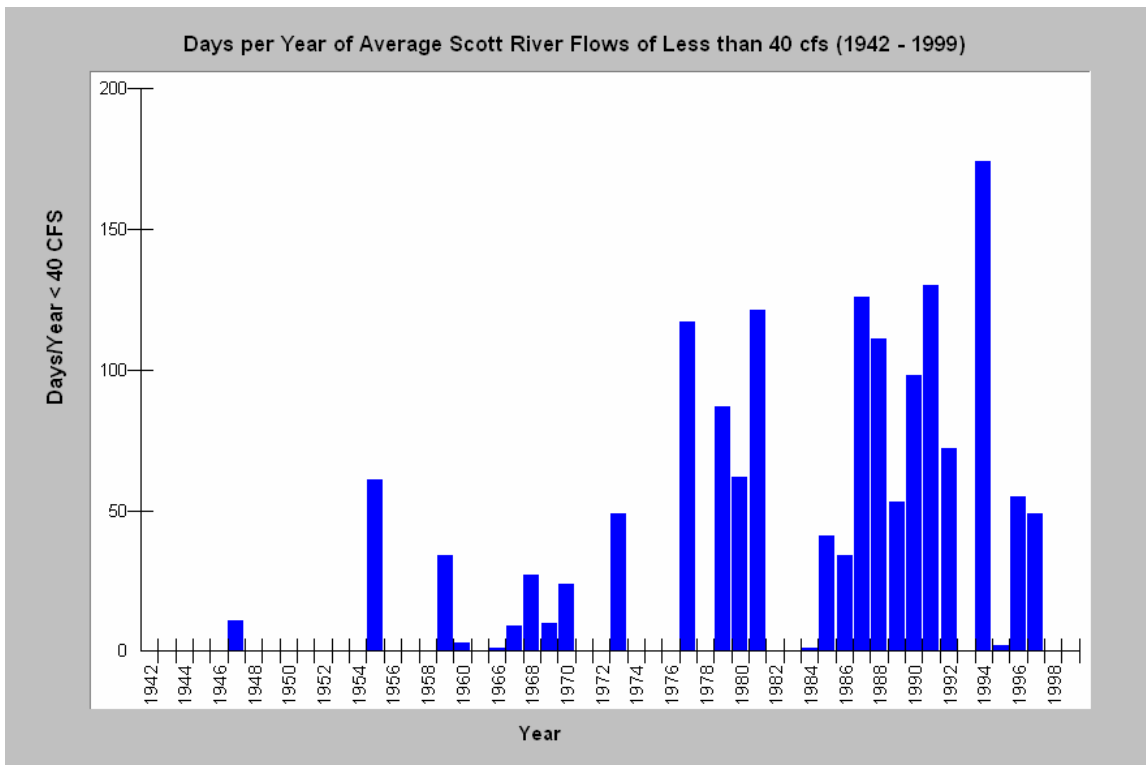


Figure 6. USGS flow data for the Scott River show a dramatic increase in the number of days of less than 40 cubic feet per second streamflow in the Scott River at Ft Jones -- a major increase in such days over the period of record. The 40 cfs level is significant with regard to flows adjudicated to the USFS to maintain salmon viability on public lands. Data from USGS and chart from KRIS V 3.0.

35-14 cont.



Figure 7. This map shows summary data of Scott River Thermal Infrared Radar (TIR) surveys for Shackleford Creek. Note that water temperature warms in a downstream direction as flow is

depleted. Reaches with no temperature coded color are dry (red arrows). Data from Watershed Sciences (2004).

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Because CDFG does not provide a credible plan for reducing groundwater extraction, while over-allocation is leading to take of coho salmon, this aspect of the DEIR is particularly deficient and would ultimately continue the take and jeopardy status under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program.

With regard to surface water, the Scott River coho salmon Watershed Wide Permitting Program would set a particularly bad example where the State or other entities would pay diverters to leave water in the stream when coho salmon were there (Scott River Water Trust), despite the fact that diverters are legally obligated to leave water in the stream already. The Watershed Wide Permitting Program would allow coverage under CESA for actions illegal under other CDFG and California Water codes (§5937 and §1243). The Scott River Water Trust would enable irrigators to negate the additional costs associated with groundwater pumping through the reimbursement of leaving their adjudicated surface water right instream. However, groundwater pumping actions could also have impacts of reducing in-stream flows. The Scott River adjudication has recognized a zone of ground and surface water interaction and other areas in the basin with this type of connection will be better identified through implementation of the groundwater study plan. Therefore, it is really too soon to recommend and/or support such measures be implemented at this time.

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**Baseline Conditions and DEIR Scientific Foundation**

The DEIR states that

“Some of the activities the Program covers are historic, on-going activities that over time have caused and will continue to cause environmental impacts within the Program Area, including, for example, take of coho salmon. These activities and their impacts are part of the baseline and are expected regardless of the Program; that is, they will not be caused by the Program.”

This statement fails to note the role CDFG and other State agencies have played in allowing coho salmon resources to become so reduced as to have to be listed as Threatened or Endangered under both the Federal and California ESA, and placing the Scott River population in jeopardy. In adopting the tone and assumptions of Siskiyou RCD documents (Quigley et al. 2001, Siskiyou RCD 2005), the DEIR strays from good, legally defensible science by focusing analysis and conclusions on valley sites (specifically locations monitored granting access), limited in data collection parameters, frequency, site locations and distribution and often ascribes anthropogenically-caused damage to ecosystem function as “natural conditions.” Failing to understand the linkages between human induced habitat changes means that the DEIR does not address root causes of decline and recommendations for action barely overlap with a priority list that might be arrived at through a more valid scientific approach using a standard Pacific salmon restoration framework (i.e. Bradbury et al. 1995).

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The DEIR describes human activities that cause habitat loss, but never clearly define linkages or need to change land use practices that are causing take of coho salmon:

“Most of the lasting impacts observed today are the collective result of multiple actions and land management decisions, and it is often difficult to tease out the relative influence of any one particular action. Regardless, it is important to understand that historical or continuing practices such as beaver trapping, placer mining, flow regulation, and channel modification can affect contemporary river characteristics for decades, or longer.” (p. 154)

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Recognizing impacts is not enough, actions need to be taken to reverse coho habitat decline and prioritization of remediation needs to be based on peer reviewed, legally defensible science. The SQRCD primarily represents the agricultural landowners and it seems most appropriate that the CDFG in coordination with USFWS, NOAA and Tribes develop recommendations for priority remediation needs related to land uses (e.g. agriculture) for coho salmon. The Shasta and Scott Coho Recovery Team (SSRT) failed to incorporate Tribal coordination until the completion of the document (Scott and Shasta Coho Recovery Plan) at which time one Tribe, Quartz Valley, was invited to join the group.

35-17

Channelization and Diking: True baseline conditions of the Scott River Valley floor before disturbance would have included vast wetlands and beaver habitat (Kier Associates 1991) that promoted surface and groundwater connections and created abundant cold water habitat for coho salmon (Pool and Berman 2000, ODEQ 2008). The DEIR and CDFG fail to understand that floodplains need to be reconnected because disrupted channel conditions promote warming, reduce water storage and eliminate refugia essential to salmonid survival, particularly in large rivers systems like the Scott River that are temperature impaired (U.S. EPA 2003). U.S. EPA (2003) eloquently summarizes the importance of alluvial reaches such as the Scott Valley:

“Alluvial floodplains with a high level of groundwater exchange historically provided high quality habitat that served as cold water refugia during the summer for large rivers in the Columbia River basin and other rivers of the Pacific Northwest. These alluvial reaches are interspersed between bedrock canyons and are like beads on a string along the river continuum. Today, most of the alluvial floodplains are either flooded by dams, altered through diking and channelization, or lack sufficient water to function as refugia.”

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The current condition of the mainstem Scott River and its larger tributaries are profoundly altered (Figure 8) and they are not likely to improve without substantial changes in practices (see Restoration Needs). The DEIR notes that channel straightening on the East Fork is exacerbating problems with bank erosion and causing loss of pools and side channels, but only upper reaches in isolated places are recommended for treatment, our probable conclusion, based on the current restoration trends, is that landowner access is only being granted in the upper reaches. This type of approach to restoration is not enough to recover coho salmon.



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Figure 8. The mainstem Scott River and Etna Creek are confined, channelized and disconnected from wetlands and springs that likely provided coho salmon refugia before human disturbance. Note also that wells next to streams have the potential to deplete cold subsurface contributions. Aerial photo from is from 2005.

Riparian Conditions: The DEIR fails to understand that shade is only one element of riparian function (Pool and Berman 2000). Wide buffers similar to historic gallery forest conditions (true baseline) provided nutrient and bacteria buffering from overland flow, partial temperature buffering for the stream through creation of a cool microclimate, and assisted in maintaining a stable channel thereby reducing erosion. The loss of riparian in some cases, such as Moffett Creek (Figure 9), may be in direct response to drops in groundwater levels (QVIR 2005), and this is another critical issue that the DEIR does not address and that would not be remedied under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. Once streams have lost their riparian zones, their stream channel becomes very wide and shallow contributing to stream warming. Widespread use of easements or acquisitions is needed to allow riparian recovery on a scale necessary to restore coho (see Restoration Needs).

35-19

Nutrient, bacteria and pesticide pollution is also increased with the lack of riparian vegetation. French Creek is a major Scott River coho salmon producer (Maurer 2001) but it is assumed that coho salmon juveniles rear in forested reaches above alluvial valley floors because of poor habitat conditions resulting from agricultural practices, including riparian degradation (Figure 10). However, it is possible, based on salmonid behavior observed during refugia studies by the Tribe and cooperators, that fish are finding groundwater upwelling refuges and holding there as flows drop and ambient temperatures



increase until the stream reach dries at which point then the groundwater refuge accretion stops. The CDFG fish rescue and relocating program is currently being utilized to move fish from these locations (without scientific research supporting the action) to areas of the river with assumed to have suitable temperatures for rearing. Some fish may be migrating upstream to these areas but the percentage, relative to the population of rearing salmon, is unknown. In 2008 from Patterson Creek 21,000 coho juveniles were rescued from the lower reaches and relocated (Mary Olswang communication @ Scott River Watershed Council Fish Committee meeting September 2008). The QV Tribe would like to see a “Salmonid Rescue and Relocate Study” implemented in the Scott River to assess the environmental impacts of this action that has been occurring for the past 50 years.

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Wetlands and Hydrology: Wetlands store water, remove nutrients and bacteria and often discharge cold water that is associated with refugia for Pacific salmon species (U.S. EPA 2003), including coho salmon. The DEIR states that water temperature conditions in the Big Slough would have been warm, but that is not likely the case before disturbance because of typical wetland function (Pool and Berman 2000, ODEQ 2008). The DEIR talks about the unique conditions in the area west of the Scott River between Etna and Kidder Creeks, but does not accurately characterize human-induced changes, instead asserting that conditions are natural. Figure 11 shows where agricultural practices have obliterated the channels of Johnson and Crystal Creeks and Figure 12 shows that Big Slough has been systematically filled to the detriment of ecosystem function for coho salmon. Not only are discussions of wetlands lacking in the DEIR, but also Figure 3.4-3 that is supposed to show wetlands is so blurry it is nearly useless. The DEIR does not address the need to reconnect wetlands and groundwater, which is one of the reasons the implementation of the Watershed Wide Permitting Program will not avoid continued jeopardy for the Scott River coho salmon population.

35-20

Water Quality: The National Research Council (2004) makes a clear case that flow depletion is at the root of temperature problems in the Scott River. As flows drop, transit time for water increases allowing an opportunity for stream warming. If flow problems are not remedied, then temperature problems will not be either and, consequently, temperature sensitive coho salmon (McCullough 1999, Sullivan et al. 2000) will not likely be recovered. The DEIR claims that the Scott River mainstem was too hot historically, citing Quigley et al. (2001) as a basis, but ignores the likely historic role of refugia that would have been associated with side channels, beaver ponds and cold tributary mouths (U.S. EPA 2003).

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The temperature map provided with the DEIR (Figure 3.2:1.1) uses a bracket for temperature categories from 14.8-17.8 C maximum floating weekly average water temperature (MWAT), but an MWAT of 16.8 C is recognized as the regional threshold for presence and absence based on field data (Welsh et al. 2001). Therefore, one cannot even determine whether locations are suitable for coho salmon from the map in the DEIR. This typifies the problem associated with exclusively relying on the Siskiyou RCD for scientific analysis and is another example of why raw data related to the ITP and its implementation need to be supplied to the scientific community and the public.



Figure 9. The Moffett Creek channel lacks definition and riparian trees because of drops in the groundwater due to pumping. The stream was once perennial and harbored coho salmon.



Figure 10. French Creek in an alluvial valley reach, which would have been optimal for coho historically, shows degraded riparian conditions, signs of sediment over-supply, flow depletion and disconnection from the floodplain. Aerial photo 2005.

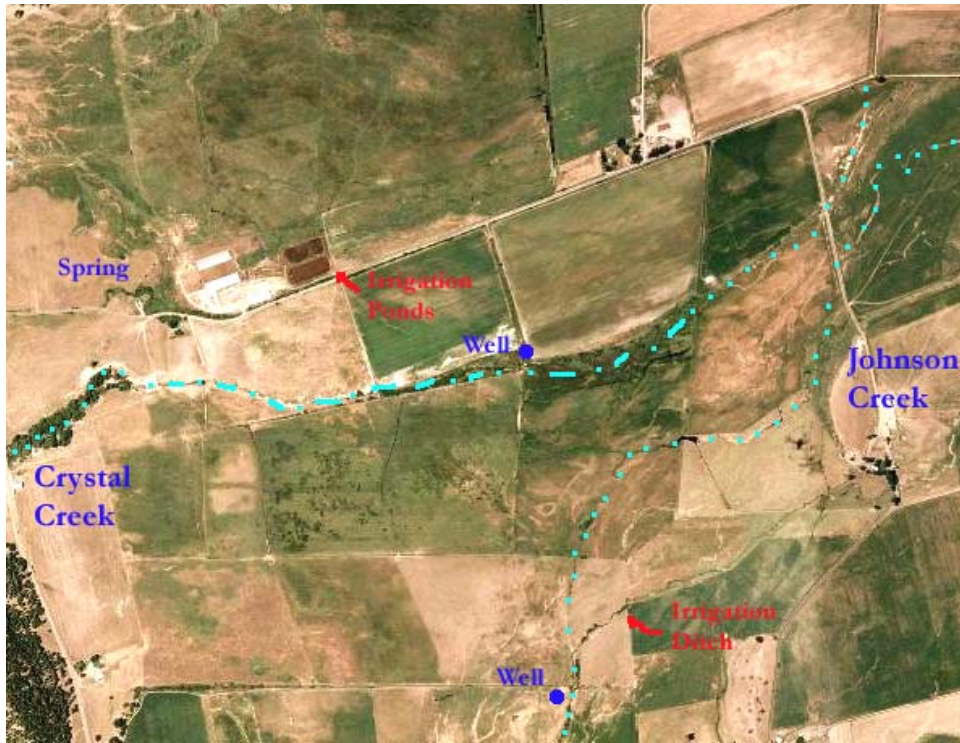


Figure 11. Crystal Creek's channel is at left (blue dots = USGS 1:24000 streams), but it disappears as it crosses the western Scott Valley floor and Johnson Creek is similarly disrupted. Notice that wells are immediately adjacent to old stream courses.

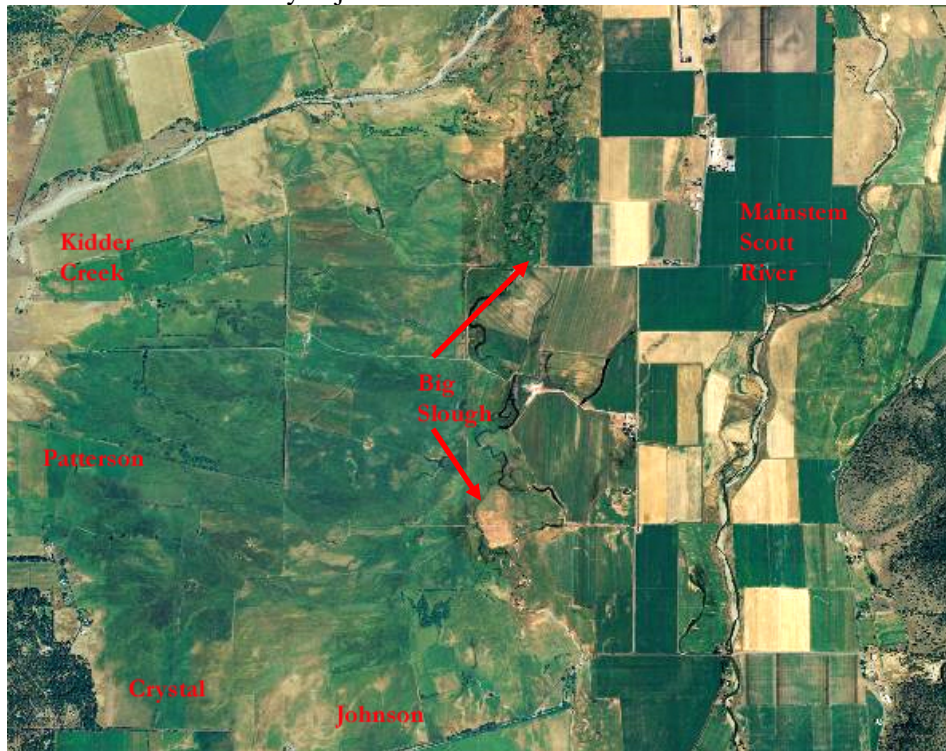


Figure 12. The channel of Big Slough has been filled and cut off (arrows) as have feeder channels from Johnson, Crystal and Patterson Creeks. Note also mainstem channelization.

The DEIR is similarly lacking its analysis of sediment trends in the Scott River mainstem and tributaries. It emphasizes decreasing fine sediment less than 0.85 mm between 1989 and 2000, when fines in this size class are generally not the problem in the Westside Scott River channels under study. In fact, data from Sommarstrom (2000) show that sand size particles (<6.4 mm) are still on the order of two to three times higher than recommended to meet water quality standards (NCRWQCB 2006). Kondolf (2000) showed that particles <6.4 mm decreased salmonid egg and alevin survival by 50% when they exceed 30% of the stream bed and results from the mainstem Scott show some locations have more than 80% sand in 2000 (Figure 12). Only Etna Creek, French Creek and one of mainstem Scott River locations showed decreasing trends while six mainstem sites showed increases.

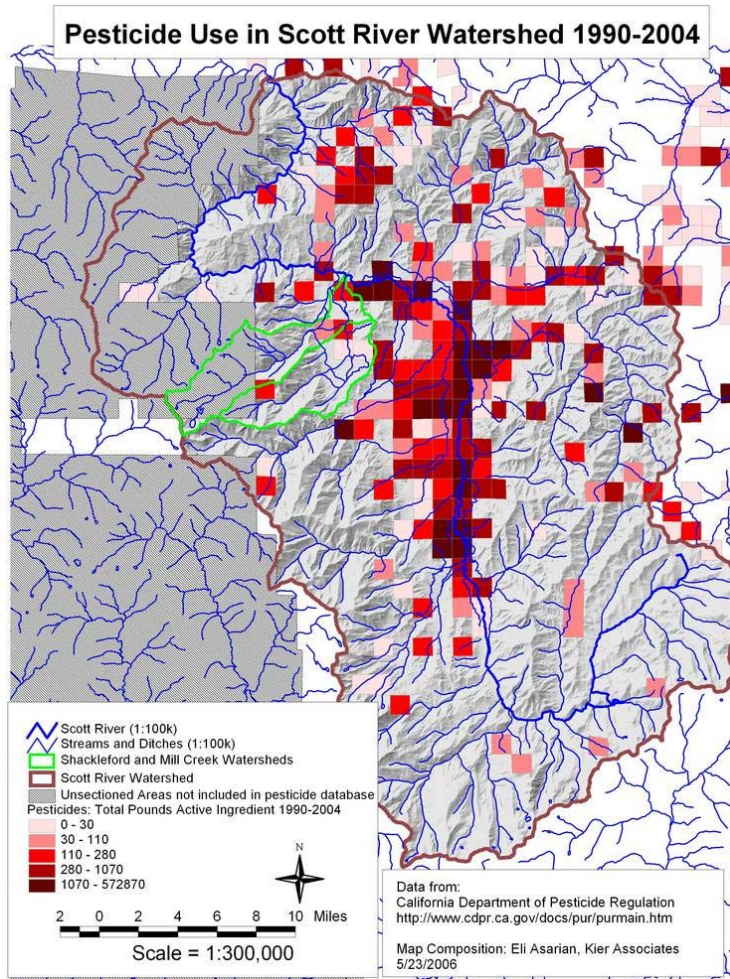
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Cumulative Watershed Effects: CEQA requires a consideration of cumulative impacts because “the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects”. When the combined cumulative impact associated with the project and other projects is not significant, an EIR shall provide analysis and facts supporting this conclusion (Pollack 2002). In order to meet this standard the DEIR would need to show how cumulatively the Watershed Wide Permitting Program will rebuild weak coho year classes by improving coho habitat, including flows, and it has failed in this regard.

The DEIR shows a map of debris torrents and flood damage from de la Fuente and Elder (1998), and describes negative changes in channel conditions. However, there is no discussion about the consequences of channel changes in the alluviated canyon reaches of Middle and Kelsey Creeks and Townsend Gulch, which became unsuitable for coho salmon as a result. The problems in these tributaries, that formerly served as summer refugia for mainstem migrants and summer rearing and out-migrating juveniles, is combined with the loss of mainstem function caused by decreased surface flows that fail to meet USFS adjudication levels as described above.

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The DEIR states that it is easy to stop sediment from roads, but does not deal with issues at the core of hydrologic perturbation, such as the amount of denuded and early seral areas combined with compacted surfaces such as roads and landings. The high amount of damage from the January 1997 storm showed indications of increased peak flows and a survey of vegetative conditions confirm signs of hydrologic risk (QVIC 2005, 2006). The DEIR notes channel damage to the East Fork Scott River from floods, but fails to link it to increased peak discharges associated with high road densities and early seral forest conditions (Jones and Grant 1996). The DEIS recommends gravel enhancement and placement of instream structures, but the success for such measures is limited when upland rates of disturbance are high and potential for increased peak flows and sediment yield is elevated (Frissell and Nawa 1992). Kier Associates (1999) documented high incidence of failure of instream structures in highly disturbed Lower Klamath River watersheds (see Restoration Needs).



35-23

Figure 13. Map showing pesticide use in the Scott River basin. Colors represent cumulative total amount of pesticides used between 1990 and 2004. Data from the California Pesticide Use Reporting Database.

Pesticides and Herbicides: Despite a request in scoping comments (QVIR 2006) for a discussion of pesticide and herbicide use associated with agricultural practices in the Scott River basin, the DEIR fails to mention them. Figure 13 shows the records from the California Pesticide Database and use of chemicals to control weeds in the Scott River basin is concentrated in riparian zones. Thousands of pounds are being applied and many of the compounds used are known to be harmful to salmonids (Ewing 1999, NCAP 1999). NMFS (2008) recently found in a Biological Opinion to the U.S. EPA that products containing chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion have significant effects on endangered species. These three pesticides are currently in use in the Scott River basin (see Table 3, and additional data in the California Pesticide Use Reporting Database<sup>1</sup>). Gilliom et al. (2006) point out that while some highly utilized chemicals like hexazinone may break down quickly in the atmosphere, they can be very persistent in groundwater and USGS surveys commonly find this substance in agricultural aquifers. Not dealing

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ehib.org/tool.jsp?tool\\_key=18](http://www.ehib.org/tool.jsp?tool_key=18)

with the pesticide and herbicide issue related to Scott River agricultural activities is a CEQA violation.

Table 3. Top ten pesticides used in the Scott River and Shackleford-Mill Creek watersheds from 1990 to 2004. California Pesticide Use Reporting Database.

Use Rank	Shackleford/Mill	Scott River
1	Paraquat Dichloride	Paraquat Dichloride
2	Trifluralin	Hexazinone
3	Hexazinone	Diuron
4	Metribuzin	Glycophosphate
5	Glycophosphate	2,4-D Dimethylamine Salt
6	2,4-D Dimethylamine Salt	Metribuzin
7	2,4-D Butoxyethanol Ester	2,4-D Butoxyethanol Ester
8	Norflurazon	Trifluralin
9	MCPA, Dimethylamine Salt	2,4-D, Isooctyl Ester
10	Atrazine	Chloropyrifos

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### Monitoring and Adaptive Management

CEQA requires that data provided to support environmental reviews must be “generally available to the public” and “reasonably available for inspection.” While the DEIR states that the Siskiyou RCD will provide data to CDFG, there is no mention of mechanisms or plans to share data with the scientific community and the public. Collison et al. (2003) point out that the scientific validity of any project can only be judged when raw data are provided. CEQA also states that “information developed in individual environmental impact reports be incorporated into a data base which can be used to reduce delay and duplication in preparation of subsequent environmental impact reports” (§ 21003). This requirement is even more important with regard to the Scott River Watershed Wide Permitting Program because in many cases private parties that are employees or contractors for extraction interests will be collecting the data. The recent precedent of CDFG is to not provide raw data from private land owners using the rationale that, if information is disclosed, it would put the parties at a competitive disadvantage. Exemptions from full data sharing under CEQA recognize only “trade secrets” as a valid reason (§21160) and the circumstance of Scott Valley farmers and ranchers do not meet the criteria:

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“Trade secrets,’ as used in this section, may include, but are not limited to, any formula, plan, pattern, process, tool, mechanism, compound, procedure, production data, or compilation of information which is not patented, which is known only to certain individuals within a commercial concern who are using it to fabricate, produce, or compound an article of trade or a service having commercial value and which gives its user an opportunity to obtain a business advantage over competitors who do not know or use it.”

If CDFG and the Siskiyou RCD were genuinely interested in recovering coho salmon they would willingly share data through a publicly available system, such as the Klamath Resource Information System ([www.krisweb.com](http://www.krisweb.com)) that is in the public domain and available for use without charge.

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Monitoring under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program would involve only site specific studies to see if restoration projects were working, when in fact what is needed is basin wide trend monitoring using standard techniques to quantitatively measure whether conditions become more supportive of coho salmon. For example, water temperature data needs to be collected systematically at widespread locations annually, pool volume trends (V\*) (Hilton and Lisle 1992) need to be monitored in French Creek and other Westside tributaries with decomposed granitic sediment problems and bulk gravel samples should be collected at least every five years at the same locations as previously monitored (Sommarstrom et al. 1990, Sommarstrom 2000).

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The DEIR states that the Siskiyou RCD “may opt to utilize photographs for additional effectiveness monitoring, when it believes photographs will enhance its ability to report on effectiveness of implemented activities and practices.” The fact that the Permittee is not willing to provide photo documentation as a routine for every project does not show a tendency for full disclosure necessary for public trust protection and is unsatisfactory. While CDFG sees an increased role for itself in monitoring juvenile and adult coho salmon, the DEIR states that it is contingent on “additional funds for equipment, operations, and temporary field personnel.” It does not discuss how coho salmon monitoring needs would be accomplished under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program if funding is not forthcoming.

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### Steps Needed for Scott River Coho Salmon Population Viability

The measured called for in the DEIR such as incremental changes in grazing practices, paying for maintenance of stream flow, and planting shade trees in riparian zones will not likely reverse coho decline or avoid further jeopardy. The preponderance of high intrinsic potential coho salmon habitat in the Scott River is on the valley floor and in lower tributary reaches (Williams et al. 2006). These low gradient reaches were formerly the most productive for coho salmon and they must be restored at least in part to regain population viability. Reeves et al. (1995) point out that viable refugia must be set aside for successful Pacific salmon recovery. Because of warm inland air temperatures and the historical dependence of coho on stable, slow water side channels and features like beaver ponds, at least selected alluvial valley reaches need to be fully reconnected to their floodplains. Coho salmon are much more likely to be recovered if easements or acquisition of extensive riparian zones in Shackelford, French Creek, South Fork and East Fork are arranged, livestock excluded, water rights re-apportioned and channels reconnected to the floodplain. These streams are among the last to have significant numbers of coho salmon and must be secured as a priority (Bradbury et al. 1995) because sub-populations within them retain critical gene resources.

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The DEIR only mentions easements in passing, but they are a major tool in Maine for Atlantic salmon restoration (NMFS 2004), where some streams like the Pleasant River have almost their entire riparian zones protected. The DEIR also touches on reintroduction of beaver as part of the solution, but without acquisition of easements it is unlikely. There are some good projects like Flow Enhancement Mitigation 6 in the upper East Fork Scott drainage that are steps in the right direction, but reconnection of this potential refugia may take seven years and the unaddressed problems on the lower East Fork may confound ultimate success.

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While the DEIR deals exclusively with agricultural impacts to Scott River coho salmon, effects of timber harvest in the basin are widespread. Reeves et al. (1993) note that timber harvest in over 25% of a watershed in less than 30 years leads to 10-45% reduction in pool frequency, decreased availability of large wood and diminished species diversity of Pacific salmon. Disturbance rates of uplands need to be decreased and forest stand conditions recovered in elevation susceptible to rain-on-snow events (2500-4000') or elevated peak discharge is likely to continue to disrupt channel conditions similar to the January 1997 storm (de la Fuente and Elder 1998, Kier Associates 1999). As a matter of urgency, CDFG needs to work with the NCRWQCB and California Department of Forestry to protect riparian zones from harvest in stream reaches known to be used by coho salmon. Change-scene detection from CDF using Landsat5 imagery from 1994 and 1998 (Fisher 2003) shows that riparian zones were heavily logged in that period (Figure 13). If continuing problems persist with short timber harvest rotations and logging road construction, it may be desirable to swap federal and private land in various Scott River tributary watersheds and manage land as Key Watersheds (FEMAT 1993) to allow full hydrologic recovery and to prevent cumulative effects that disrupt downstream reaches set aside for coho protection.

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Probably the greatest need for restoring Scott River coho salmon is for CDFG, SWRCB WRD, DWR and the NCRWQCB to do a better job of enforcing existing laws. With the exception of the NCRWQCB, this does not seem likely since there is no specific language in the DEIR that shows this intent. In fact, the DEIR states that only non-enforcement CDFG personnel can visit permittee and sub-permittee's property and that 48 hours notice would be required.

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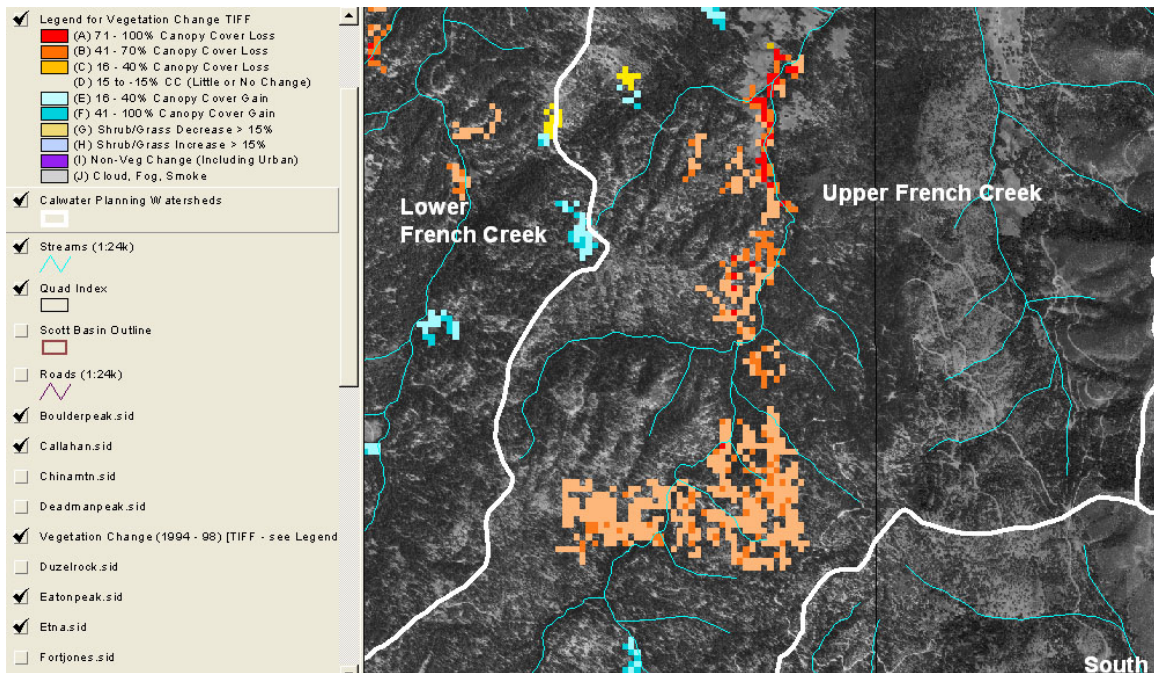


Figure 13. Vegetation change derived by comparing 1994 and 1998 Landsat images shows substantial decrease in riparian canopy of along almost the entire length of French Creek (red = 70-100%, orange = 41-70%). USGS 1:24000 streams are in light blue. Data are from CDF and USFS Spatial Analysis Lab.

## CONCLUSION

The DEIR and the proposed Scott River Watershed Wide Permitting Program for coho salmon marks a dramatic shift from historical struggles by CDFG to maintain flows and fish in the basin. While the DEIR buys into the Siskiyou RCD argument that Westside Scott River tributaries naturally went dry, CDFG (1974) memos from the 1970's state that many of these streams (Kidder, Etna, Patterson) were going dry during summer for the first time. CDFG (1974) was fighting with the SWRCB WRD to provide more flow for the Scott River: "The flows required to maintain fishery values and support heavy agricultural diversions clearly are not in the system during the latter part of July, August, and often in September." Now this statement stretches through October, November, and in falls with little rain, through December.

Now CDFG has given up the fight for protection of flows, fish and public trust and wishes to delegate its authority back to water extraction interests. The following passage from the DEIR is illustrative of this point:

"The ITP will require that the Siskiyou RCD to improve baseline instream flows and/or water quality in critical reaches of the Scott River and its tributaries and at critical life stages of coho salmon by installing water efficiency improvement projects and/or water management improvement projects on sub-permittees properties or by changing or adding points of diversion to keep flows in streams to point of use. Within one year of effective date of the ITP, SQRCD will provide

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to CDFG, for its review and approval, a list of priority stream reaches for flow enhancement and/or water quality based on coho salmon life stage need.”

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The problems embedded in the foregoing passage are numerous. The statement that the Siskiyou RCD will improve flows “and/or water quality” implies that improving water quality and meeting water quality standards is optional, when in fact it is legally required. As the passage continues, we find that CDFG and the Permittee will only restore flow to “critical reaches” during “critical life stages for coho salmon”, implying that non-coho bearing streams or reaches out of the season of coho use will continue to be dried up in violation of §5937. There are many diversions extracting large amounts of water above the highest point of anadromy in the Scott basin, for example, Shackleford Creek alone has three. The topper is the Siskiyou RCD will come back to CDFG within a year and will define which Scott River reaches will be recovered for coho salmon. CDFG codes do not allow some streams to be sacrificed and others to be saved, and it is particularly inappropriate for the water users and diverters to make critical decisions regarding coho salmon conservation.

The DEIR not only fails CEQA compliance tests on use of “best science”, cumulative watershed effects and data sharing, it also runs counter to CEQA’s direction on efficient use of resources which is “to conserve the available financial, governmental, physical, and social resources with the objective that those resources may be better applied toward the mitigation of actual significant effects on the environment”. CDFG has spent \$750,000 on preparation of a DEIR that is deficient regarding key scientific issues and insufficient to avoid continuing jeopardy to the Scott River coho salmon population. CDFG should have spent that money on enforcing existing laws and getting stream flow back in the Scott River.

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Previous comments (QVIR 2005, 2006) have pointed out that there is an urgent need to rebuild at risk Pacific salmon populations in advance of climatic oscillations in the north Pacific Ocean (Hare and Mantua 1999), which will shift to unfavorable ocean conditions and dry on land sometime between the years 2015 and 2025 (Collison et al. 2003). Timelines in the ITP need to reflect urgency, whereas the current DEIR allows seven years for some critical steps like getting fish passage at the Scott Valley Irrigation District diversion dam.

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Scott River coho salmon cannot be managed at current extremely low levels because the likelihood of loss due to storms or other stochastic events is high (Rieman et al. 1993). Coho populations must be aggressively rebuilt by providing refugia (Reeves et al. 1995) in habitats that have high intrinsic potential (Williams et al. 2006) and anthropogenic stressors like cows in the riparian zone need to be eliminated to allow full riparian and hydrologic recovery (Kaufmann et al. 1997).

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The current DEIR and proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program would provide subsidies (i.e. paying for short-term water) and legal protections to farm and ranch operations in the name of protecting endangered species. Rather than enforcing existing laws and protecting public trust resources, CDFG has neglected its duties and instead

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proposed a Program that would offer only marginal benefits to coho salmon while allowing larger ongoing cumulative threats (i.e. excessive water use) to continue unabated. Without addressing the factors that have driven coho salmon into jeopardy, the Watershed Wide Permitting Program will be ineffective and hence should not be enacted.

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**COMMENTS OF THE YUOK TRIBE  
REGARDING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE  
SCOTT WATERSHED WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM**

**General Comments**

The following represent the comments of the Yurok Tribe regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Scott Watershed-wide Permitting Program (DEIR) associated with the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) . Master Streambed Alteration Agreement (MSAA) The Yurok Tribe has used materials from Keir and Associates which have been provided to the Tribes of the Klamath Basin through the Klamath Basin Tribal Water Quality Work Group (Work Group), an association of the water quality and environmental departments of five Lower Klamath River Basin Tribes. Additional material has come from the Quartz Valley Tribe, and is used with their permission. These comments differ from other submissions and must be considered independently.

36-1

The Yurok Tribe hereby incorporates by reference the submissions of Kier and Associates for the Tribes of the Klamath Basin, the Quartz Valley Tribe, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and Klamath Riverkeeper, as well as our earlier EIR scoping comments. For the record, the Yurok Tribe alleges that this Draft EIR fails to address adequately the above comments and objections as is required under CEQA.

ITP Cannot Authorize Illegal Activities

No illegal activities can be made legal (even in appearance only) by this ITP. Diversions and structures that violate current regulations can not be allowed, including violations of CDFG sections 5931, and 5937 (streamflow and passage). Illegal conditions must be fixed immediately and cannot be permitted.

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The DEIR also needs to have explicit provisions that ITP prescriptions are subject to future water use determinations and adjudications.

Lack of Scientific Framework in the Scott River Basin and the DEIS Makes it Impossible to Gauge Effectiveness of Proposed Actions

The DEIR lacks measurable and obtainable goals and objectives that will lead to recovery of coho salmon. It is unclear, if agricultural operators comply with each and every condition of their permit, whether that would lead to recovery of coho. Development of the scientific work products described below will facilitate a realistic assessment of the effectiveness of prescribed changes to agricultural operations.

36-3



The Permitting Program should use settlement efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin as a template for progress. In the Upper Klamath Basin, a historic Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement was tentatively reached by stakeholders, including agricultural operators. The agreement was facilitated by the development of several key science products:

1. A Flow Study (Hardy Phase 2) that gave downstream interests a means to evaluate different flow proposals;
2. An unimpaired flow evaluation that gave stakeholders a template upon which to judge flows and lake levels;
3. A hydrological model (KPSIM, followed by WRIMS) that enabled all stakeholders to evaluate the effects of changing different management actions. The WRIMS model was peer-reviewed to the point where all stakeholders believed that its results were a reasonable representation of various management options.

The flow study enabled parties interested in fisheries, including the Tribes, NMFS, USFWS, and CDFG, to evaluate whether settlement proposals would in fact result in satisfactory flow conditions in the River below Iron Gate Dam. The unimpaired flow study allowed stakeholders to evaluate historic conditions and “reasonableness” of proposed flow schedules and agricultural management actions. The WRIMS model allowed different actions by the agricultural community, and different large-scale restoration actions to be evaluated in terms of effects to basin hydrology. These three key studies together, paved the way for the historic agreement that promises to end decades of conflict between agricultural and salmon interests.

A similar effort needs to be made in the Scott (and Shasta) Rivers. We cannot overstate the importance of these actions. A condition of the ITP should be that a comprehensive flow study should be initiated immediately and completed in an expedited manner. In return for permit coverage, sub-permittees must allow access to their property as necessary to complete a site-specific flow study. The flow study must be transparent and peer-reviewed. Similarly, work must begin on a flow/groundwater interaction model to begin to understand the effects of different actions by agricultural operators to the system. The temperature modeling that has been completed by Deas et al is a good start. Other scientific work products may prove to be necessary, and their development through an open and peer-reviewed process should be required as they are identified.

It is only through this framework of information development that:

1. Specific recovery goals can be set regarding flows in different parts of the system, with particular attention paid to spring-water sources
2. Different management actions (i.e. changes in agricultural operator actions, or Water Trust, etc) can be evaluated in terms of how close they

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move the system to meeting specific habitat and coho restoration objectives.

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The development of this information should not be used as a reason for delay of coho recovery actions. The flows in the Scott River, and the water quality are impaired enough to warrant immediate action and movement toward a recovery status (i.e. improved water quality and higher flows).

A Step in the Right Direction

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There are some positive aspects to the DEIS. The Scott River has been in need of fundamental changes to agricultural operations for decades, and the ITP paves the way for cooperative restoration efforts to be enhanced. As noted in the preceding paragraph, these actions are long overdue. We believe that it is possible to restore the coho (and other species) salmon in the Shasta River.

Groundwater

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The effects of groundwater withdrawals are severe in the Scott River and apparent to even the untrained eye. Fall flows are now so low that Chinook and coho salmon cannot access large portions of the Scott watershed in many years (Van Kirk and Naman, 2008). The Scott River now goes dry regularly in the Ft. Jones area. Moffet Creek has lost its riparian vegetation in the lower portion of the watershed.

The ITP program must address the fundamental issue of water use as a whole, and must integrate groundwater and surface water use into the same scientific framework and recovery strategy. Failure to substantially address groundwater issues immediately will lead to the extirpation of coho salmon from the Scott River in the near future, no matter what kind of ITP or voluntary programs are in place.

Many of These Issues Were Raised Previously

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Many of these issues mentioned in this letter were brought up in scoping comments. While the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) appears to have noted receipt of the relevant materials (e.g., Yurok Tribe Scoping Comments 2006) and recommendations (QVIR 2006) concerning the development of the Scott River ITP, many of the issues of substance raised in these submissions appear not to have been addressed by CDFG in the DEIR.

The DEIR clearly fails CEQA's requirements for the use of best available science. The DEIR adopts assumptions reached in Siskiyou RCD's gray literature (i.e. Quigley et al. 2001 and Yokel 2006) and treats these as established authorities although the reports have never been provided scientific

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review. These reports fail to incorporate data collection from areas of the basin other than the Scott valley, therefore conclusions are made from monitoring locations granting permission and may not be representative of large portions of the valley. Studies designs tend to be poor due to landowner access and QA/QC measures are inadequate. For example, without water quality conditions suitable for salmonids in the Scott River canyon, salmonid adults may not be able to migrate into the valley to spawn. Likewise juvenile outmigration and rearing can be greatly effected; reports since 2005 by both the USFS Klamath National Forest and Quartz Valley Tribe have documented unsuitable conditions, throughout the reach surveyed from Shackelford Creek to the mouth, for salmonids during the summer monitoring period.

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The lack of discussion of major issues such as the connection between surface- and groundwater severely undermine the DEIR's credibility.

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Data sharing is another requirement of CEQA. While the DEIR says that the Siskiyou RCD will share data with CDFG, there is no explanation of how that information will be shared with the scientific community and the public. CEQA also requires that the lead agencies create a "data base which can be used to reduce delay and duplication in preparation of subsequent environmental impact reports" yet there is no discussion in the DEIR of the intent or obligation of CDFG to share raw data.

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Monitoring under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program would target only those sites where projects are to be carried out. There is no clear commitment to the use of standard monitoring methods capable of providing monitoring data sufficient for determining whether the whole Scott River ecosystem is trending in a positive direction for coho salmon. Rather, the monitoring proposed appears to be restricted to monitoring the effect of specific restoration projects on the immediate vicinity of such projects. Once again, we assume this is due to landowner access however, according to the North Coast *Basin Plan* one beneficial use of the Scott River is navigation. This indicates permission is only needed to access the creek, once within the high-water mark you can walk anywhere on the river.

36-11

While the DEIR mentions cooperation with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and its North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) in implementing the Total Maximum Daily Load for the Scott River (NCRWQCB 2006), the absence of a commitment to monitoring water temperature at established monitoring sites or to using sediment trend measurements like pool volume (Hilton and Lisle 1993) raise concerns that there would be little substantive coordination with the SWRCB or the NCRWQCB.

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Finally, many of the actions that CDFG, the SWRCB's Water Rights Division (WRD) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) would perform under the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program certainly do not need this

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program in order to go forward. These agencies have, in fact, neglected these enforcement duties, resulting cumulatively in continuing, elevated “take” of coho salmon.

To the extent that the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program will simply legitimate current land and water use practices in the Scott River valley, without requiring a larger commitment to the protection of coho salmon, the State shall be giving the color of legitimacy to such actions and prospects for the recovery of public trust resources in the Scott River valley shall be set back substantially.

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**DETAILED COMMENTS**

**Jeopardy Issues**

CDFG asserts in its DEIS that April 25, 2005 conditions are the baseline for the proposed project and argues that only positive change will result from the Program. In fact the evidence presented in the DEIR shows drastic reductions in surface flow in the Scott River in recent years as a result of increased surface and groundwater use (Van Kirk and Naman 2008). The document admits that the flow levels adjudicated to the U S Forest Service for salmon protection in the Scott River canyon (SWRCB 1980) are not being met.

To be credible, the ITP must not permit activities that will result in flows so low that coho (and Chinook) cannot access most of the Scott River basin.

The DEIR repeatedly discusses coho salmon habitat destruction in the Scott River valley as a matter of fact, but it then fails to make clear how such destruction will be abated to prevent the further “take” of the species.

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That fact is that many of the same activities that have led to the collapse of the Scott River ecosystem and its ability to support coho salmon will continue under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. The incremental changes to existing practices will not prove sufficient to enable coho population rebuilding. Coho salmon will therefore remain in jeopardy of extinction due to the actions permitted by the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program. The requirements of CESA and CEQA shall not have been met.

The DEIR states that:

“This Permit may be terminated by the Department at its sole discretion if circumstances or new information provides evidence that continued program implementation may result in jeopardy to coho salmon, or if such termination is required by law or court order. For the purpose of the Permit, ‘jeopardy’ includes, but is not limited to, to the probable extirpation of any coho salmon cohort.”

In fact, there is strong evidence showing that Scott River coho salmon are currently in jeopardy and are likely to remain so. As clearly established by prior submissions (QVIR 2005, 2006), there is currently a problem with two weak year classes, which meets the CDFG definition of jeopardy, above. Table 1 is taken from a report by the Siskiyou RCD (2005) and shows downstream migrant catch of coho salmon in the Scott River with coho missing or at extremely low levels in 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2003. Scott River adult coho salmon returns are often estimated at fewer than 500 adults annually during weak year classes, which is known to be a critically low level for maintaining genetic diversity (Gilpin and Soule 1990) to maintain long term survival. Year class failures are hard for coho to recover from because females spawn as three year old fish almost exclusively.

Table 1. Coho in California Department of Fish and Game Scott River downstream migrant trap records as taken from Siskiyou RCD (2005) Table 6c.

<b>Grand Total by Species:</b>	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	TOTALS
<i>Steelhead</i>	10181	17693	5943	7127	7980	4158	5008	21982	79887	135319	69823	365101
<i>Coho</i>	15	433	0	253	3	8	538	30	69	30019	50	31418
<i>Chinook</i>	2	266	0	3	1	0	0	365	3191	0	0	3828
<b>Totals =&gt;</b>	<b>10198</b>	<b>18392</b>	<b>5943</b>	<b>7383</b>	<b>7984</b>	<b>4166</b>	<b>5546</b>	<b>22377</b>	<b>83147</b>	<b>165338</b>	<b>69873</b>	<b>400347</b>

36-14  
cont.

The DEIS states that Siskiyou RCD will report to CDFG regarding where coho are located in the Scott River watershed; however, their current distribution should be fully acknowledged and disclosed as part of the baseline conditions description. Landowner access for coho spawning and rearing studies in the Scott basin each year is poor. Relying on the RCD's knowledge of these areas is inadequate and/or will require assumptions to be made based off of a biased and incomplete data set. On Shackleford Creek at the QV reservation, biologists have observed suitable and occupied spawning areas. The spawning areas were then covered by large cobble due to the excessive sediment loads and thier geomorphological movements in response to winter flows. This type of habitat change is occurring across the watershed and it would be foolish to assume an area is salmonid suitable without actually surveying it for both water quality, quantity and habitat characteristics. However, due to landowner access and the internal capacity of the SQRCd, complete surveys are not possible. In the revised EIS, CDFG needs to show how weak year classes would be recovered sufficiently so as to no longer be subjected to jeopardy by the actions permitted in the proposed Watershed Wide Permitting Program .

**Surface Water and Groundwater Issues**

Since the lack of streamflow is one of the principal constraints on coho salmon recovery in the Scott River basin (Kier Associates 1991, NRC 2004), a real solution to water allocation and water supply is needed, but not supplied, in the DEIR or likely under implementation of the Watershed Wide Permitting Program.

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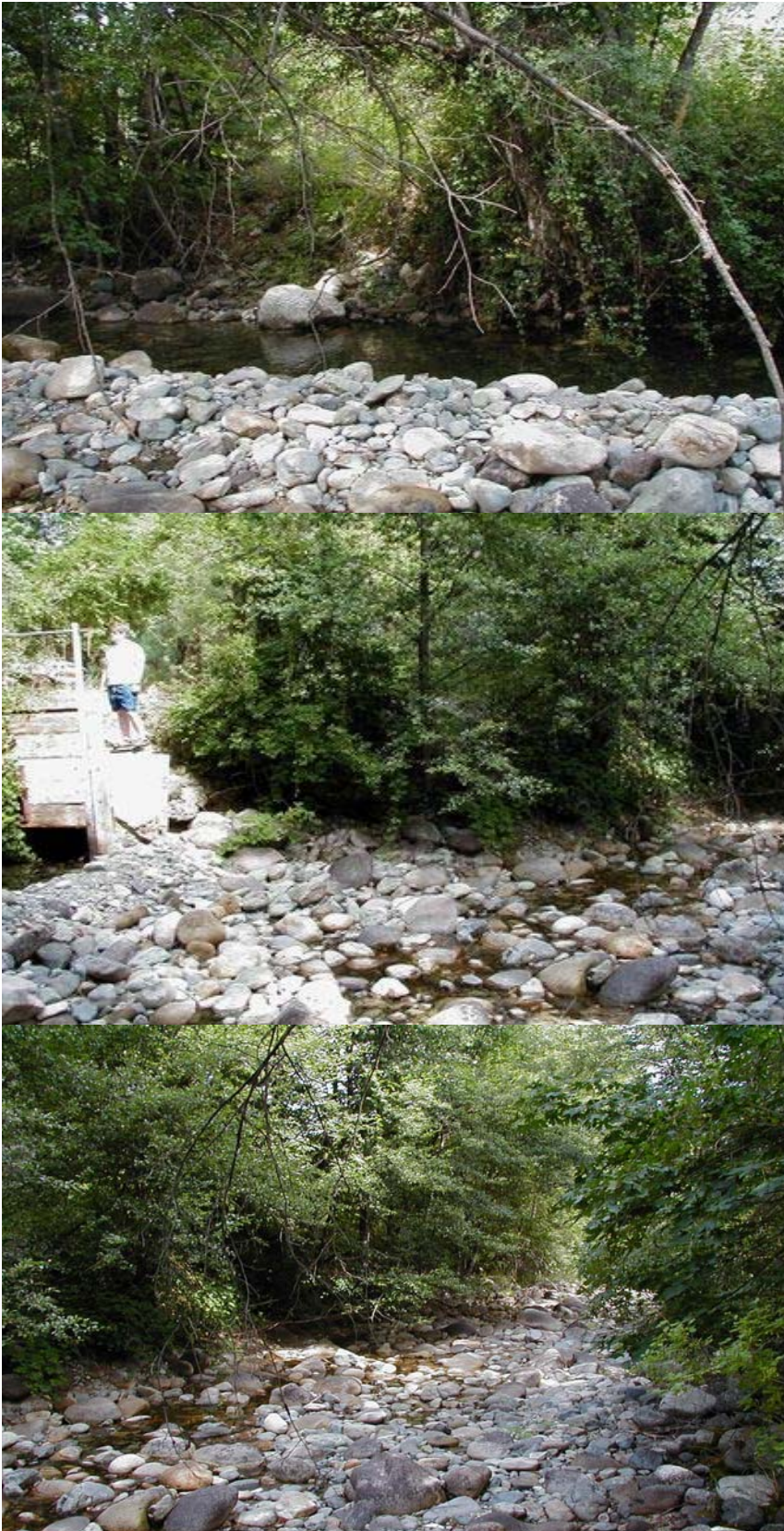
California Fish and Game Code §5937 says that CDFG will not allow streams to be dewatered. Many streams throughout the Scott River basin are routinely dried up each year during low flow season in violation of §5937. The DEIR does not mention any plan for CDFG’s enforcement of §5937 under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. Instead, compliance will be largely through “self-enforcement”:

“Notwithstanding any right the responsible party has to divert and use water, the responsible party shall allow sufficient water to pass over, around, or through any dam the party owns or operates to keep in good condition any fish that may exist below the dam, as required by CDFG Code §5937.”

The DEIR states that the Scott River Adjudication (SWRCB 1980) “allocates 36.0 cfs to the Farmers Ditch (22.3 cfs for consumptive use and 13.7 cfs for ditch losses). Typically, in August and September the ditch has the right to divert the entire natural flow of the Scott River.” Likewise, photo documentation of such activity occurring on both tributaries Shackleford and Etna Creeks have been collected. This activity is illegal under CDFG Code §5937 and certainly antithetical to coho recovery. A series of three photos (Figure 1) of the Etna Creek diversion is below and clearly shows inadequate flows downstream of the diversion for salmonid habitat. The first photo is looking upstream from the diversion, the second is looking at the diversion and the third photo is looking downstream from the point of diversion. All photos were taken in August of 2003 by NCRWQCB staff, Bryan McFadin.



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cont.



36-16

Figure 1 Photos of Etna Creek Diversion, top photo—looking upstream of diversion,



middle photo – looking downstream of the diversion, and bottom photo – looking downstream of the diversion. Photo taken by Bryan McFadin, NCRWQCB staff, August 2003.

Neither does the DEIR deal with non-enforcement by the SWRCB’s WRD of California Water Codes § 1052 and § 1243, which state, respectively, that no dams will be constructed without a permit and that sufficient flows in California streams will be maintained to allow for “recreation and the preservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources.” The flow depletion to the point of dewatering of the mainstem Scott River reaches (Figure 2) is ignored in the DEIS and the failure to meet adjudicated levels in the Scott River canyon as required under the SWRCB (1980) adjudication (Figure 3) are dismissed on the basis that the USFS water right is a junior right. Table 2 shows the minimum water flow levels needed to protect fishlife per the USFS’ adjudication of Scott River flows at the Scott River canyon.

Currently (December 2008), the Scott River canyon is receiving 100 cfs at the USGS gauging station for the migration of coho salmon. However, the adjudication calls for 200 cfs between November and March (Figure 3). Currently tributaries around the valley are dry at the confluence with the Scott leaving coho the mainstem for spawning. This is less ideal given the increased velocity of the main channel, lack of side channels and the sediment aggregation of the mainstem.

36-16  
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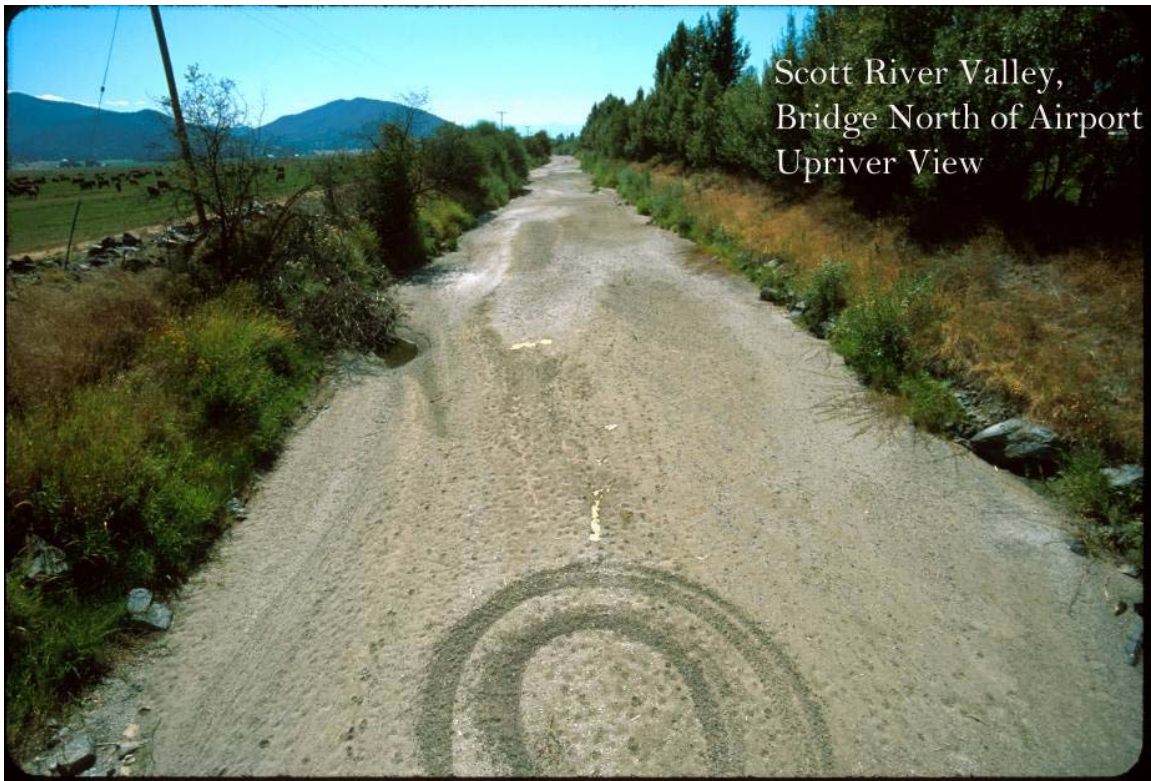




Figure 2. The dry bed of the Scott River in a reach near the airport looking upstream, a clear violation of CDFG Code 5937. Photo from KRIS Klamath-Trinity V 3.0 taken by Michael Hentz. 2002.

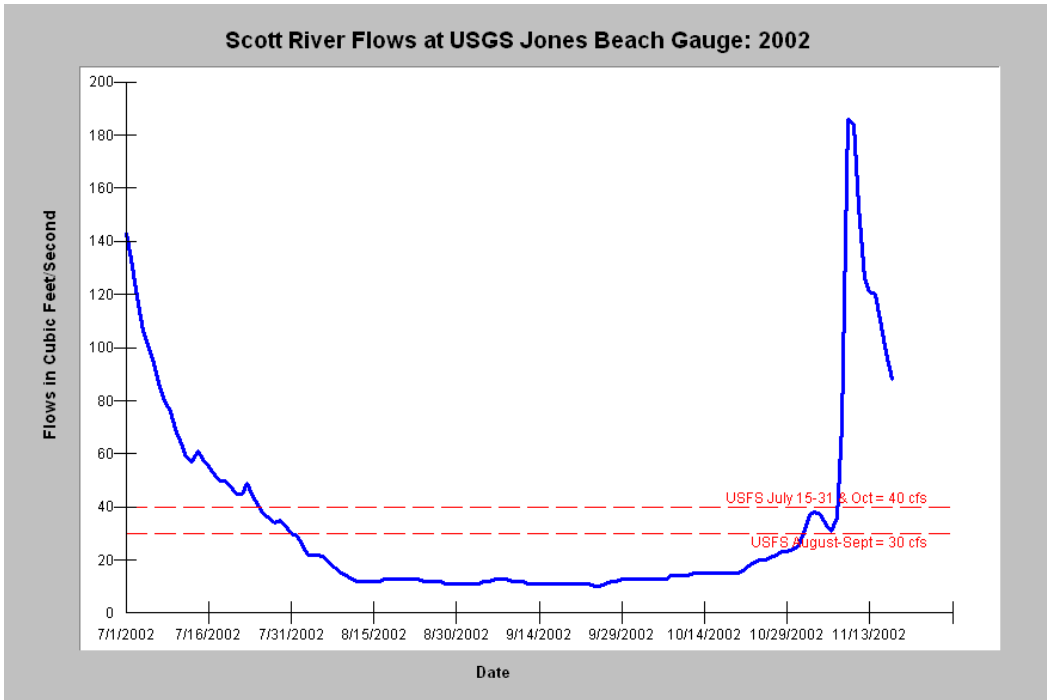


Figure 3. Jones Beach USGS flow gauge data from the irrigation season of 2002 show that flows failed to meet adjudicated levels for the USFS and flows needed for fish migration, spawning and rearing in August, September and October.

Table 2. Scott River Adjudication instream flow allotment for U.S. Forest Service needs for instream flow in Scott River canyon (CDWR, 1980 as cited in Kier Assoc., 1991).

Period	Flow Requirement in Cubic Feet per Second
November – March	200 cfs
April - June 15	150 cfs
June 16 - June 30	100 cfs
July 1 - July 15	60 cfs
July 16 - July 31	40 cfs
August – September	30 cfs
October	40 cfs

In fact both CDFG and SWRCB are remiss in their public trust responsibilities for not assisting USFS in securing flows sufficient to maintain coldwater fish in the Scott River.

DWR and its Watermaster Service would be sub-permittees of the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. The DEIR mentions DWR’s role in groundwater studies. The DEIR describes increased coordination with the Watermaster, who

36-16  
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after 30 years of inaction and non-enforcement will somehow spring into action and coordinate with CDFG to resolve streamflow issues. The DEIR’s statement that “the watermaster in some instances will need to take certain actions to avoid or minimize the take of coho salmon as it relates to operating water diversions and managing water in the Program Area,” is difficult to take seriously given the past track record.

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cont.

In yet another section the DEIR says that a private watermaster might also be a sub-permittee or that such status would be conveyed “through an ITP outside the Program.”

The likelihood of a locally-employed private watermaster increasing enforcement for the benefit of coho salmon when he is an employee or contractor to the water users themselves stretches the imagination.

The huge problem with groundwater allocation and over use is acknowledged in the DEIR, but no solution offered. In fact the increase in groundwater use described by Van Kirk and Naman (2008) (Figure 4) is consistent with the continuing installation of groundwater wells (Figure 5) and decreasing groundwater levels from well logs on the Scott River Valley floor (QVIR 2006). When patterns of long term flows are assessed for whether critical low flow levels drop below 40 cfs, the amount determined to be critical for the viability of salmon on US Forest Service public lands in the Scott River canyon, one can see the pattern of increasing flow depletion ultimately leading to years when adjudicated flow levels from July to October are never met (Figure 6).

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36-17

The DEIR hypothesizes that all streams on the Westside Scott River Valley went dry historically, but does not provide convincing evidence in its support. In fact, available evidence indicates that this hypothesis is incorrect. For example, CDFG (1974) memos from the 1970’s state that many of these streams (Kidder, Etna, Patterson) were going dry during summer for the first time. Logging and road building in the erodible terrain of the Westside Scott have caused major problems with erosion that have contributed to lack of surface flow (QVIR 2005). In the case of Shackleford Creek, the DEIR and CDFG likely ascribe to this hypothesis because they don’t want to be drawn into enforcement of 5937, but the thermal infrared radar surveys (Watershed Sciences Ltd, 2004) show conclusively that the dewatering of Shackleford Creek (Figure 7) and water quality impairment are caused by diversions. Taft and Shapavalov (1935) noted that Shackleford Creek was being dewatered by diversion in 1934 leaving the stream bed dry where it had been historically perennial.

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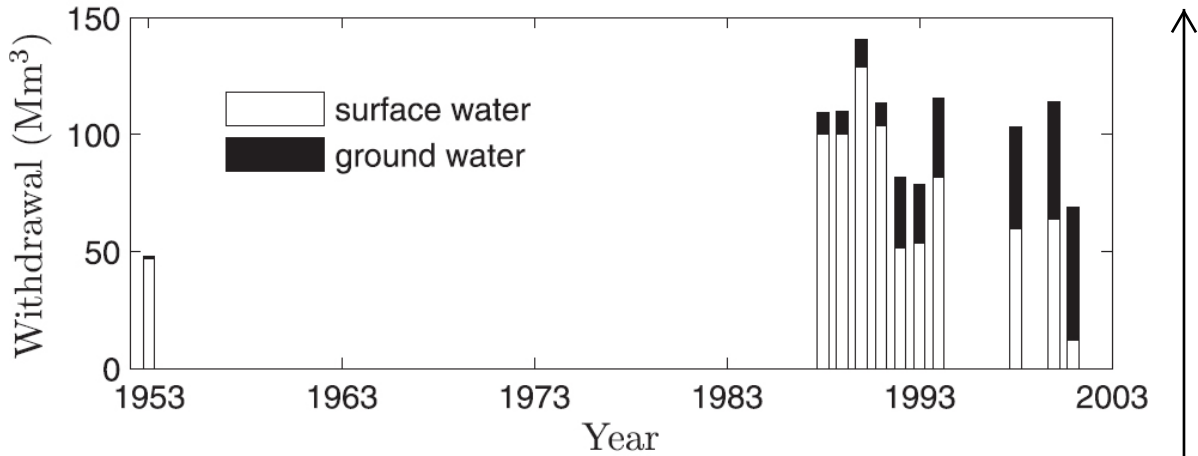
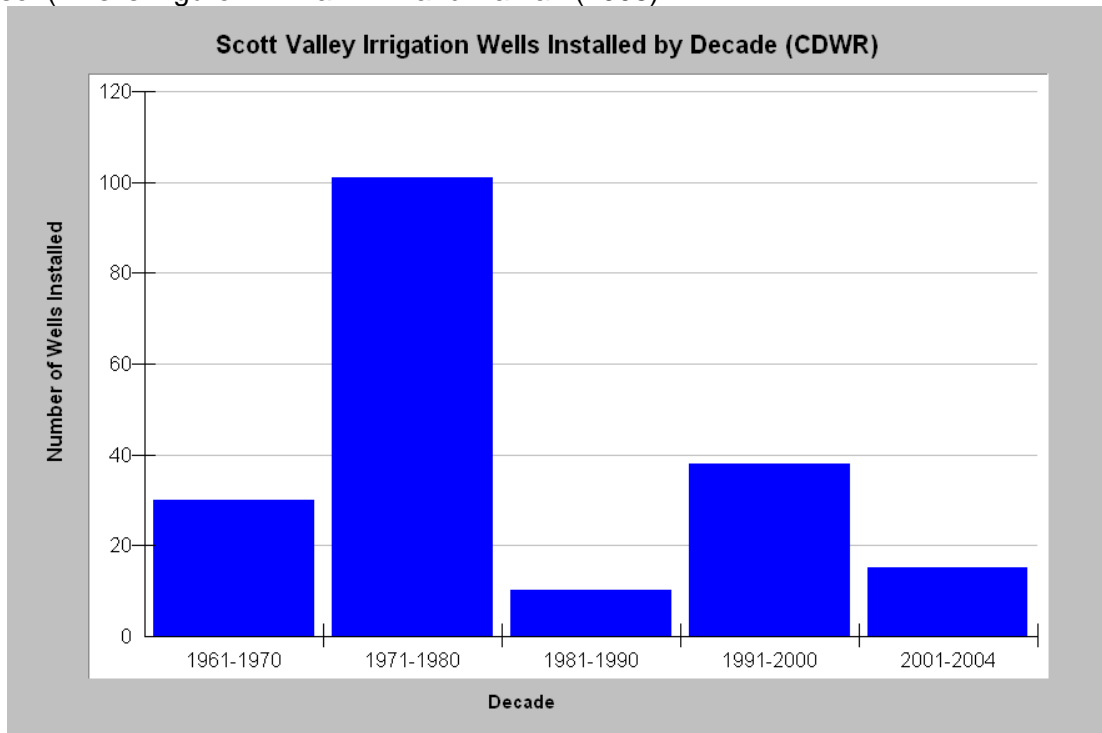


Figure 4. Groundwater and surface water use in the Scott River valley in millions of cubic meters showing a dramatic increase in overall water use, but especially in groundwater use. (This is Figure 7 in Van Kirk and Naman (2008).



36-17  
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Figure 5. This chart shows the number of irrigation wells installed, by decade, according to California Department of Water Resources records. Not all parties installing wells file with DWR.

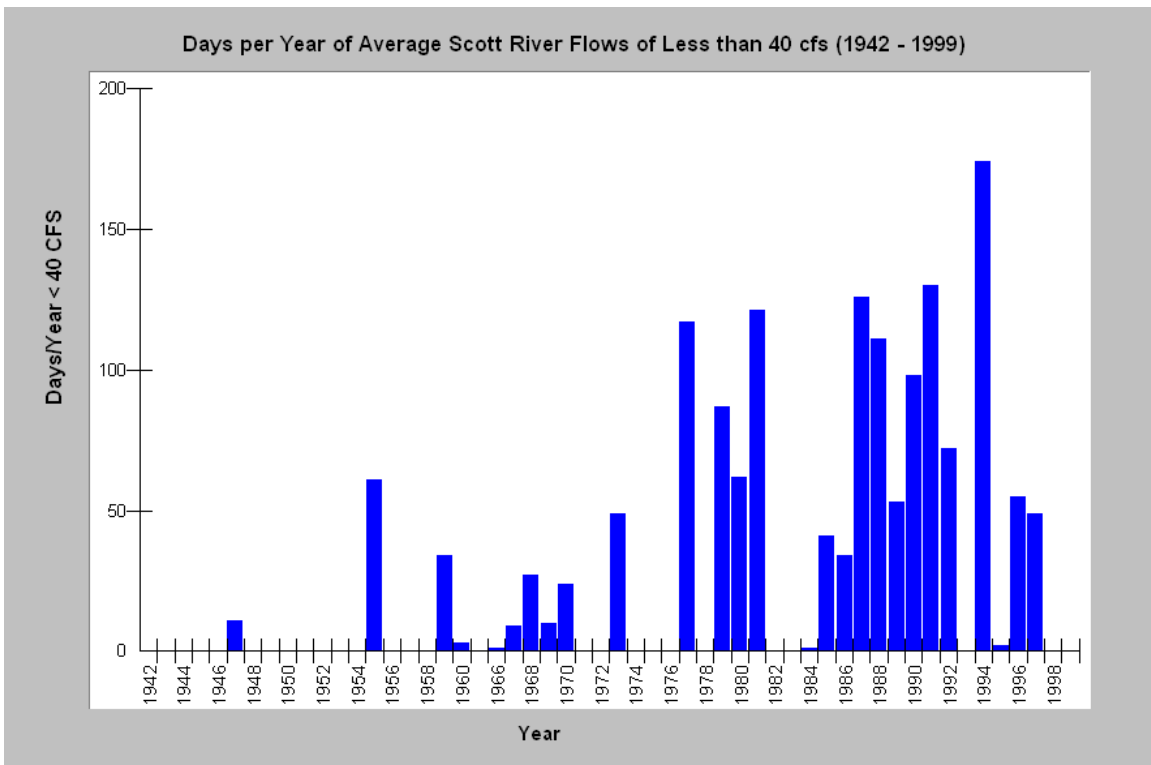


Figure 6. USGS flow data for the Scott River show a dramatic increase in the number of days of less than 40 cubic feet per second streamflow in the Scott River at Ft Jones -- a major increase in such days over the period of record. The 40 cfs level is significant with regard to flows adjudicated to the USFS to maintain salmon viability on public lands. Data from USGS and chart from KRIS V 3.0.

36-17 cont.



Figure 7. This map shows summary data of Scott River Thermal Infrared Radar (TIR) surveys for Shackleford Creek. Note that water temperature warms in a downstream direction as flow is depleted. Reaches with no temperature coded color are dry (red arrows). Data from Watershed Sciences (2004).

Because CDFG does not provide a credible plan for reducing groundwater extraction, while over-allocation is leading to take of coho salmon, this aspect of the DEIR is particularly deficient and would ultimately continue the take and jeopardy status under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program.

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With regard to the establishment of a Water Trust, while there are ways that the Water Trust could go astray, there are also ways that it could be very beneficial to coho salmon,. We support the opportunity for the Water Trust to provide adequate fish flows, so long as it is based on scientific information and includes groundwater.

36-18

**Baseline Conditions and DEIR Scientific Foundation**

The DEIR states that

“Some of the activities the Program covers are historic, on-going activities that over time have caused and will continue to cause environmental impacts within the Program Area, including, for example, take of coho salmon. These activities and their impacts are part of the baseline and are expected regardless of the Program; that is, they will not be caused by the Program.”

This statement fails to note the role CDFG and other State agencies have played in allowing coho salmon resources to become so reduced as to have to be listed as Threatened or Endangered under both the Federal and California ESA, and placing the Scott River population in jeopardy. In adopting the tone and assumptions of Siskiyou RCD documents (Quigley et al. 2001, Siskiyou RCD 2005), the DEIR strays from good, legally defensible science by focusing analysis and conclusions on valley sites (specifically locations monitored granting access), limited in data collection parameters, frequency, site locations and distribution and often ascribes anthropogenically-caused damage to ecosystem function as “natural conditions.” Failing to understand the linkages between human induced habitat changes means that the DEIR does not address root causes of decline and recommendations for action barely overlap with a priority list that might be arrived at through a more valid scientific approach using a standard Pacific salmon restoration framework (i.e. Bradbury et al. 1995).

36-19

The DEIR describes human activities that cause habitat loss, but never clearly define linkages or need to change land use practices that are causing take of coho salmon:

“Most of the lasting impacts observed today are the collective result of multiple actions and land management decisions, and it is often difficult to tease out the relative influence of any one particular action. Regardless, it is important to understand that historical or continuing practices such as beaver trapping, placer mining, flow regulation, and channel modification

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can affect contemporary river characteristics for decades, or longer.” (p. 154)

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| cont.

Recognizing impacts is not enough, actions need to be taken to reverse coho habitat decline and prioritization of remediation needs to be based on peer reviewed, legally defensible science. The SQRCD primarily represents the agricultural landowners and it seems most appropriate that the CDFG in coordination with USFWS, NOAA and Tribes develop recommendations for priority remediation needs related to land uses (e.g. agriculture) for coho salmon. The Shasta and Scott Coho Recovery Team (SSRT) failed to incorporate Tribal coordination until the completion of the document (Scott and Shasta Coho Recovery Plan) at which time one Tribe, Quartz Valley, was invited to join the group. In fact the Yurok Tribe attended many early SSRT meetings, but was specifically not allowed to make changes or even speak at the meetings.

36-20

Channelization and Diking: True baseline conditions of the Scott River Valley floor before disturbance would have included vast wetlands and beaver habitat (Kier Associates 1991) that promoted surface and groundwater connections and created abundant cold water habitat for coho salmon (Pool and Berman 2000, ODEQ 2008). The DEIR and CDFG fail to understand that floodplains need to be reconnected because disrupted channel conditions promote warming, reduce water storage and eliminate refugia essential to salmonid survival, particularly in large rivers systems like the Scott River that are temperature impaired (U.S. EPA 2003). U.S. EPA (2003) eloquently summarizes the importance of alluvial reaches such as the Scott Valley:

“Alluvial floodplains with a high level of groundwater exchange historically provided high quality habitat that served as cold water refugia during the summer for large rivers in the Columbia River basin and other rivers of the Pacific Northwest. These alluvial reaches are interspersed between bedrock canyons and are like beads on a string along the river continuum. Today, most of the alluvial floodplains are either flooded by dams, altered through diking and channelization, or lack sufficient water to function as refugia.”

36-21

The current condition of the mainstem Scott River and its larger tributaries are profoundly altered (Figure 8) and they are not likely to improve without substantial changes in practices (see Restoration Needs). The DEIR notes that channel straightening on the East Fork is exacerbating problems with bank erosion and causing loss of pools and side channels, but only upper reaches in isolated places are recommended for treatment, our probable conclusion, based on the current restoration trends, is that landowner access is only being granted in the upper reaches. This type of approach to restoration is not enough to recover coho salmon.

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Figure 8. The mainstem Scott River and Etna Creek are confined, channelized and disconnected from wetlands and springs that likely provided coho salmon refugia before human disturbance. Note also that wells next to streams have the potential to deplete cold subsurface contributions. Aerial photo is from 2005.

Riparian Conditions: The DEIR fails to understand that shade is only one element of riparian function (Pool and Berman 2000). Wide buffers similar to historic gallery forest conditions (true baseline) provided nutrient and bacteria buffering from overland flow, partial temperature buffering for the stream through creation of a cool microclimate, and assisted in maintaining a stable channel thereby reducing erosion. The loss of riparian in some cases, such as Moffett Creek (Figure 9), may be in direct response to drops in groundwater levels (QVIR 2005), and this is another critical issue that the DEIR does not address and that would not be remedied under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program. Once streams have lost their riparian zones, their stream channel becomes very wide and shallow contributing to stream warming. Widespread use of easements or acquisitions is needed to allow riparian recovery on a scale necessary to restore coho (see Restoration Needs).

36-22

Nutrient, bacteria and pesticide pollution is also increased with the lack of riparian vegetation. French Creek is a major Scott River coho salmon producer (Maurer 2001) but it is assumed that coho salmon juveniles rear in forested reaches above alluvial valley floors because of poor habitat conditions resulting from agricultural practices, including riparian degradation (Figure 10). However, it is possible, based on salmonid behavior observed during refugia studies by the Tribe and cooperators, that fish are finding groundwater upwelling refuges and

holding there as flows drop and ambient temperatures increase until the stream reach dries at which point then the groundwater refuge accretion stops. The CDFG fish rescue and relocating program is currently being utilized to move fish from these locations (without scientific research supporting the action) to areas of the river with assumed to have suitable temperatures for rearing. Some fish may be migrating upstream to these areas but the percentage, relative to the population of rearing salmon, is unknown. In 2008 from Patterson Creek 21,000 coho juveniles were rescued from the lower reaches and relocated (Mary Olswang communication @ Scott River Watershed Council Fish Committee meeting September 2008). The QV Tribe would like to see a “Salmonid Rescue and Relocate Study” implemented in the Scott River to assess the environmental impacts of this action that has been occurring for the past 50 years.

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cont.

Wetlands and Hydrology: Wetlands store water, remove nutrients and bacteria and often discharge cold water that is associated with refugia for Pacific salmon species (U.S. EPA 2003), including coho salmon. The DEIR states that water temperature conditions in the Big Slough would have been warm, but that is not likely the case before disturbance because of typical wetland function (Pool and Berman 2000, ODEQ 2008). The DEIR talks about the unique conditions in the area west of the Scott River between Etna and Kidder Creeks, but does not accurately characterize human-induced changes, instead asserting that conditions are natural. Figure 11 shows where agricultural practices have obliterated the channels of Johnson and Crystal Creeks and Figure 12 shows that Big Slough has been systematically filled to the detriment of ecosystem function for coho salmon. Not only are discussions of wetlands lacking in the DEIR, but Figure 3.4-3 that is supposed to show wetlands is so blurry it is nearly useless. The DEIR does not address the need to reconnect wetlands and groundwater, which is one of the reasons the implementation of the Watershed Wide Permitting Program will not avoid continued jeopardy for the Scott River coho salmon population.

36-23

Water Quality: The National Research Council (2004) makes a clear case that flow depletion is at the root of temperature problems in the Scott River. As flows drop, transit time for water increases allowing an opportunity for stream warming. If flow problems are not remedied, then temperature problems will not be either and, consequently, temperature sensitive coho salmon (McCullough 1999, Sullivan et al. 2000) will not likely be recovered. The DEIR claims that the Scott River mainstem was too hot historically, citing Quigley et al. (2001) as a basis, but ignores the likely historic role of refugia that would have been associated with side channels, beaver ponds and cold tributary mouths (U.S. EPA 2003).

36-24

The temperature map provided with the DEIR (Figure 3.2:1.1) uses a bracket for temperature categories from 14.8-17.8 C maximum floating weekly average water temperature (MWAT), but an MWAT of 16.8 C is recognized as the regional threshold for presence and absence based on field data (Welsh et al. 2001). Therefore, one cannot even determine whether locations are suitable for coho salmon from the map in the DEIR. This typifies the problem associated with exclusively relying on the Siskiyou RCD for scientific analysis and is another



example of why raw data related to the ITP and its implementation need to be supplied to the scientific community and the public.



Figure 9. The Moffett Creek channel lacks definition and riparian trees because of drops in the groundwater due to pumping. The stream was once perennial and harbored coho salmon.



Figure 10. French Creek in an alluvial valley reach, which would have been optimal for coho historically, shows degraded riparian conditions, signs of sediment over-supply, flow depletion and disconnection from the floodplain. Aerial photo 2005.

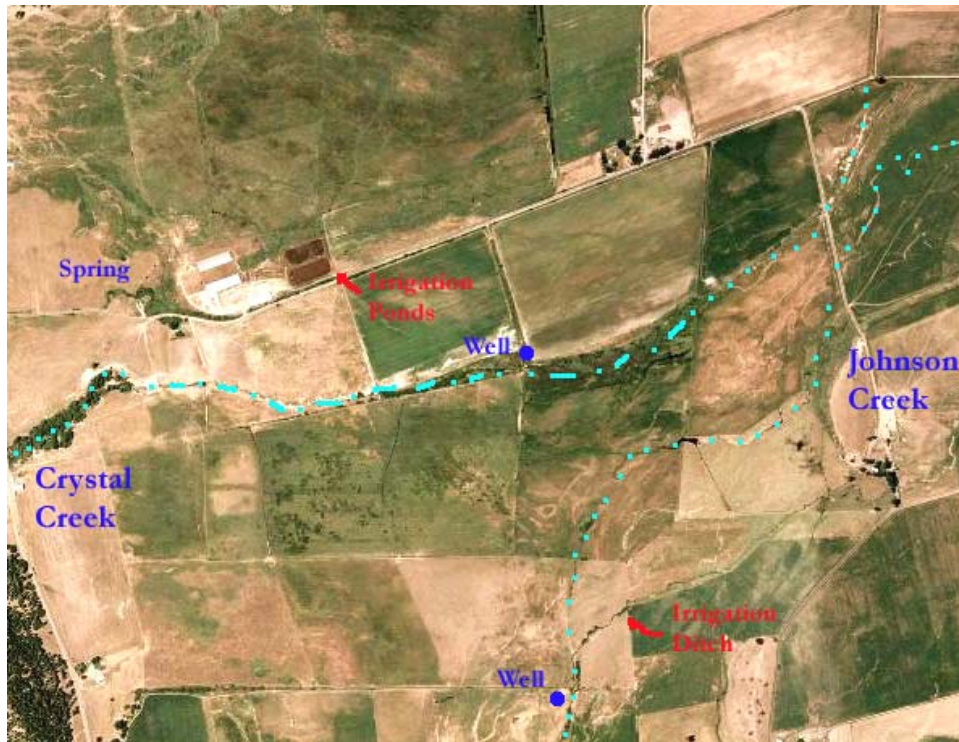


Figure 11. Crystal Creek's channel is at left (blue dots = USGS 1:24000 streams), but it disappears as it crosses the western Scott Valley floor and Johnson Creek is similarly disrupted. Notice that wells are immediately adjacent to old stream courses.

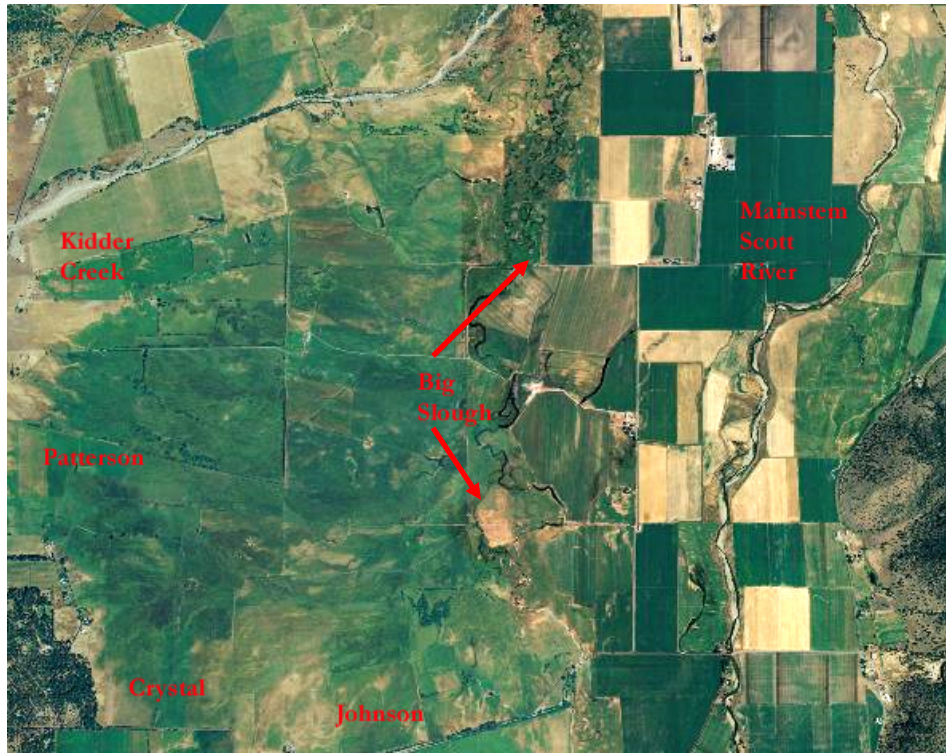


Figure 12. The channel of Big Slough has been filled and cut off (arrows) as have feeder channels from Johnson, Crystal and Patterson Creeks. Note also mainstem channelization.

The DEIR is similarly lacking its analysis of sediment trends in the Scott River mainstem and tributaries. It emphasizes decreasing fine sediment less than 0.85 mm between 1989 and 2000, when fines in this size class are generally not the problem in the Westside Scott River channels under study. In fact, data from Sommarstrom (2000) show that sand size particles (<6.4 mm) are still on the order of two to three times higher than recommended to meet water quality standards (NCRWQCB 2006). Kondolf (2000) showed that particles <6.4 mm decreased salmonid egg and alevin survival by 50% when they exceed 30% of the stream bed and results from the mainstem Scott show some locations had more than 80% sand in 2000 (Figure 12). Only Etna Creek, French Creek and one of mainstem Scott River locations showed decreasing trends while six mainstem sites showed increases.

Cumulative Watershed Effects: CEQA requires a consideration of cumulative impacts because “the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects”. When the combined cumulative impact associated with the project and other projects is not significant, an EIR shall provide analysis and facts supporting this conclusion (Pollack 2002). In order to meet this standard the DEIR would need to show how cumulatively the Watershed Wide Permitting Program will rebuild weak coho year classes by improving coho habitat, including flows, and it has failed in this regard.

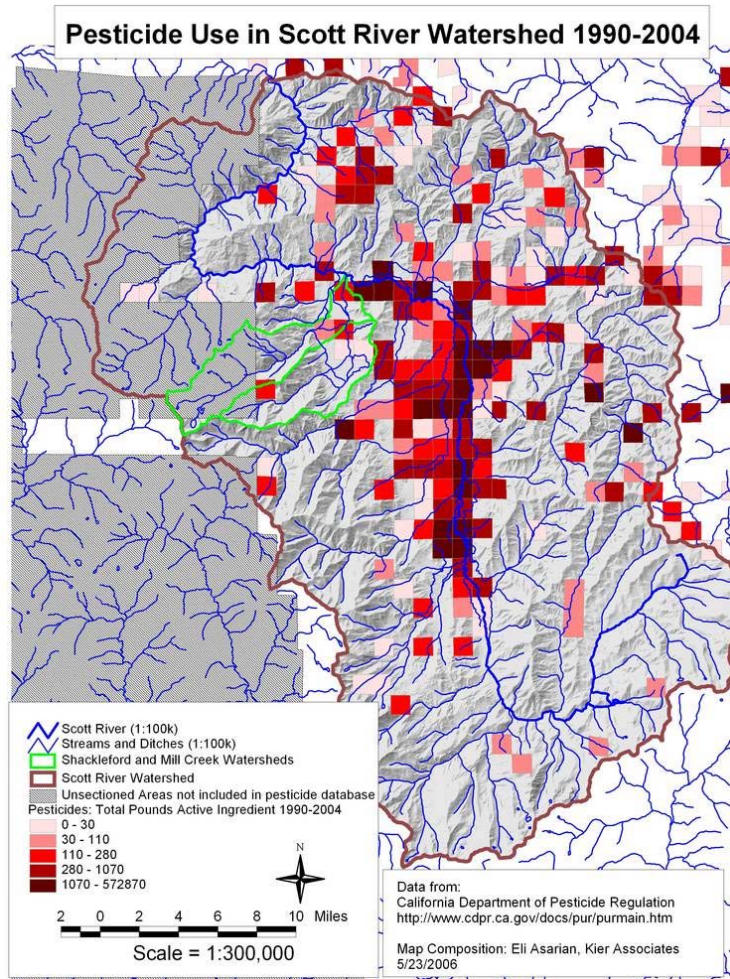
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The DEIR shows a map of debris torrents and flood damage from de la Fuente and Elder (1998), and describes negative changes in channel conditions. However, there is no discussion about the consequences of channel changes in the alluviated canyon reaches of Middle and Kelsey Creeks and Townsend Gulch, which became unsuitable for coho salmon as a result. The problems in these tributaries, that formerly served as summer refugia for mainstem migrants and summer rearing and out-migrating juveniles, is combined with the loss of mainstem function caused by decreased surface flows that fail to meet USFS adjudication levels as described above.

The DEIR states that it is easy to stop sediment from roads, but does not deal with issues at the core of hydrologic perturbation, such as the amount of denuded and early seral areas combined with compacted surfaces such as roads and landings. The high amount of damage from the January 1997 storm showed indications of increased peak flows and a survey of vegetative conditions confirm signs of hydrologic risk (QVIC 2005, 2006). The DEIR notes channel damage to the East Fork Scott River from floods, but fails to link it to increased peak discharges associated with high road densities and early seral forest conditions (Jones and Grant 1996). The DEIS recommends gravel enhancement and placement of instream structures, but the success for such measures is limited when upland rates of disturbance are high and potential for increased peak flows and sediment yield is elevated (Frissell and Nawa 1992). Kier Associates (1999) documented high incidence of failure of instream structures in highly disturbed Lower Klamath River watersheds (see Restoration Needs).



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36-26

Figure 13. Map showing pesticide use in the Scott River basin. Colors represent cumulative total amount of pesticides used between 1990 and 2004. Data from the California Pesticide Use Reporting Database.

Pesticides and Herbicides: Despite a request in scoping comments (QVIR 2006) for a discussion of pesticide and herbicide use associated with agricultural practices in the Scott River basin, the DEIR fails to mention them. Figure 13 shows the records from the California Pesticide Database and use of chemicals to control weeds in the Scott River basin is concentrated in riparian zones. Thousands of pounds are being applied and many of the compounds used are known to be harmful to salmonids (Ewing 1999, NCAP 1999). NMFS (2008) recently found in a Biological Opinion to the U.S. EPA that products containing chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion have significant effects on endangered species. These three pesticides are currently in use in the Scott River basin (see Table 3, and additional data in the California Pesticide Use Reporting Database<sup>1</sup>). Gilliom et al. (2006) point out that while some highly utilized chemicals like hexazinone may break down quickly in the atmosphere, they can

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ehib.org/tool.jsp?tool\\_key=18](http://www.ehib.org/tool.jsp?tool_key=18)

be very persistent in groundwater and USGS surveys commonly find this substance in agricultural aquifers. Not dealing with the pesticide and herbicide issue related to Scott River agricultural activities is a CEQA violation.

Table 3. Top ten pesticides used in the Scott River and Shackelford-Mill Creek watersheds from 1990 to 2004. California Pesticide Use Reporting Database.

Use Rank	Shackelford/Mill	Scott River
1	Paraquat Dichloride	Paraquat Dichloride
2	Trifluralin	Hexazinone
3	Hexazinone	Diuron
4	Metribuzin	Glycophosphate
5	Glycophosphate	2,4-D Dimethylamine Salt
6	2,4-D Dimethylamine Salt	Metribuzin
7	2,4-D Butoxyethanol Ester	2,4-D Butoxyethanol Ester
8	Norflurazon	Trifluralin
9	MCPA, Dimethylamine Salt	2,4-D, Isooctyl Ester
10	Atrazine	Chloropyrifos

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### Monitoring and Adaptive Management

CEQA requires that data provided to support environmental reviews must be “generally available to the public” and “reasonably available for inspection.” While the DEIR states that the Siskiyou RCD will provide data to CDFG, there is no mention of mechanisms or plans to share data with the scientific community and the public. Collison et al. (2003) point out that the scientific validity of any project can only be judged when raw data are provided. CEQA also states that “information developed in individual environmental impact reports be incorporated into a data base which can be used to reduce delay and duplication in preparation of subsequent environmental impact reports” (§ 21003). This requirement is even more important with regard to the Scott River Watershed Wide Permitting Program because in many cases private parties that are employees or contractors for extraction interests will be collecting the data. The recent precedent of CDFG is to not provide raw data from private land owners using the rationale that, if information is disclosed, it would put the parties at a competitive disadvantage. Exemptions from full data sharing under CEQA recognize only “trade secrets” as a valid reason (§21160) and the circumstance of Scott Valley farmers and ranchers do not meet the criteria:

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“Trade secrets,’ as used in this section, may include, but are not limited to, any formula, plan, pattern, process, tool, mechanism, compound, procedure, production data, or compilation of information which is not patented, which is known only to certain individuals within a commercial concern who are using it to fabricate, produce, or compound an article of trade or a service having commercial value and which gives its user an

opportunity to obtain a business advantage over competitors who do not know or use it.”

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CDFG and the Siskiyou RCD must make all data available to the public, preferably in a user-friendly database available over the Internet.

Monitoring under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program would involve only site specific studies to see if restoration projects were working, when in fact what is needed is basin wide trend monitoring using standard techniques to quantitatively measure whether conditions become more supportive of coho salmon. For example, water temperature data needs to be collected systematically at widespread locations annually, pool volume trends (V\*) (Hilton and Lisle 1992) need to be monitored in French Creek and other Westside tributaries with decomposed granitic sediment problems and bulk gravel samples should be collected at least every five years at the same locations as previously monitored (Sommarstrom et al. 1990, Sommarstrom 2000).

36-28

The DEIR states that the Siskiyou RCD “may opt to utilize photographs for additional effectiveness monitoring, when it believes photographs will enhance its ability to report on effectiveness of implemented activities and practices.” The fact that the Permittee is not willing to provide photo documentation as a routine for every project does not show a tendency for full disclosure necessary for public trust protection and is unsatisfactory. While CDFG sees an increased role for itself in monitoring juvenile and adult coho salmon, the DEIR states that it is contingent on “additional funds for equipment, operations, and temporary field personnel.” It does not discuss how coho salmon monitoring needs would be accomplished under the Watershed Wide Permitting Program if funding is not forthcoming.

**Steps Needed for Scott River Coho Salmon Population Viability**

The measures called for in the DEIR such as incremental changes in grazing practices, paying for maintenance of stream flow, and planting shade trees in riparian zones may not reverse coho decline or avoid further jeopardy. The preponderance of high intrinsic potential coho salmon habitat in the Scott River is on the valley floor and in lower tributary reaches (Williams et al. 2006). These low gradient reaches were formerly the most productive for coho salmon and they must be restored at least in part to regain population viability. Reeves et al. (1995) point out that viable refugia must be set aside for successful Pacific salmon recovery. Because of warm inland air temperatures and the historical dependence of coho on stable, slow water side channels and features like beaver ponds, at least selected alluvial valley reaches need to be fully reconnected to their floodplains. Coho salmon are much more likely to be recovered if easements or acquisition of extensive riparian zones in Shackelford, French Creek, South Fork and East Fork are arranged, livestock excluded, water rights re-apportioned and channels reconnected to the floodplain. These streams

36-29

are among the last to have significant numbers of coho salmon and must be secured as a priority (Bradbury et al. 1995) because sub-populations within them retain critical gene resources.

↑  
36-29  
cont.

The DEIR only mentions easements in passing, but they are a major tool in Maine for Atlantic salmon restoration (NMFS 2004), where some streams like the Pleasant River have almost their entire riparian zones protected. The DEIR also touches on reintroduction of beaver as part of the solution, but without acquisition of easements it is unlikely. There are some good projects like Flow Enhancement Mitigation 6 in the upper East Fork Scott drainage that are steps in the right direction, but reconnection of this potential refugia may take seven years and the unaddressed problems on the lower East Fork may confound ultimate success.

36-30

While the DEIR deals exclusively with agricultural impacts to Scott River coho salmon, effects of timber harvest in the basin are widespread. Reeves et al. (1993) note that timber harvest in over 25% of a watershed in less than 30 years leads to 10-45% reduction in pool frequency, decreased availability of large wood and diminished species diversity of Pacific salmon. Disturbance rates of uplands need to be decreased and forest stand conditions recovered in elevation susceptible to rain-on-snow events (2500-4000') or elevated peak discharge is likely to continue to disrupt channel conditions similar to the January 1997 storm (de la Fuente and Elder 1998, Kier Associates 1999). As a matter of urgency, CDFG needs to work with the NCRWQCB and California Department of Forestry to protect riparian zones from harvest in stream reaches known to be used by coho salmon. Change-scene detection from CDF using Landsat5 imagery from 1994 and 1998 (Fisher 2003) shows that riparian zones were heavily logged in that period (Figure 13). If continuing problems persist with short timber harvest rotations and logging road construction, it may be desirable to swap federal and private land in various Scott River tributary watersheds and manage land as Key Watersheds (FEMAT 1993) to allow full hydrologic recovery and to prevent cumulative effects that disrupt downstream reaches set aside for coho protection.

36-31



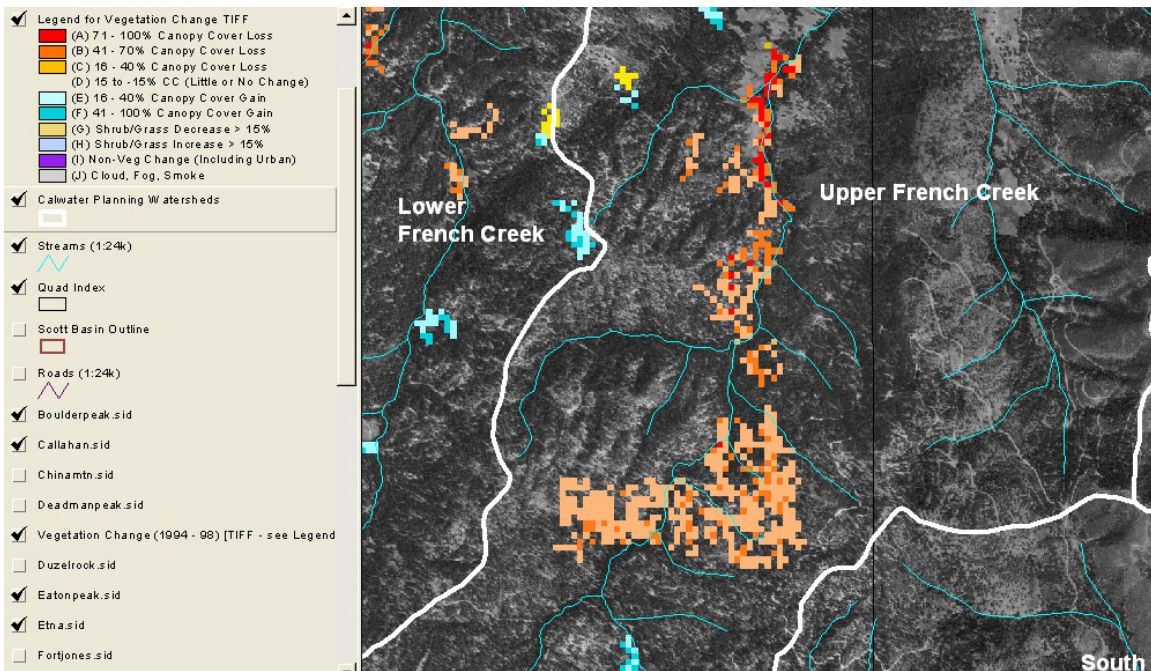


Figure 13. Vegetation change derived by comparing 1994 and 1998 Landsat images shows substantial decrease in riparian canopy of along almost the entire length of French Creek (red = 70-100%, orange = 41-70%). USGS 1:24000 streams are in light blue. Data are from CDF and USFS Spatial Analysis Lab.

## CONCLUSION

The DEIR and the proposed Scott River Watershed Wide Permitting Program for coho salmon marks a dramatic shift from historical struggles by CDFG to maintain flows and fish in the basin. While the DEIR buys into the Siskiyou RCD argument that Westside Scott River tributaries naturally went dry, CDFG (1974) memos from the 1970's state that many of these streams (Kidder, Etna, Patterson) were going dry during summer for the first time. CDFG (1974) was fighting with the SWRCB WRD to provide more flow for the Scott River: "The flows required to maintain fishery values and support heavy agricultural diversions clearly are not in the system during the latter part of July, August, and often in September." Now this statement stretches through October, November, and in falls with little rain, through December.

36-32

Now CDFG has given up the fight for protection of flows, fish and public trust and wishes to delegate its authority back to water extraction interests. The following passage from the DEIR is illustrative of this point:

"The ITP will require that the Siskiyou RCD to improve baseline instream flows and/or water quality in critical reaches of the Scott River and its tributaries and at critical life stages of coho salmon by installing water efficiency improvement projects and/or water management improvement projects on sub-permittees properties or by changing or adding points of

diversion to keep flows in streams to point of use. Within one year of effective date of the ITP, SQRCD will provide to CDFG, for its review and approval, a list of priority stream reaches for flow enhancement and/or water quality based on coho salmon life stage need.”



The problems embedded in the foregoing passage are numerous. The statement that the Siskiyou RCD will improve flows “and/or water quality” implies that improving water quality and meeting water quality standards is optional, when in fact it is legally required. As the passage continues, we find that CDFG and the Permittee will only restore flow to “critical reaches” during “critical life stages for coho salmon”, implying that non-coho bearing streams or reaches out of the season of coho use will continue to be dried up in violation of §5937. There are many diversions extracting large amounts of water above the highest point of anadromy in the Scott basin, for example Shackleford Creek alone has three. Furthermore, the Siskiyou RCD will come back to CDFG within a year and will define which Scott River reaches will be recovered for coho salmon. CDFG codes do not allow some streams to be sacrificed and others to be saved, and it is particularly inappropriate for the water users and diverters to make critical decisions regarding coho salmon conservation.

36-32  
cont.

The DEIR not only fails CEQA compliance tests on use of “best science”, cumulative watershed effects and data sharing, it also runs counter to CEQA’s direction on efficient use of resources which is “to conserve the available financial, governmental, physical, and social resources with the objective that those resources may be better applied toward the mitigation of actual significant effects on the environment”. CDFG has spent \$750,000 on preparation of a DEIR that is deficient regarding key scientific issues and insufficient to avoid continuing jeopardy to the Scott River coho salmon population. CDFG should have spent that money on enforcing existing laws and getting stream flow back in the Scott River.

36-33

Scott River coho salmon cannot be managed at current extremely low levels because the likelihood of loss due to storms or other stochastic events is high (Rieman et al. 1993). Coho populations must be aggressively rebuilt by providing refugia (Reeves et al. 1995) in habitats that have high intrinsic potential (Williams et al. 2006) and anthropogenic stressors like cows in the riparian zone need to be eliminated to allow full riparian and hydrologic recovery (Kaufmann et al. 1997).

36-34

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# Comment Letter 37

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

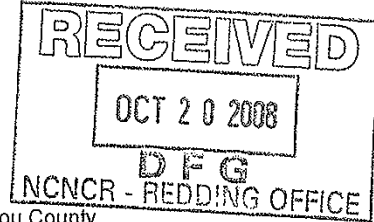
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 653-4082  
(916) 657-5390 - Fax



October 17, 2008



Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

RE: SCH#2006102095 Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program; Siskiyou County.

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has reviewed the Notice of Completion (NOC) referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, which includes archeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines 15064(b)). To comply with this provision the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on historical resources within the area of project effect (APE), and if so to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess and mitigate project-related impacts to archaeological resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

- ✓ Contact the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center for a record search. The record search will determine:
  - If a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
  - If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
  - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
  - If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present
- ✓ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
  - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
  - The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.
- ✓ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for:
  - A Sacred Lands File Check. USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle name, township, range and section required.
  - A list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in the mitigation measures. Native American Contacts List attached.
- ✓ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.
  - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
  - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
  - Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

37-1

37-2

37-3

37-4

Sincerely,  
*Katy Sanchez*  
Katy Sanchez  
Program Analyst

CC: State Clearinghouse



# Comment Letter 37

## Native American Contacts

Siskiyou County  
October 17, 2008

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Karuk  
Shasta  
Upper Klamath

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH# 2006102095 Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program; Siskiyou County.

Memorandum

Date: December 9, 2008

To: Bob Williams
Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, California 96001

2008 DEC 9 PM 3 14
DFG - REDDING

From: Department of Water Resources

Subject: DRAFT Environmental Impact Report related to the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program (released October 10, 2008)

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review your DRAFT Environmental Impact Report related to the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program (October 10, 2008). The following comments are divided into General Comments and Section Specific Comments.

General Comments

- DWR is the watermaster for five decrees (French Creek Decree 14478, Shackleford Creek Decree 13775, Oro Fino, Sniktaw and Wildcat Creeks of the Scott River Decree 30662), in the Scott River Watershed and associated stipulations and agreements. Specifically DWR provides State Watermaster Service for the following Superior Court of Siskiyou County decrees, stipulation, and agreements:

- French Creek Decree 14478, 1958
French Creek Decree 14478, 1958 Signed
French Creek Findings and Conclusions 14478, 1958
French Creek Stipulation 14478, 1958
French Creek Trial Distribution Agreement, 1954
Shackleford Creek Agreement for Trial Distribution, 1945
Shackleford Creek Agreement for Trial Distribution, 1946
Shackleford Creek Decree 13775, 1950
Shackleford Creek Watermaster Service Agreement 1947
Oro Fino, Sniktaw and Wildcat Creeks: Scott River Decree 30662, 1980.

As the watermaster, DWR follows the Court's instructions as set forth in the decrees. Rejecting Alternative 2 - Adjudicated of Water Rights appears to be an attempt by The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to impose extrajudicial water use restrictions on settled court cases. DWR request DFG to consider a revised Alternative 2 that includes the watershed-wide terms and conditions that would assure the take of coho salmon is avoided where ever possible and minimized and mitigated where the take is incidental to an otherwise legal activity and petition the court to include the appropriate terms and conditions of the ITP, SAA MOU, and the MLTC into the appropriate decrees.

38-1



Bob Williams  
December 9, 2008  
Page 2

Implementing a Revised Alternative 2 is especially timely because of the actions of the County of Siskiyou to transition to a county managed watermaster program following the 2007 legislative action to establish the joint Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District. At this time the county has already made significant advancements as evidenced by the February 2008 establishment of a Watermaster Board of Directory that currently has acquired approximately 40 percent concurrence of the water right holders. Clearly this transition process is advancing at a pace that is consistent with implementing the ITP even if a revised Alternative 2 is selected.



38-1  
cont.

In the draft EIR there are statements that the Department of Water Resources through its Watermaster Service will need to take certain actions to avoid or minimize the take of coho salmon as it relates to operating water diversion and managing water in the Program Area. The Watermaster Service will only be able to take those actions that are consistent with the decrees.

Implementing a Revised Alternative 2 would remove the implicit contradiction between the watermaster (who ever is currently acting as watermaster) implementing the decrees and the watermaster staying in compliance with the California Endangered Species Act and in the future maybe the federal Endangered Species Act.

- By stating there may be additional terms and conditions in sub-permits impedes a comprehensive review of environmental impacts associated with this permitting program. If additional terms are necessary then a supplemental EIR needs to be issued.
- Announcing that there will be additional water management actions that may result in significant and grave impacts to the environment, local economies, and land use that are expected to occur one to five years after the signing of the permit and sub-permits and not describing where and to what extent these specific actions are expected to occur appears to depart from CEQA guidelines to disclose and discuss foreseeable impacts.
- By requiring SQRCD to identify where to improve baseline instream flows and/or water quality within critical reaches of the Scott River and its tributaries and at critical life stages of coho salmon by installing water improvement projects results in the Department of Fish and Game surrendering its statutory responsibility to someone else who may or may not have the skills to make such coho salmon related determinations and will likely compromise the success of the permitting program. DFG should retain, exercise, and defend its responsibility to make such fish related determinations.

38-2

38-3

38-4

Bob Williams  
December 9, 2008  
Page 3

- The EIR should list in one place (preferably in a matrix up front in the document after Table S-1) all the expected deliverables such as plans, reports, training and projects to be produced or constructed. The list should contain:
  - the required specific performance measures and significance criteria so that everyone will know when they are complete,
  - the entity responsible:
    - for paying for them,
    - for producing them,
    - for approving them,
  - the timeline to produce them
  - the timeline for approving them,
  - the consequences for not producing them,
- The list should be grouped by DFG, SQRCD, and Sub-permittee holder and within Sub-permittee holder by water right holders or DWR.

38-5

- In numerous places in the EIR DFG states that they will approve the design of head gates and flow control structures. For those diversions under the State Watermaster Service the California Water Code in Section 4100 through Section 4103 explicitly states the design will be approved by the Department of Water Resources (department). The following text is excerpted from the Water Code:

*4100. The owner of every conduit subject to regulation by a watermaster shall construct and maintain to the satisfaction of the department a substantial and serviceable diversion dam or works in the channel of the stream from which the water is diverted.*

*4101. The owner of a conduit shall construct and maintain to the satisfaction of the department a substantial and serviceable headgate in the conduit through which the water is diverted at or near the diversion dam or works.*

*4102. The headgate shall be of such construction that it can be locked and kept closed by the watermaster.*

*4103. The owner of a conduit shall construct and maintain such water flow measuring devices at such points along the conduit as may be required and approved by the department for the purpose of assisting the watermaster in determining the amounts of water which are being diverted and applied to beneficial use.*

38-6

Either the statements corresponding to DFG's approval in the EIR should be revised to be consistent with the directives of the California Water Code by replacing DFG with DWR or additional statements need to be inserted to reflect the anticipated cooperation between DWR and DFG in arriving at the mutually satisfactory construction of diversion works and the maintenance of these works.

Bob Williams  
December 9, 2008  
Page 4

**Section Specific Comments**

Summary Page S-3 The last paragraph should mention “while also in compliance with California Water Code and several Superior Court water rights decrees.”

38-7

Summary Page S-5 End of 4th paragraph: Add the consequences of Agricultural Operators being out of compliance with the Fish and Game Code and CSEA. Some operators might prefer to test this option, so they should know the consequences.

Chapter 1 Page 1-1 Add to 1st paragraph: “while also complying with the California Water Code and several Superior Court water right decrees.”

38-8

Chapter 2 Page 3-5 Department of Water Resources: “Ensure watermaster activities are in compliance with CSEA, several Superior Court decrees, the California Water Code, and other applicable laws and regulations.”

Chapter 2 Page 2-27 Paragraph 2. CDFG cannot instruct DWR to take actions that violate the California Water Code or the Superior Court decrees.

Chapter 2 Page 2-27 Paragraph 3. DWR can inform CDFG of any areas where fish stranding is probable based on flow conditions but cannot be responsible for observing every portion of every stream under watermaster service, nor whether or not coho may be present. DWR manages water, not fish.

38-9

Chapter 2 Page 2-27 Paragraph 3. If CDFG instructs DWR to reduce or cease a diversion and/or change the timing or manner of the diversion and take any other measures within DWR’s control, DWR will implement those measures immediately (or as soon as possible) if they do not violate the California Water Code or any of several Superior Court decrees.

Chapter 3 Beaver Removal Page 3.2-15 The positive effects of beaver to the system are noted but is there any information about the beaver dams blocking migratory fish? The EIR seems to suggest that artificial structures in streams are a problem.

38-10

Appendix A Section V Page A-5 and A-42 PROGRAM AREA

The figure (map of Project Area on Page A-42) should contain the label “Attachment 1” as referenced in A-V on page A-5.

38-11

Appendix A Section XVII Page A-33 DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SUB-PERMIT OBLIGATIONS

Sub-Section A. The last sentence should be revised to state DWR and DFG are to cooperate to arrive at the mutually satisfactory database.

## Comment Letter 38

Bob Williams  
December 9, 2008  
Page 4 ~~5~~

Sub-Section C. At this point in time, the State Watermasters are not trained to determine what is "poor aquatic habitat" for coho salmon. The objective of this section would be better satisfied by requiring the State Watermaster to report when stream flows reach a predetermined discharge rate.

↑  
38-11  
cont.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review your Draft Environmental Impact Report related to the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program. If you have any questions concerning the Department's review of this draft report, please contact Dwight Russell at (530) 528-7402.



Glen S. Pearson, Chief  
Northern District  
(530) 529-7342



**SISKIYOU RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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December 8, 2008

Mr. Mark Stopher  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(sent electronically and via USPS)

Re: Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program  
DEIR Comment Period

Dear Mr. Stopher:

Based on inputs we have received from our constituents that they have had insufficient time to review the documents, the Siskiyou RCD respectfully requests that the public comment period for the above referenced DEIR be extended 60 days.

39.1-1

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. P. Krum".

William P. Krum  
President of the Board of Directors

cc. Siskiyou RCD Board of Directors  
Carolyn Pimentel, District Manager



California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region  
Bob Anderson, Chairman



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

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Arnold  
Schwarzenegger  
Governor

December 12, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust St.  
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Mr. Williams:

Subject: Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR Comments, SCH#  
2006102095

File: Scott River TMDL

Thank you for this and earlier opportunities to comment on the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program and associated DEIR.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is a responsible agency for this project, as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), having jurisdiction over the quality of ground and surface waters (including wetlands) and the protection of the beneficial uses of such waters. Our review and comments are limited to the identification of opportunities for collaboration and coordination between our agencies in order to maximize the effectiveness of the Department's Watershed-Wide Permitting Program and the Regional Water Board's permitting and TMDL programs. It is on this basis that we offer the following comments.

39-1

**Water Use Data Sharing**

The *Staff Report for the Action Plan for the Scott River Watershed Sediment and Temperature TMDLs* identifies the amount of groundwater that discharges to the Scott River as a primary driver of water temperatures and, thus, a critical factor in the support of Beneficial Uses, including coho salmon (NCRWQCB, 2006). The *Action Plan for the Scott River Watershed Sediment and Temperature TMDLs* in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Basin (NCRWQCB, 2007) requested the County of Siskiyou to develop the *Scott Valley Community Groundwater Study Plan* (Groundwater Study Plan) [Harter and Hines, 2008]. The Groundwater Study Plan is now complete and elements of the plan are currently being implemented. One of the primary objectives of the Groundwater Study Plan is an increased understanding of the relationship between the use of

39-2



water for irrigation and stream flows. One type of information that will aid in developing an understanding of this key relationship is the level of water use. As specified in Incidental Take Permit condition XV A 2, each sub-permittee is required to verify that the quantity of water diverted or used is in accordance with a valid water right. Furthermore, the quantity of water used or diverted is required to be reported to the Department on a monthly basis. These water use data would benefit the Groundwater Study effort tremendously, and we encourage the department to submit the data to Dr. Thomas Harter of the UC Cooperative Extension Groundwater Program (Principal Investigator of the study) as it is received. Similarly, we encourage the Department to forward the water use data to the State Water Resource Control Board's Division of Water Rights, as they are the agency with the authority and expertise to evaluate and act on water right compliance issues. By submitting these data to Dr. Harter and the Division of Water Rights, the Department will be making a great contribution to increasing our understanding of the hydrology and thermodynamics of the Scott River, and ultimately to achieving our shared goal of effective management and protection of the coho and other beneficial uses of water in the Scott River watershed.

↑  
39-2  
cont.

**Interconnected Groundwater Use**

The interconnection of groundwater and surface water in Scott Valley has long been recognized. The Scott River water rights adjudication was initiated in 1970, and by 1971 special legislation was passed that recognized the interconnectedness of groundwater and surface water so that the Scott river adjudication could proceed in a fair and effective manner. The *Scott River Adjudication* (SWRCB, 1980) defines interconnected groundwater as "...all ground water so closely and freely connected with the surface flow of the Scott River that any extraction of such ground water causes a reduction in the surface flow in the Scott River prior to the end of a current irrigation season." The adjudication also delineates the areal extent of the interconnected groundwater.

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39-3

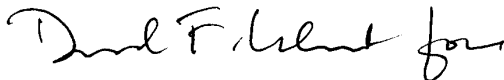
Incidental Take Permit condition XV A 2 specifies that "Each sup-permittee shall verify that the quantity of water the sub-permittee is diverting or using is in accordance with a valid water right." In Sections IV and VI of the ITP it is stated that the sub-permittees are agricultural operators, with agricultural operators defined as people or entities that divert water, or are "involved in an agricultural operation on property in the Program Area through which or adjacent to which a stream flows." The definitions and conditions stated above indicate that the only users of interconnected groundwater, as defined in the Scott River Adjudication, required to report their water use and verify compliance with their adjudicated water right are those whose properties are adjacent to a stream. While Regional Water Board staff believe that most adjudicated users of interconnected

groundwater are adjacent to a stream channel, it is not necessarily so. Given the ambiguity, and the significant effect of interconnected groundwater use on surface flows, Regional Water Board staff request that the definition of "Agricultural Operator" be broadened to explicitly include interconnected groundwater users.

↑  
39-3  
cont.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR. We look forward to working with the Department of Fish and Game to ensure the restoration, enhancement, and preservation of the coho and other Beneficial Uses of water. Please contact Bryan McFadin (707-576-2751 or [bmcfadin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:bmcfadin@waterboards.ca.gov)) if you wish to discuss our comments or have questions.

Sincerely,



Catherine Kuhlman  
Executive Officer  
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

121208\_BMcF\_ScottTPDEIR\_Comments

Literature Cited:

Harter, Thomas, and Ryan Hines. 2008. Scott Valley Community Groundwater Study Plan.

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB). 2006. Staff Report for the Action Plan for the Scott River Watershed Sediment and Temperature TMDLs.

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB). 2007. Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region.

California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 1980. Scott River Adjudication Decree No. 30662, Superior Court for Siskiyou County. Scott River stream system within California in County of Siskiyou.



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December 8, 2008

Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
Email: SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov  
Conservation Planning  
Department of Fish and Game, Region 1  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Re: Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program, SCH#2006102095

California Department of Fish and Game:

Following are the comments submitted by and on behalf of Klamath Riverkeeper (KRK), the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) and the Institute for Fisheries Resources (IFR) regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposal to issue watershed-wide permits for stream bed alteration actions and incidental coho take in the Scott River watershed, where coho salmon are both state listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and federally listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Klamath Riverkeeper's projects and campaigns help restore water quality on the Klamath River, bringing vitality and abundance back to the river and its people. The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) is the west coast's largest organization of commercial fishing families, many of whose members depend on a healthy Klamath salmon population for their livelihoods, and has worked for more than 30 years to restore healthy salmon runs to the Klamath Basin. The Institute for Fisheries Resources (IFR), which is closely affiliated with PCFFA, funds and manages multiple salmon restoration efforts for PCFFA and on behalf of salmon fishing-dependent coastal communities throughout the Klamath Basin.

Our organizations are all deeply committed to making the Klamath fishable and swimmable again—and to working with all the people and their communities who need clean water and healthy fisheries in the Klamath watershed.

40-1



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### Summary and General Comments

Overall, we find that while the DEIR contains some well-intended proposals to help recover coho and prevent the need for regulatory enforcement, it falls far short of the level of adequate analysis required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Additionally, the DEIR shows some troubling inconsistencies that work at cross-purposes with prescriptions in the Coho Recovery Plan referenced in the document as well as the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's TMDL basin plans.

↑  
40-1  
cont.

Progressive dewatering and over-appropriation of the Scott River's limited groundwater inflows has been an ongoing problem throughout the basin and is probably the *single largest adverse impact* on coho populations in the river. Refer to ATTACHMENT 1, which are PCFFA/IFR *et al.* comments on the current Scott River TMDL dated June 12, 2006, for information on this ongoing over-appropriation problem. We include and incorporate this ATTACHMENT 1 and the references, data and charts therein as part of these comments.

↑

The number of groundwater permits or irrigation well has skyrocketed in recent years throughout the Scott River, yet little study has been done to assess the adverse impacts on local stream flows of drawing down local aquifers on such a scale. Dry channels correlate closely with recent increases in groundwater pumping (see ATTACHMENT 1, especially Attachment A to that document).

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40-2

Unfortunately the measures contemplated under the DEIR do not address this core dewatering issue – excessive basin-wide over-appropriation of water that dries up *increasingly large portions* of the Scott River every year – and thus will not lead to the restoration of endangered and threatened fish species. Indeed, allowing these practices to continue through permits issued pursuant to this program would not only violate CESA and various state and federal clean water laws including California's TMDL standards in that river system, but would ultimately lead to coho extinction in that basin.

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Our analysis also finds that the facilitation of take permitting for sub-permittees in this program is impossible to justify in light of persuasive

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scientific data showing that some of these same projects (particularly water diversions) are resulting in a net loss of year classes or broods returning to the Scott River (see ATTACHMENT 1, particularly at pp.25-28). In addition, with respect to the Incidental Take Permits contemplated in this program, the DEIR: (1) does not fully describe these projects, and does not disclose their impacts on ESA and CESA listed coho and other salmonids present in the river system; (2) does not adequately identify biological thresholds of major significance that, if exceeded, with result in not only unnecessary “take” of these species but jeopardy resulting in eventual extinction.

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 cont.

CDFG cannot and should not delegate enforcement of CESA and DFG codes and regulations to the local Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs). These organizations (which are made up of and controlled entirely by the landowners who would be subject to these same regulations) have an *inherent conflict of interest* that cannot be overcome. Asking them to regulate themselves and their neighbors also puts them in an untenable political position, the end result of which will almost certainly be little or no regulation at all of actions (such as increasing over-diversion of the Scott sub-basin’s limited water supply) that *clearly* jeopardize the future existence of coho and other salmonids in the basin.

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 40-4

Likewise, privatizing data from publicly funded flow and water gauges is also not appropriate and is likely illegal. The Program described in the DEIR would allow for this data to be withheld from the public through mechanisms to put control over this data in the sole hands of the RCDs.

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 40-5a

Our organizations are concerned that, however well-intended, the program proposed in this DEIR would even further jeopardize threatened coho salmon in the basin, thereby making the program a potential violation of CDFG's obligations under the California Endangered Species Act as well as its federal equivalent. Furthermore, these actions would jeopardize the ability of the sub-basin to meet current TMDL standards as well as USFS adjudicated minimum instream flows needed for fish migration, spawning and rearing in August, September and October. Current Scott River flows are already *far below* these adjudicated USFS minimum flow obligations (see ATTACHMENT 1, Figure 3 on pg. 13).

↑  
 40-5b  
 40-5c



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Implementation of these mitigation measures and provisions is also not clearly specified, but appears to be lacking. In particular, CDFG should not agree to keep wardens off these streams which the State of California is responsible for protecting. Coho poaching in these streams is not an insignificant problem. Allowing locals to simply deny river and stream access to CDFG officials charged with statutory responsibility to protect those public trust resources is contrary to state law and should not become *de facto* policy.

40-6

The DEIR also does not include, and is therefore not based on, the best available science. Conspicuously absent, for instance, is any reference to "Relative Effects of Climate and Water: Use of Base-flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin," by Van Kirk, Robert W. and Naman, Seth W., Journal of the American Water Resources Association, vol. 44, Number 4 (August 2008), pp. 1035-1052 (18). For convenience, we include this study in these comments as ATTACHMENT 2 incorporated herein.

40-7

In general there is relatively little discussion or inadequate discussion of the need to maintain minimum instream flows and how decades of largely agricultural diversions of these flows (either directly from the stream or indirectly via groundwater aquifers reducing spring inflows to these streams) has been the primary driver of coho habitat destruction in the river.

40-8

Finally, Fish and Game Code 2081 (b) and (c), referenced throughout the DEIR, stipulates that authorized take mitigation measures "must be roughly proportional in extent to the impact of the taking on the species, maintain the applicant's objectives to the greatest extent possible and must be capable of successful implementation." Unfortunately, the permitting structure proposed by CDFG for this program fails to meet these stipulations because: 1) the DEIR does not adequately characterize the risk of extinction facing Scott River coho due to agricultural practices and therefore underestimates the proportional need for mitigation; 2) the project proposed in the DEIR is unlikely to reduce the need for enforcement, citizen suits under CESA and other regulatory tightening to protect threatened and endangered coho, therefore failing to meet a key objective for applicants; and (3) the DEIR does not provide the necessary information or trigger mechanisms for successful implementation of such a project.

40-9a

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40-9c



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### Section Specific Comments

The following additional comments serve to evaluate the contents of the DEIR, breaking the document down by sections we are primarily concerned about, but also serve to evaluate the overall legal, biological and economic adequacy of the approach contemplated in the proposed permitting project or “program”:

#### 1.2.3—Scope of the Draft EIR

The programmatic scope of this document is problematic, incomplete and inappropriate. Aggregation of streambed alteration and coho take by many individual agricultural operators into one watershed-wide permit creates an accountability gap and deprives the public of its legally assured right to comment on important details unique to each specific land use under CEQA.

40-10

#### 2.1.1—Program Objectives

While we recognize and appreciate the effort taken to improve conditions for coho by working with agricultural operators to improve their practices and mitigate their damages, we find that the stated objectives either ignore, are inconsistent with, or would work at cross-purposes with the stated objectives in the referenced *Coho Recovery Strategy* approved by the Fish and Game Commission as state coho recovery policy in 2004.<sup>1</sup>

Page ES-2 of the *Coho Recovery Strategy* states:

“The primary objective of this Recovery Strategy is to return coho salmon to a level of sustained viability, while protecting the genetic integrity of both ESUs, so that they can be delisted and regulations or other protections under the CESA (FGC §2050et seq.) will not be necessary. The Department defines sustained viability as a future condition when naturally producing coho salmon are adequately abundant and occupy a sufficient range and distribution to ensure against extinction due to environmental fluctuations, stochastic events, and human land and water-use impacts.

40-11

<sup>1</sup> “Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon,” Report to the California Fish and Game Commission (adopted by the Fish and Game Commission as formal policy on February, 2004).



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"A second objective of this Recovery Strategy is to achieve harvestable populations of coho salmon for Tribal, recreational, and commercial fisheries, so important to the cultural and economic well-being of California."

However, the DEIR does not furnish nearly enough detail as to how, exactly, the proposed program would meet the above stated objective of the *Coho Recovery Strategy*. What's more, the DEIR fails to identify abundance, delisting or harvestable fisheries as objectives of the program. Furthermore, the DEIR does not offer any metrics or benchmarks to quantify the net coho recovery resulting from restoration actions proposed in the program. Without such a quantifying mechanism, it is biologically impossible to measure whether the objective, not just to maintain or increase coho populations, but also to recover Scott River coho runs to the point of abundance and delisting, has been or even ever could be achieved.

More specifically, the *Coho Recovery Strategy* provides a set of criteria for recovery. The first criterion (Goal I) listed on page 4.4 of the recovery plan is: "Maintain and improve the number of key populations and increase the number of populations and brood years of coho salmon."

The reality is that as long as the root causes of coho declines in the Scott River watershed such as excessive groundwater pumping, illegal diversions, stream dewatering, lack of enforcement and permitted habitat fragmentation go unaddressed, coho there will continue to decline. *As long as coho continue to decline, CDFG must act to reverse the trend.* Failure to do so would be arbitrary and capricious as well as a derogation of CDFG's statutory duties as the Trustee Agency over fish and wildlife in California.

Unfortunately, this DEIR offers no evidence that the proposed program would do enough to reverse the current trend toward salmonid extinction in the river. Indeed, the program seems designed instead to allow CDFG to "opt out" of its remediation and enforcement responsibilities by illegally delegating those responsibilities to RCDs and other entities directly controlled by the regulated community.

40-11  
cont.





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Although most Tribal and commercial fishermen who would benefit from a harvestable coho fishery live and work outside the Scott River watershed, they are directly affected by salmon declines in the Scott sub-basin. Indeed, as we saw during 2006, greatly reduced numbers of salmon surviving in the Klamath River can force “weak stock management” closures to ocean salmon harvests as far south as Monterey, CA and as far north as northern Oregon – nearly 700 miles of coastline. As such, the omission of any demonstrable benefits to these groups from the program’s objectives represents an imbalanced set of priorities that fail to sync up with CDFG’s commitment to the needs and historic uses of those groups in the *Coho Recovery Strategy*.

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 40-11  
 cont.

2.3.1—General Conditions in the ITP

General condition C delegates enforcement responsibility to non-enforcement representatives. The DEIR does not provide any analysis showing that CDFG is legally allowed to delegate its legal obligation under CESA to protect public trust resources such as abundant, clean water and viable fish populations to any other agency.

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This section also requires that the non-enforcement representative provide at least 48 hours of notice to landowners and obtain written permission to access public river systems through a permittee’s land. Such a stipulation is unreasonable because it weakens CDFG’s ability to effectively monitor, regulate or enforce the permits it issues, running the risk that permit conditions go unenforced. If permit conditions went unenforced, coho would likely continue to decline, ironically causing the need for still more strict regulation and enforcement under CESA.

40-12

2.3.2—Additional Obligations in the ITP to Avoid and Minimize Take of Coho Salmon

Additional Avoidance and Mitigation Obligation A is insufficiently vague in its description of how water rights compliance will be verified, especially in light of weak enforcement provisions in 2.3.1.

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 40-13

Publicly funded stream gauges should generate data that is publicly available. CDFG should require that gauge and meter readings be posted on the internet in real-time for public access to help ensure that this obligation is met.

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 40-14



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Additional Avoidance and Mitigation Obligation D is insufficiently vague, and fails to explain if and why limiting livestock and vehicle crossings only to the wet season adequately protects the stream channel's hydrologic integrity, water quality and habitat, as required under CESA and the Scott River basin plan.

40-15

Additional Avoidance and Mitigation Obligation E should specify a minimum riparian vegetation buffer requirement of 50-150 feet, depending on stream size and presence of typical salmonid habitat characteristics. Smaller buffers are simply inadequate to prevent land erosion and intrusion of cattle and sheep into these fragile riparian areas.

40-16

Additional Avoidance and Mitigation Obligation J states the commendable goal of reconnecting Shackelford Creek with the Scott River channel during coho rearing in the spring, but is insufficiently vague as to how much water diverters must refrain from using and how diverters will be compelled to comply with this obligation. However, we support the goal of reconnecting tributaries and other refugia to the main Scott River channel, and advocate similar projects elsewhere in the basin.

40-17

2.3.3—Mitigation Obligations of SQRCD: Flow Enhancement, Habitat Improvement, and Fish Passage

Flow Enhancement Mitigation 1 provides for a water trust account to be established by SQRCD, but fails to mention how much water will be stored there and at what cost to whom. The questions of water quantity and cost should be analyzed under CEQA before the permitting program is approved or any incidental take protection is extended.

40-18

The stock water plan referenced in Flow Enhancement Mitigation 5 lacks a funding mechanism and timetable. Without identified funding and deadlines, this mitigation measure could go unimplemented, leaving adult coho without the flows they need to migrate to preferable spawning gravels. If instream flow measures go unimplemented and coho, chinook and steelhead slip further towards extinction, this already deficient program will fall even further short of recovery goals. Additionally, effectiveness of the plan should be completed and analyzed under CEQA prior to extending incidental take protection, not one year after the effective date of the ITP.

40-19



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Flow Enhancement Mitigation 6 lacks specificity about where the proposed additional 5 cfs will come from, at what time of year it will be made available and how it will be legally secured. These details should be provided in CEQA analysis so members of the public and experts can evaluate and comment on them.

40-20

The spawning gravel enhancement plan in Habitat Improvement Mitigation 1 needs to be completed and analyzed under CEQA before incidental take protection is approved or extended, not two years after the effective date of the ITP.

40-21

Habitat Improvement Mitigation 2 calls for at least 20 instream habitat improvement structures. Why this number was used lacks explanation and therefore appears arbitrary. Further, the DEIR provides no information as to where these 20 structures will be installed according to which priorities, nor how their effectiveness will be determined. This should be analyzed under CEQA before incidental take protection or streambed alteration agreement is approved or extended.

40-22

Habitat Improvement Mitigation 3 lacks explanation for the prescribed acreages and timeframes, which therefore appear arbitrary. Additionally, this mitigation measure is too weak and sets a very low bar for riparian planting. In reality, much more can be done and should be required of an agricultural operator or other sub-permittee during the 10 years covered under the ITP.

40-23

Barrier removal and Fish Passage Mitigation Obligation 1 and 3 offer no explanation for the seven year time frame, which therefore appears arbitrary. Further, this section of the DEIR provides no supporting analysis to show that these modifications will adequately maintain or recover coho populations. This should be analyzed under CEQA before streambed alteration agreements are approved or incidental take protections are extended.

40-24

While we generally commend and support the goal of replacing the gravel dams with boulder vortex weirs as a fisheries restoration technique, this DEIR later states that the diverters who use Farmer's Ditch have the right to divert the entire stream in August and September, coinciding with salmon migration

40-25



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needs for instream flows (3.2-33.) In this case, the gravel dam replacement would seem to be just a band-aid on the much larger problem of a routinely dewatered stream channel. Therefore, we ask whether Farmer's Ditch should qualify for a permit under this program, given the legal mandate to recover coho and the impossibility of doing so with a dewatered river. This DEIR does not provide any evidence that installation of such a boulder vortex weir in place of the gravel dam will yield adequate coho repopulation, particularly given those facts.

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2.3.4—Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program

Putting SQRCD in the role of monitor suggests that the program will be at least as ineffective as past monitoring and enforcement enactment, if not more so, due to the political nature of RCD appointments. What's more, putting SQRCD in the role of monitor, and thereby informal enforcer, introduces a middle-agency, creating room for new inefficiencies in the system and slowing down the timetable for coho recovery. It also muddies the role of the RCDs, which has typically been a cooperative one, not a regulatory one. Such a blanket delegation of authority and accountability is legally insupportable and essentially constitutes bad policy.

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Chapter 3 Intro—Environmental Setting

The DEIR sets out an inadequate baseline against which to measure impacts of the program. Establishment of the baseline conditions as those existing in 2005 when composition of this program began runs a significant risk of shortchanging coho recovery potential by excluding historically abundant coho populations, lower water diversions and much less groundwater pumping from the baseline – in other words, when conditions in the Scott supported viable and non-listed coho populations.

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 40-27  
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To provide some scale, the *Coho Recovery Strategy* this DEIR claims to align with prescribes a temporal baseline for the purpose of defining viability of coho populations (*Coho Recovery Strategy*, pg. 2.11):

“McElhaney et al. (2000) define a viable salmonid population for purposes of the ESA as ‘an independent population of any Pacific salmonid (genus *Oncorhynchus*) that has a negligible risk of extinction



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due to threats from demographic variation (random or directional), local environmental variation, and genetic diversity changes (random or directional) over a one-hundred year time frame.' One hundred years was chosen to represent the time frame over which to evaluate risk of extinction."

Then, on page 3.11, the *Coho Recovery Strategy* states:

"In some watersheds, the demand for water has already exceeded the available supply and some water rights have been allocated through court adjudication. These adjudications usually did not consider coho salmon habitat needs at a level that could be considered protective under CESA."

The Scott River sub-basin is surely one of the watersheds referred to in this statement with three main water rights court decrees recognized: Shackleford Creek Decree (1950), French Creek Decree (1958) and Scott River Decree (1980). *The total combined allotment of water in these three decrees exceeds the river's flows between June and December. See Coho Recovery Strategy, pg. 3.11-3.12.*

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cont.

Yet, the baseline established in this DEIR document inappropriately fences off those adjudications from revisitation, in effect making a widespread dewatering of the river and consequent "take" (not to mention "jeopardy") of coho the environmental baseline. The DEIR states categorically that, "Some of the activities the Program covers are historic, ongoing activities that have caused and will continue to cause environmental impacts within the Program Area, including, for example, take of coho salmon..... These activities and their impacts are part of the baseline and are expected to continue regardless of the program; that is they will not be caused by the program....." (Scott Watershed-wide Permitting Program DEIR, pg. 3-2)

Effectively, the DEIR says in several sections including that one that re-adjudication is an infeasible alternative -- but without any supporting evidence, citation of Water Board analysis or further explanation. CDFG has no authority to assert such a categorical claim, much less to make the highly depleted current river conditions the environmental baseline for CEQA.



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Perhaps more worrisome still is the likelihood that the program proposed in this DEIR would supply *de facto* ITP regulatory approval for admittedly excessive current water diversions, many of which were allocated without considering CESA requirements and under which coho recovery would likely be impossible. In approving (and essentially shielding from regulatory action) the covered activities in this document, this program would thereby foreclose some of the most crucial flow-related coho, chinook and steelhead recovery measures needed on the Scott River -- and potentially forever preventing recovery of coho year-classes or broods and further jeopardizing coho runs by locking in what biologists now know are highly damaging agricultural water uses and over-appropriations that can only lead to coho extinction in the sub-basin.

40-28

3.1.1-3.1.5—Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Social and economic analysis and value mapping of cold-water salmon fisheries is almost completely absent from this DEIR document as compared with those exercises for agricultural land uses, which are richly represented. Under CEQA such a comprehensive analysis and mapping should also include historic coho range, abundance, profitability and some quantification of loss of profits since then due to widespread loss of Klamath coho fisheries, including widespread closures triggered by recent ESA listings and under “weak stock management” constraints under the Magnuson-Stevens Sustainable Fisheries Act and state law.

For example, Tribal members in the area historically fished a much longer subsistence season, starting with Pacific lamprey, then moving on to spring and fall chinook and finally coho. Today Tribal subsistence fishing is much more difficult due to smaller and shorter runs, and coho catch is now severely curtailed everywhere in their historic range both under the ESA/CESA and under basic “weak stock management” requirement under other laws. This loss of Tribal subsistence fisheries once supplied by abundant coho runs has had devastating impacts on Tribal cultures and economies.

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Coastal salmon fisheries have been subject to partial to complete closures for Klamath salmon since 1978, partial closures for coho since the mid-1980’s and zero catch of coho with constraints on other salmon for incidental impacts on



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coho since 1994. Coastal fishing-dependent communities have lost thousands of jobs and much of the infrastructure that supports fisheries.

Coho were also once abundant throughout northern California, with the Klamath supplying by far the largest component of these once-healthy runs. Today Klamath coho salmon are down to only about 1-2% of their historic abundance, which is why they are ESA/CESA listed. Without quantifying the massive economic and cultural losses suffered by Tribal and commercial fishing economies because of these coho fishery losses, the socioeconomic sections of the DEIR are misleading as well as incomplete, and therefore fail to meet CEQA's requirement that *all impacts* of a project be disclosed and avoided, minimized or mitigated for.

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 cont.

Another glaring gap in the DEIR is its total lack of analysis on pesticide application in the Shasta River and its impacts on water quality, fisheries and ecological health in the basin. Thousands of pounds of pesticides known to be harmful to salmon are applied to agricultural lands in the basin (Ewing 1999, NCAP 1999.) Significant impacts to threatened and endangered species from chemicals including chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion—all reportedly used in the Scott River basin according to the California Pesticide Use Reporting Database—are well documented (NMFS Biological Opinion. 2008) We are concerned that while the toxic substances in these pesticides may break down quickly in the atmosphere, they can persist in groundwater supplies, thereby potentially impacting water quality and salmonid survival rates for long periods of time (Gilliom et al. 2006.)

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3.2-36-37—Geomorphology, Hydrology and Water Quality

The part of this section which discusses the impact of diversions on flow volume and water quality states that "Implementation of the program would not cause Agricultural Operators to increase their surface water diversions or increase the amount of water they are entitled to divert. To the contrary, the Program, by means of a number of required measures, would provide a mechanism to verify, monitor and control the diversion and use of water within the Program Area to ensure that such diversion and use is based on a valid water right."

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However, this statement is inconsistent with earlier parts of the section, where the DEIR itself acknowledges that use of groundwater is largely unregulated, while at least half of all water rights decreed in the watershed are not overseen by a water master. This section of the DEIR fails to make clear what, specifically, is the mechanism for verifying, monitoring and controlling diversions. The paragraph here refers vaguely to “a number of required measures” as a “means” to ensure that diversions covered for streambed alteration and take are “otherwise legal.” But given the program’s lack of accountability and authority over monitoring and enforcement, this DEIR fails to clarify how those measures will be actively required or enforced.

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3.2-60--Impact 3.2.4—Groundwater Impacts and Mitigations to Geomorphology, Hydrology and Water Quality

In considering the possible impacts of the program on groundwater, the DEIR concedes that agricultural operators may favor groundwater use more heavily due to regulatory burdens the program places on surface water diversions. The DEIR also acknowledges that “Increased use of groundwater during dry conditions in order to curb the consumptive use of surface water...could decrease groundwater discharge into the Scott River and its tributaries,” (3.2-61, Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program DEIR.)

In turn, “a reduction in groundwater discharge could decrease baseflow volumes and could contribute to increased water temperatures.” (3.2-61.) Yet, a paragraph later, the DEIR erroneously states that the program would not substantially increase the draw on groundwater and pronounces the Scott River’s groundwater problem less-than-significant. This is an internal contradiction that cannot be reconciled.

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The arbitrary and somewhat contradictory conclusion that impacts to groundwater would be less-than-significant is not consistent with the *Coho Recovery Plan* (pp. 3.11-3.12), recent findings by USGS or information elsewhere in the DEIR regarding groundwater. The categorization of groundwater use as less-than-significant in this document also needs further analysis and explanation in the context of the Scott River 303d listing for high water temperatures, associated TMDLs and beneficial uses including cold-water fisheries—all processes overseen under the State Water Board’s Clean Water





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Act authority. It is unacceptable under the federal CWA and CESA to permit a diversion that heats up the water, degrades water quality and habitat, fails to protect a beneficial use and further jeopardizes salmonid viability in the Scott River watershed.

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The nexus between quantity of groundwater pumped from the interconnected zone and water quality in the Scott River is not addressed adequately in this DEIR. Numerous connections between groundwater and stream inflow are well known and currently being investigated in much greater detail. For instance, the program purports to cover surface water diversions, but ignores the well-documented interaction between surface water and groundwater (California Water Code 2500.5.) It is unclear whether program limitations on surface water diversions might also extend to groundwater supplies, at least in the interconnected zone. The DEIR needs to address whether people using pumps and wells to extract groundwater need to quantify or scale back their use, including mechanism for determining if such actions should be taken in the future.

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3.3-53-54—Impact 3.3-2—Groundwater Impacts and Mitigation to Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat

The arbitrary and somewhat contradictory conclusion that impacts to groundwater would be less-than-significant is not consistent with the *Coho Recovery Plan* (pp. 3.11-3.12), recent findings by USGS or information elsewhere in the DEIR regarding groundwater.

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4.1-4.4—Cumulative Effects

The cumulative impacts analysis contained in this DEIR is flawed in assuming the historic illegal “take” of CESA-listed coho as well as over-allocation of water as the environmental baseline.

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Rather, the baseline should be the environmental conditions (including instream flows) necessary to prevent significant “take” of CESA-listed coho, and which will foster coho’s ultimate recovery. This level of take is not analyzed.

How many protected fish will actually be taken by these program actions under an ITP is certainly not identified quantitatively, nor even qualitatively. Will this

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so-called "incidental take" be *de minimus* or will it be a major population-level adverse impact. Will coho survive these impacts? Will they recover? In the Scott watershed? Overall, in the entire ESU? Adequate analysis on the topic is not provided in this DEIR, leaving too many unanswered questions about Scott River coho salmon's ultimate chances for recovery.

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Section 4.4 in this DEIR lacks adequate analysis of *why* and *how* "Activities implemented by Program participants would not commit future generations to undesirable uses and would not involve a use from which irreversible damage could result," (p. 4-38, Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program DEIR). In our view, the opposite of the above statement is true. Permitting ongoing diversions, dam impoundment, unregulated groundwater use and resultant coho decline without proportionally adequate mitigation does commit future generations to undesirable uses and could potentially cause irreversible damage to the Shasta River as a viable salmonid-bearing stream. This alone should be enough to make the proposed program detailed in the DEIR unacceptable under CEQA.

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This section of the DEIR is embarrassingly deficient and does not satisfy CEQA requirements.

5.1-5.3—Alternatives to the Program

The DEIR uses faulty logic in its rejection of the consistency determination alternative, claiming it would allow *status quo* conditions to go on too long while awaiting a NMFS section 10 permit and subsequent consistency determinations. In the meantime, "many if not all of the ongoing historic activities would continue" (Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program DEIR, 5-2).

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This reflects the overall flawed approach of assuming existing illegal activity to be the required baseline. Yet the DEIR itself documents that existing historic activities are perpetuating extensive illegal take. The DEIR thus assumes, as part of its analysis, that individuals will continue to knowingly break the law with impunity, and that CDFG can and *will* do nothing to enforce the law.



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The DEIR makes the unfounded assertion that readjudication of water rights is infeasible because “it is not certain it would go far enough to protect the public trust” (Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program DEIR, 5-4). However, the Water Board could, if it wishes and for good cause, impose additional conditions on the existing water rights sufficient to be in compliance with existing law. This issue needs further consultation with the Water Board and analysis under California Water Code.

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In short, the no-program alternative, basically representing the *status quo*, would allow CESA violations to continue, the DEIR concedes. However, ongoing CESA violations should not be considered a legitimate option at all. There should also be some viable program of enforcement.

Conclusion

It is important to note that NONE of the activities that the program covers that perpetuate take have been authorized before under the CESA. So all of these are newly authorized activities under the CESA that are and will continue to perpetuate take:

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1. Water diversions
2. Water diversion structures, including pushup dams
3. Stream crossings
4. Fencing
5. Instream structures (road crossings, etc.)
6. Grazing and livestock

In closing, we would prefer an alternative that would require complete site specific study of the impacts on the coho from given agricultural activities and adequate assessment of how these impacts need to be reduced such that the coho will survive and recover BEFORE any incidental take protection is extended to these activities. This is what the CESA requires. While this study is being completed, MOUs and/or enforcement actions (judicial consent decrees, etc.) should be pursued/issued/secured that will require appropriate interim steps to reduce taking of coho, such as the mitigation measures outlined in the DEIR.

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In submission of these comments, we herein refer to, incorporate by reference and/or append comments submitted by the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, The Karuk Tribe and the Yurok Tribe.

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Thank you for your time spent reviewing and responding to these comments.

Erica Terence,  
 Klamath Riverkeeper

Glen H. Spain, J.D.,  
 Northwest Regional Director  
 Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations  
 and the Institute for Fisheries Resources

ATTACHMENT 1: Comments of PCFFA/IFR, et al., to the State Water Resources Control Board dated June 12, 2006, *Re: Joint Comments on the Proposed Action Plan for the Scott River Watershed Sediment and Temperature TMDL*.

ATTACHMENT 2: “Relative Effects Of Climate And Water Use On Base-Flow Trends In The Lower Klamath Basin,” Robert W. Van Kirk and Seth W. Naman. *Journal of the American Water Resources Associations*, Vol. 44, No. 4 (August, 2008).

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**ATTACHMENT 1:** Comments of PCFFA/IFR, et al., to the State Water Resources Control Board dated June 12, 2006, *Re: Joint Comments on the Proposed Action Plan for the Scott River Watershed Sediment and Temperature TMDL.*

40-41

***The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), Institute for Fisheries Resources, Coast Action Group, Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC), Environmental Protection and Information Center (EPIC), Mendocino Group of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the Sierra Club of California***

Chair Tam Doduc and Members of the Board  
C/o Selica Potter, Acting Clerk of the Board  
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1001 "I" Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

12 June 2006  
Via Email and Mail

Re: Joint Comments on the Proposed Action Plan for the Scott River Watershed Sediment and Temperature TMDL

Dear Board Members:

The Board's decision to adopt an Action Plan (Plan) for the Scott River Watershed Sediment and Temperature TMDL offers a tremendous opportunity. When it enacted the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Legislature assigned the State Board jurisdiction over both water quality and water *quantity* for the agency to take each into account when determining what pollutants may go in and what water may come out of a watershed. To date, the State Board's divisional structure and the sharp separation between the water quality and water rights divisions' proceedings and staffing has resulted in the regulatory distancing of water quality and water quantity issues for most of the State's rivers. Although the State's involvement in water quality certifications provided by the federal Clean Water Act, for example in dam licensing proceedings, have bridged the gap on occasion, those few occasions are very project specific, subject to the scheduling licensing proceedings, and include water quality issues only as a secondary issues. The TMDL proceedings currently underway around the state provide a much more integrated and timely opportunity for the State Board to realize Porter-Cologne's goals of integrating its water quality *and* water quantity management and assuring water quality standards and beneficial uses are attained as soon as possible for hundreds of degraded rivers and streams throughout the State.

Although many of the technical TMDLs produced for the North Coast region have identified sufficiently the sediment and temperature problems confronting rivers and creeks throughout that region, with the exception of the Garcia River, the Regional Board has failed to adopt any implementation plans specific to any of the other listed waterbodies. The Regional Board's failure appears to be a combination of lack of political will to confront the facts presented in these watersheds and, in regard to temperature issues, a lack of authority to directly address flows.

The Scott River Action Plan could be a model of how to integrate its water quality *and* water quantity responsibilities in a manner that reflects the natural connection between a river's flow volumes and the quality of that water rather than allow the Board's divisional structure to serve as a roadblock to effective implementation of needed regulatory requirements.

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Unfortunately, the proposed Plan does not contain sufficient enforceable actions to protect public trust and beneficial water uses, including fisheries protections, in the Scott River. In light of the ongoing collapse of Klamath River salmon resources, and ample evidence that particularly for state and federally ESA-listed coho salmon these issues are particularly important in the Scott River, the Plan needs measurable and definite actions that the State can apply to reduce controllable temperature and sediment pollutants. Temperature pollution in particular needs to be reduced to achieve applicable water quality standards, and thus restore protected beneficial uses.

The most egregious and indefensible omission in the current proposed Implementation Plan (the "Plan") is the failure to recognize the nexus between increasing water use (surface and groundwater) and declining instream flows that have led to temperature impairment throughout the Scott River watershed.

Reduced surface flows and elevated water temperatures are significant factors in the decline of the Scott River's anadromous salmonid fisheries, particularly state and federally protected coho salmon (see ATTACHMENT A). The Plan should confront the problem of temperature impairment and address the need for adequate instream flows for the Scott River and its tributaries to enable the recovery of at-risk anadromous salmonids.

Diminished flows in the Scott River are clearly linked not only to temperature impairment but also to the concentration of chemical pollutants, low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels, and high nutrient levels. The almost completely unenforceable voluntary actions proposed in the Plan are not consistent with the State and Basin Plan's Anti-degradation Policy which applies to all waters of the state, including ground water; specifically it is the State's responsibility to regulate land use activities that may reasonably be controlled, such as surface diversions, ground water pumping, grading, clearing riparian habitat, and grazing, which singly or cumulatively influence the quality of waters of the State.

General TMDL Comments:

The Regional Water Board needs to develop/adopt a Temperature TMDL Implementation Policy similar to its Sediment TMDL Implementation Policy that identifies what actions the Board will take to control activities that elevate water temperature, resulting in non-attainment of water quality standards.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), in addition to its Regional Boards, are also charged by the federal Clean Water Act and California Porter-Cologne Act to control waste discharges and ensure attainment of water quality standards.

Porter-Cologne does not allow mere voluntarism (which by its very nature is uncertain and unreliable as well as unenforceable) as the means for the Boards to address discharges of pollution to the State's waters. Porter-Cologne provides three primary tools to the SWRCB and RWQCBs to control any waste discharges to waters of the State, including the Scott River, and assure attainment of water quality standards. These three tools are: 1) waste discharge requirements, 2) conditional waivers of waste discharge requirements, or 3) discharge prohibitions.

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In addition to these three fundamental regulatory tools, Porter-Cologne allows for additional layers of activity to supplement the regulatory scheme, including funding provisions, voluntary actions, guidance authority, etc. However, in no case do any of these additional authorities supplant the three options the Board must turn to when pollution is being discharged. Every discharger of the state, large or small, good or bad, simple or complex, must report its waste discharge to the applicable Regional Board. The Regional Board then must take one of the three required actions. The choice of action and the appropriate regulatory conditions to be included can then take into account the severity (or lack thereof) of any reported discharge. But, as a matter of law, one of these three basic tools must be used wherever a discharge is occurring.

The three fundamental regulatory tools described above are recognized by the State Board's existing Nonpoint Source Policy. The tools available to the Boards are no different when developing a TMDL implementation plan. Every TMDL implementation plan must employ the three categories for every pollutant source identified by the TMDL. Every TMDL implementation plan must be consistent with the State Board's Nonpoint Source Policy.

Similarly, the Legislature delegated to the State Board the authority to regulate water diversions, including the regulation of bypass flows and enforcement of diversion limitations via water rights licenses. Given the State Board's authority over all activities affecting water quality and quantity in any given waterbody, it would be antithetical to the goals of Porter-Cologne not to integrate these two components of ecosystem health into proceedings purporting to address impairments to that health right now.

However, where an implementation plan attempts to justify holding any of these three mandated water quality tools (WDRs, Conditional Waivers or Prohibitions) or the State Board's water quantity tools at bay, based on mere speculations of the efficacy of future voluntary efforts or future potential challenges of any water right proceedings, this turns "implementation" into hesitation. Instead of eliminating pollution problems, such a plan simply institutionalizes them.

Comments on the Action Plan for the Scott River Watershed Sediment and Temperature TMDL

The Plan identifies several implementation actions that the Regional Board believes will achieve sediment and temperature TMDL, and thus meet minimum water quality standards. However, it will take higher standards than just meeting the minimum to actually recover the Scott River's beneficial uses such as those that support its anadromous salmonid resources. The Scott River has been classified as impaired now for nine to fourteen years; the Plan expects another forty years to attain water quality standards, yet no quantifiable goals nor targets have been identified in the Plan for instream flows, temperature, or sediment. Some beneficial uses that support recovery of state and federally listed anadromous salmonid populations (RARE) simply cannot wait until 2046. Entire generations of citizens will be denied their right to enjoy the Scott River's un-impaired beneficial uses: (REC-1, REC-2, COMM, COLD, RARE, MIGR, and SPWN).

Additionally, at least 13 three-year lifecycles of coho salmon will pass between now and 2046, with ESA-listed coho continuing at risk of extinction throughout that period. Threatened salmon runs may well go extinct long before those 40-year goals are ever attained. More aggressive achievement goals are more than warranted, they are required by law. Adoption of a Plan that fails

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to attain water quality standards until 2046 violates federal and state Endangered Species Act prohibitions on “take” of protected species such as listed salmonids and the degradation of designated critical habitat.

The Plan fails to adequately address the issue of excessive consumption of water, thus its adoption will merely legitimize all the existing uses that currently degrade instream habitat and minimum flow needs of salmonids, and are detrimental to the recovery of these species. Likewise the Plan fails to require pro-active and enforceable measures to protect and restore federally designated critical riparian and aquatic habitats, including by excluding grazing in these critical habitats.

The proposed Plan will be an amendment to the Basin Plan; therefore, it must meet requirements of water quality control plan statutes, particularly Section 13242 of the CA Water Code. In order for the Plan to achieve both narrative and numeric water quality objectives, it must at a minimum include: (1) a description of what actions will implemented; (2) when those actions will be implemented, and; (3) how compliance with the objectives will determined. The proposed Plan relies excessively on actions that are by their very nature entirely unenforceable because they are entirely voluntary implementation actions delegated to entities other than to the Board, which is inconsistent with State water law. Encouraging voluntary actions is commendable, but they do not supplant the Boards’ obligations to issue either WDRs, conditional waivers (where appropriate) or prohibitions, and cannot be effective unless there are definitive standards and goals to be met.

Comments on the Plan’s Proposed Actions to Achieve Temperature TMDL

The Plan’s temperature source analysis identifies three controllable anthropogenic activities that adversely affect water temperature: stream shade, stream flow, and stream channel geometry or morphology. Yet, the Plan provides no facts to support its unsupported finding that reductions in stream flow have only a small temperature impact and that reduction of shade is the primary cause of increased water temperatures in the Scott River. There is in fact considerable scientific evidence and monitoring data that shows that reductions in flows throughout the Scott River have had a far greater impact on water temperatures than the Plan acknowledges (see ATTACHMENT A).

The Plan also does not address the severity of direct or indirect impacts of anthropogenic changes to stream morphology on water temperature. These impacts too can be severe.

The Plan’s implementation actions, to protect or restore effective shade to achieve temperature TMDLs, reference the State’s Nonpoint Source Policy (NPS) to develop and take appropriate permitting and enforcement actions to address human-caused removal and suppression of vegetation that provides shade to a water body. The NPS Policy relies on the three regulatory tools provided by Porter-Cologne – WDRs, conditional waivers of WDRs, or prohibitions - to regulate all current and proposed nonpoint sources of stormwater pollution. The Plan should declare that all current and future nonpoint sources of pollution, regardless of the affected acreage, will be required to secure WDR permits, conditional waivers, and/or be subject to a Basin Plan prohibition, or be subject to its enforcement actions via cease and desist or cleanup and abatement orders. These are the only legal options available under California water law. In contrast to the proposed Plan, the word “voluntary” is not in the lexicon of the NPS, and the Plan and SWRCB should be in conformance with this NPS Policy.

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The Plan’s focus on the relationship of shade to water temperature completely ignores the excessive diversion of surface flows and pumping of groundwater. Both activities are controllable. The connection between flow and temperature is well established and is in no way controversial. The State has long failed to adequately regulate surface water diversions and bypass flows in the Scott River pursuant to its own Water and Fish & Game Codes, allowing conditions in the river to deteriorate; these laws must now be aggressively enforced if this deterioration is to be reversed. Adequate flow standards for each life-cycle of salmonids are needed throughout the Scott River Basin (for example to ensure spawning flows in areas where spawning occurs). The Board should have the Division of Water Rights study the impacts of surface water diversions on water temperature, fisheries, aquatic life and riparian vegetation in the Scott River Watershed, and establish adequate flow needs, particularly during critical low flow periods. This is a state responsibility: it cannot be delegated to the County, which is ill equipped to make such an analysis.

An analysis of the best available scientific information will lead to the finding that flows and temperature in the Scott River have been severely compromised by surface diversions and an increasing number of groundwater pumping projects for irrigation. It is highly likely that the sustainable draw levels of the local aquifers have been exceeded. The Board should request that the County declare a moratorium on new well drilling and well deepening in the Scott Valley bottoms pending further studies to ascertain if this is the case. Again, these studies are the responsibility of the State – the County has neither the expertise, funding, nor the inclination to conduct such studies.

The Board should also request that the County, through its General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, better regulate agricultural uses and the density of wells by land use/zoning districts to protect instream flows and thus water temperature. The rate of decline in flows in the Scott River at the USGS gauge below Scott Valley has accelerated during the period of record 1950-2000. The decline in flows corresponds closely to an increase in the number of irrigation wells and increased consumptive irrigation water use throughout this same period.

In other words, the Scott River is being incrementally dewatered through excessive and unregulated groundwater pumping. The Board should have the Division of Water Rights study the impacts of ground water use on water temperature, fisheries, aquatic life and riparian vegetation in the Scott River watershed, and establish adequate minimum instream flows throughout the watershed.

The Board should also re-examine all existing water rights for stream diversions for adherence to the terms regarding bypass conditions and compliance with Statements of Use, and correct any non-compliance, particularly diversions in excess of license conditions. Both monitoring and enforcement have been lax in the Scott River watershed for some time, and water permit violations are very common. The Scott River Adjudication must be enforced, particularly quantity and period of diversion (for example it states that irrigation is to end about October 15<sup>th</sup> yet in practice it does not).

The Board should review the record for compliance with the terms of the Adjudication for diversion and bypass requirements, and take appropriate enforcement actions in cases of non-compliance or usage in excess of license conditions. Surveys of other similar watersheds have disclosed more un-permitted diversions than permitted diversions. The continued decline of summer flows since the

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adjudication indicates that same pattern exists on the Scott. The watershed should be surveyed for un-permitted diversions or impoundments and enforcement actions taken to correct illegal diversions. Landowners who are in compliance should not be penalized by allowing those who are not to continue illegal uses. The Board should also reopen adjudication and reallocate water rights, as necessary, to achieve water quality standards and restore beneficial uses, including instream minimum flow protections for ESA-protected salmonids, in the Scott River Watershed.

Ultimately, the Plan has no goal, for it does not provide a measurable water temperature TMDL standard that it will use to determine the effectiveness of its implementation measures even in 40 years. The Plan must not only have a goal but it must require that the Scott River watershed have an adequate number of stream gages to continually monitor discharge, temperature, turbidity, and verify whether instream flow and temperature goals are being achieved.

Enforcement of violations of the Plan cannot be limited as proposed to enforceable restrictions contained in new water quality certifications or WDR permits, but must require certifications and WDRs or appropriate conditional waivers for existing uses that are contributing to the impairment of two water quality attributes: temperature and sediment. Enforcement of the Plan must parallel the Endangered Species Acts prohibition on “take” of listed species, since many pre-existing land uses clearly impair the Scott River. Achieving TMDL Action Plan objectives or attaining water quality standards for temperature and sediment is not possible if existing activities that degrade water quality simply are allowed to continue.

Comments on Other Proposed Actions

The Plan identifies twenty implementation actions. Unfortunately, few contain regulatory or physical recommendations that the Board can implement to achieve sediment or temperature TMDLs, and more importantly, reach minimum thresholds for water quality standards, which mean achieving beneficial uses or Basin Plan objectives. The majority of the implementation actions simply encourage others to take actions or to engage in planning exercises or management agreements such as MOUs. Thus these many voluntary actions sought in the Plan are unenforceable, and therefore inconsistent with Cal. Water Code Section 13242, as these examples demonstrate:

- Roads: The Plan’s implementation action for roads at the County level is restricted to merely encouraging the County to address their roads issues but does not address problems with the far more numerous private roads. The Board should inform the County that their General Plan and Zoning Ordinance are not in compliance with the proposed Plan or the Basin Plan, and require that the County develop and adopt by a date certain a comprehensive grading ordinance for roads, including land disturbances activities inclusive of clearing vegetation, and grading. The Board should set a date to issue county-wide WDRs or federal NPDES permits to the county and private roads. Many of the discharges associated with these roads are through point source discharges. For example, Caltrans roads currently are regulated through a NPDES permit. The road WDRs/permits should set forth necessary road construction and maintenance conditions, including other land disturbances activities inclusive of clearing vegetation, and grading and taking into account cumulative impacts of road sin the watershed.

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- Dredging: The implementation action for dredging is one of the few that the Board itself will implement if necessary; DFG already regulates such activities.
- Water Use: If no study as proposed is undertaken then there is no implementation action addressing the most significant and controllable adverse impact to water quality: water use.
- Flood Control & Bank Stabilization: The over-reliance on WQC via a federal nexus with the Army Corps of Engineers to control water quality impacts from flood control or bank stabilization activities will fail to prevent the removal or suppression of stream-side vegetation, which is an activity that is rarely subjected to federal regulatory oversight. In fact, clearing vegetation is often mandated in federally funded/constructed flood control projects, in which case riparian vegetation is not protected. These activities should be addressed in appropriate WDRs or conditional waivers. The Plan should set forth a timeline for developing such WDRs or waivers.
- Grazing: The Plan’s action for grazing again relies on simply encouraging others to act, yet the Plan should require that cattle be excluded from riparian areas, and that degraded riparian corridors be restored along the tributaries and mainstem of the Scott River. The Plan needs a more definitive description of desired near-stream conditions with a description of specific actions that can achieve these conditions within finite time periods. The Plan should require that the County adopt a stream management ordinance to regulate all land uses within a specified stream management zone, and that all such uses regardless of the acreage affected be required to secure WDRs or conditional waiver).
- Federal Agencies: The Plan proposes no actions to develop an MOU to coordinate regulation of activities with NOAA Fisheries to protect designated critical habitat pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act nor essential fish habitat pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management Act.
- CDFG: Lastly, the Plan should develop an MOU with DFG to inventory the Scott River and its tributaries to locate existing water diversions, determine bypass flow needs, assess whether present rates of diversion create low flow barriers to migration of anadromous salmonids, and to implement/apply the Coho Recovery Strategy Guidelines in the Scott River watershed. The Coho Recovery Strategy Guidelines and measures were developed with considerably Scott River watershed stakeholder input and approval, and should be incorporated into and/or coordinated with actions in the Plan.

Conclusion

The Clean Water Act charges the State with ensuring that necessary actions are taken to meet water quality standards and restore beneficial uses in the Scott River Watershed. Both the federal and state ESA listings of Scott River coho salmon also require similar actions, as does the CESA Coho Recovery Strategy long since adopted by the Fish and Game Commission.

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In the 1983 Mono Lake case, the federal court stated that the Public Trust Doctrine requires the state to exercise continual supervision whenever feasible to protect the public's right to use and enjoy the State's waters and their associated resources. The Plan as proposed will cause significant adverse impacts to the distribution and abundance of state and federally protected anadromous salmonids in the Scott River watershed. This is a resource that many in-river Tribal communities, and many coast fishing ports, depend upon for their sustenance and livelihoods.

Further, the Plan as currently proposed will significantly reduce the probability of recovery of these already seriously depressed salmonid species because it fails to provide or protect adequate instream flows, improve elevated water temperatures, or restore/protect riparian corridors.

Lastly, the public's ability to enjoy the waters of the Scott River for recreation are significantly threatened by health risks associated with toxic algae blooms now proliferating throughout the Klamath River in waters with elevated temperatures. Deteriorating water quality in the Scott River, much of it triggered by decreasing instream flows, can only encourage the growth of these toxic algae species, posing a serious health risk to members of the general public.

In short, the Board must request an Action Plan where the State establishes adequate flows and regulates controllable consumptive water uses, and land disturbance activities that impair water quality if it wants to restore beneficial uses which are Public Trust uses in the Scott River.

Please make these comments part of the public record in this proceeding, and we hope they will be helpful to Staff as they prepare their recommendations.

Sincerely,

Glen H. Spain, J.D., for the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and the Institute for Fisheries Resources, and the organizations below:

Coast Action Group  
By Alan Levine, Executive Director

Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC)  
By Tim McKay, Executive Director

Environmental Protection and Information Center (EPIC)  
By Larry Evans, Executive Director

Mendocino Group of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club  
By David Myers, Water Committee Chair

The Sierra Club of California  
By Paul Mason, Legislative Representative

Enclosed: Attachment A: Scott TMDL Related Data, Photos and Maps Regarding Flow and Temperature Problems

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## Attachment A

### Scott TMDL Related Data, Photos and Maps Regarding Flow and Temperature Problems

Below are summary charts, photos and map images that provide support for arguments regarding the impact of diminished flows in the Scott River basin as follows:

1. Flows have been progressively decreased by ground water extraction;
2. Flows have declined to far below those required by the Scott River Adjudication and now often cause stream reaches and tributaries to go dry;
3. Low flow exacerbates water temperature problems, and;
4. Flow and temperature problems combine with sediment to severely limit productivity of salmon and steelhead populations.

Scott River salmon and steelhead stocks are at high risk of extinction and evidence is presented herein to demonstrate the need for immediate action to prevent loss of locally adapted salmonid populations. This is only a sampling of such supporting data, which is voluminous, but of which only this small portion could be included herein.

Data are from the California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Geologic Survey, Siskiyou Resource Conservation District, U.S. Forest Service, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and private contractors. These data along with photos and maps were often extracted from the Klamath Resource Information System Version 3.0, which is also available on-line at [www.krisweb.com](http://www.krisweb.com).

#### Ground Water Pumping and Lack of Sufficient Scott River Flows

The *Long Range Plan for the Klamath River Basin Conservation Area Fishery Restoration Program* (Kier Assoc., 1991) noted that ground water pumping in the Scott River valley depleted surface flows because of interconnections between surface and ground water. This fact was also clearly noted in the *Scott River Adjudication* (CSWRCB, 1980) and by earlier work by the U.S. Geologic Survey (Mack, 1958).

California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) unpublished well log data (Eaves, personal communication) indicate that installation of irrigation wells continues in the Scott River Valley (Figure 1). Data show that the highest number of wells installed occurred from 1971-1980. After a decrease in installations between 1981 and 1990, well construction resurged during the 1990's and continues to the present. Not all well installations are reported and CDWR estimates their records may be 30-50% low as a result. Data from 2005 and 2006 have not been recorded and data from 2001-2004 is provisional.

Long term flow records show a substantial decrease in surface flows at the USGS flow gauge at Fort Jones after the number of ground water pumps began to increase in the 1970's. Figure 2 shows the number of days by water year that flows in the Scott River fell below 20 cubic feet per second. The pattern in the data shows that before ground water pumps were installed river flows rarely fell to this level, but that now there are sometimes more than 100 days/year with average flows less than 20 cfs. Probably the most telling pattern is the high number of days with extremely low flows even in years

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with moderate rainfall. Rainfall data by which water years are grouped are based on the California Data Exchange Center gauge in Fort Jones.

Kier Associates (1991) pointed out that the *Scott River Adjudication* allotted instream water rights to the U.S. Forest Service as a riparian owner for its lands downstream of the valley

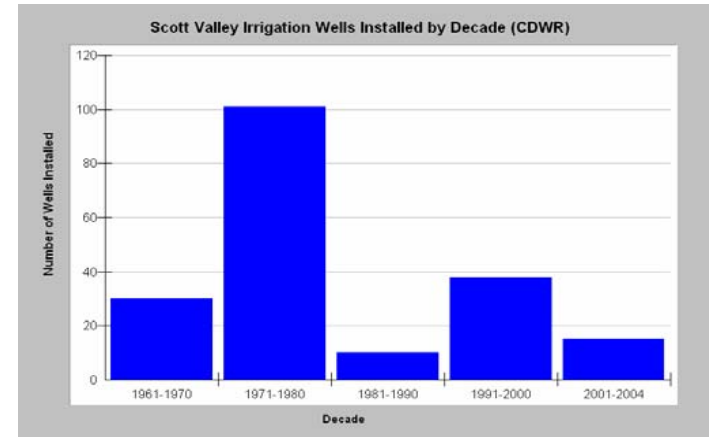


Figure 1. This chart shows the number of irrigation wells recorded by the California Department of Water Resources (Eaves, personal communication).

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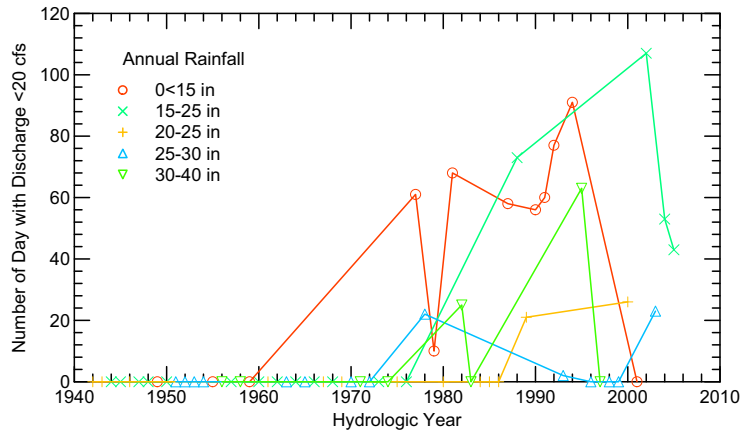


Figure 2. USGS flow gauge data are the basis for this chart showing the number of days/yr. with flows less than 20 cfs at Jones Beach in the lower Scott River. Annual rainfall from Ft. Jones CDEC gauge allows identification of associated rainfall in various years.

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(CSWRCB, 1980) as shown in Table 1. "These amounts are necessary to provide minimum subsistence-level fishery conditions including spawning, egg incubation, rearing, downstream migration, and summer survival of anadromous fish, and can be experienced only in critically dry years without resulting in depletion of the fishery resource."

Table 1. Scott River Adjudication instream flow allotment for U.S. Forest Service needs for instream flow in Scott River canyon (CSWRCD, 1980 as cited in Kier Assoc., 1991).

Period	Flow Requirement in Cubic Feet per Second
November – March	200 cfs
April - June 15	150 cfs
June 16 - June 30	100 cfs
July 1 - July 15	60 cfs
July 16 - July 31	40 cfs
August - September	30 cfs
October	40 cfs

Flow records from summer periods in 2002 and 2004 are charted against low flow allotments for the U.S. Forest Service in the *Scott River Adjudication* in Figure 3 and Figure 4, respectively. These data show

that the requirements of the adjudication are not being met, thus greatly decreasing carrying capacity for salmonids in the Scott River canyon and jeopardizing their future existence. This important habitat area has until recently served as a refugia for juvenile salmonids during summer when many reaches of the Scott River in Scott Valley and tributaries lack surface flow (see De-Watering section). Low flow conditions exacerbate water temperature problems throughout the lower Scott River (see Temperature section).

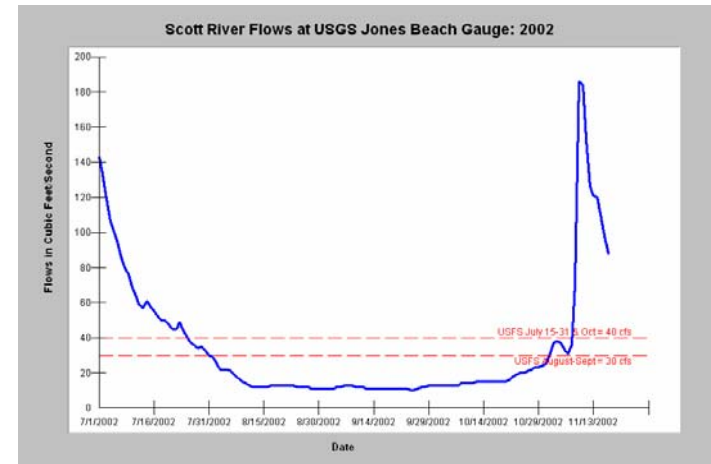


Figure 3. Jones Beach USGS flow gauge data from the irrigation season of 2002 show that flows failed to meet adjudicated levels for the USFS and flows needed for fish migration, spawning and rearing in August, September and October.

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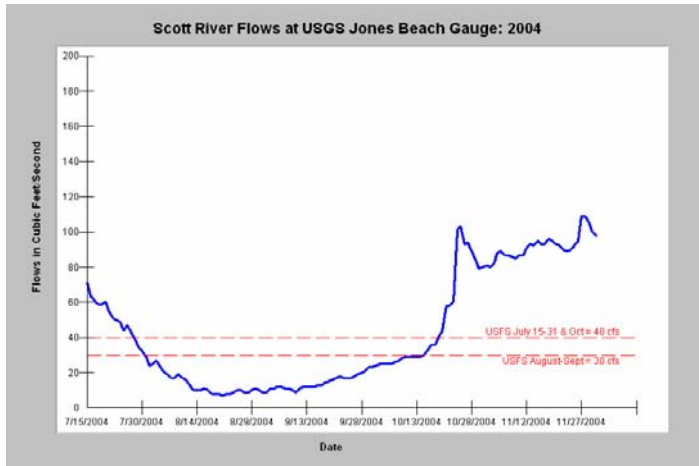


Figure 4. Jones Beach USGS flow gauge data from the summer and fall of 2004 show that flows failed to meet adjudicates levels for the USFS and flows needed for fish migration, spawning and rearing in August, September and the first half of October.

CDWR well data show a pattern of decline of minimum ground water levels over the last several decades as a greater number irrigation wells were installed. Figures 5 and 6 show the annual minimum and maximum measurements at a well, along with annual precipitation at the Fort Jones rain gage. The charts suggest that while annual maximum levels have remained relatively constant over time, annual minimum levels have declined since 1965, although they fluctuate with precipitation. Decreased ground water levels are likely linked to reduced cold water inflows into the Scott River.

**De-Watering of Mainstem Scott River Reaches and Major Tributaries**

While flows are often too low in the canyon of the Scott River, surface flows are sometimes completely lacking in mainstem reaches in Scott Valley and in tributaries that harbor salmon and steelhead. Photographic evidence from the KRIS project documents the loss of summer surface flow in numerous stream reaches, completely negating their ability to support cold water fisheries and other beneficial uses.

Mainstem Scott River reaches often go dry in irrigation season, such as the reach near the airport shown in Figure 7 in a photo taken by Michael Hentz in summer 2002. A photo from the same year near Fort Jones shows very little water in the Scott River channel below Highway 3. The photo also shows a stream bed with extremely fine average particle size distribution, an indication of recent sediment contributions and aggradation. Massive aggradation of some stream beds in the Scott River contributes to decreased available surface flow or complete loss of flow in some cases.

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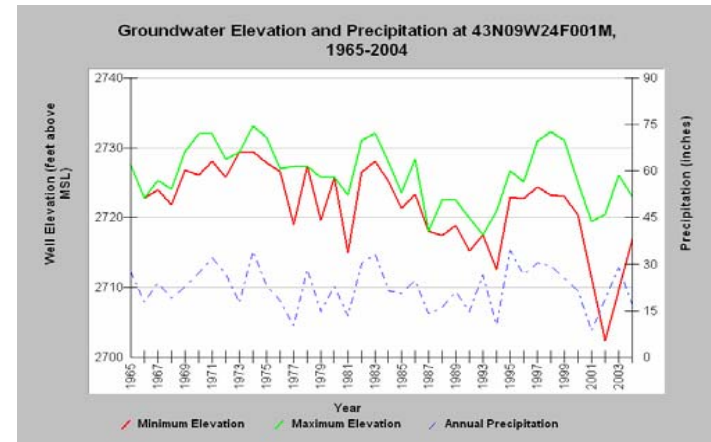


Figure 5. Department of Water Resources well 43N09W24F001M, approximately 5 kilometers south-southeast of Fort Jones, for the years 1965-2004.

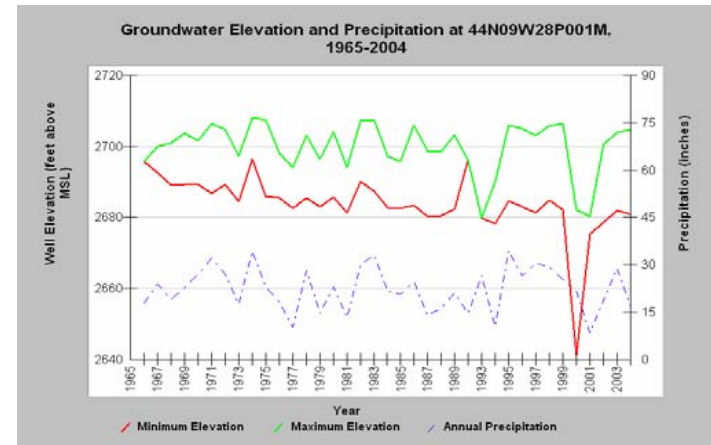


Figure 6. California Department of Water Resources well 44N09W28P001M, approximately 8 kilometers northwest of Fort Jones, for the years 1965-2004.

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Figure 7. This photo shows the dry bed of the Scott River in a reach near the airport looking upstream. Photo from KRIS taken by Michael Hentz. 2002.



Figure 8. Scott River at Fort Jones Bridge looking downstream. Note streambed is comprised of mostly sand. Photo from KRIS taken by Michael Hentz. 2002.

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Many tributaries of the Scott River that are known to harbor steelhead and coho salmon (see Fish section below) are routinely de-watered as a result of water extraction for irrigation. Figure 9 shows Moffett Creek where a combination of surface water extraction and ground water extraction combines to cause a loss of surface flow (Kier Associates, 1999).



Figure 9. Moffett Creek in August 1997 after the January 1997 Storm and subsequent excavation. Note lack of riparian trees due to drop in ground water levels (Kier Associates, 1999). Photo from KRIS Version 3.0.

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Other major salmon and steelhead bearing tributaries that now typically lose surface flow due to diversion are Shackelford Creek (Figure 10 and 11), Kidder Creek (Figure 12) and Etna Creek (Figure 13). All stream reaches that are currently de-watered were formerly excellent salmonid rearing areas. The National Academy of Sciences (2003) makes it clear that “dewatering of tributaries eliminates potential rearing habitat for coho and causes loss of connectivity and reduction of base flow in the main stem.”

**Low Flow Adds to Water Temperature and Water Quality Problems**

The National Academy of Sciences (2003) makes a clear case that flow depletion is at the root of temperature problems in the Scott River. As flows drop, transit time for water increases, allowing an opportunity for stream warming. Figure 14 shows maximum daily water temperatures at several mainstem Scott River locations during 1996. The South Fork has the coolest temperatures because it flows from U.S. Forest Service lands and has few diversions. The East Fork is much warmer by comparison and has a substantial number of diversions. The Scott River warms as it flows downstream, with temperatures well over stressful (McCullough, 1999) and sometimes over lethal (Sullivan et al, 2001) levels.

A thermal infrared radar (TIR) image of Shackleford Creek (Figure 15) was taken by Watershed Associates (2003) as part of the Scott River TMDL study process, and shows dramatic effects of flow depletion on water temperature. Shackleford Creek is cool enough for juvenile salmonid



Figure 10. Shackleford Creek looking downstream at a bridge over a middle reach showing complete loss of flow due to diversion. Photo from KRIS V 3.0 taken by Michael Hentz.



Figure 11. This photo shows the dry creek bed of Shackleford Creek at its convergence with the Scott River in August 1997. Photo from KRIS Version 3.0.

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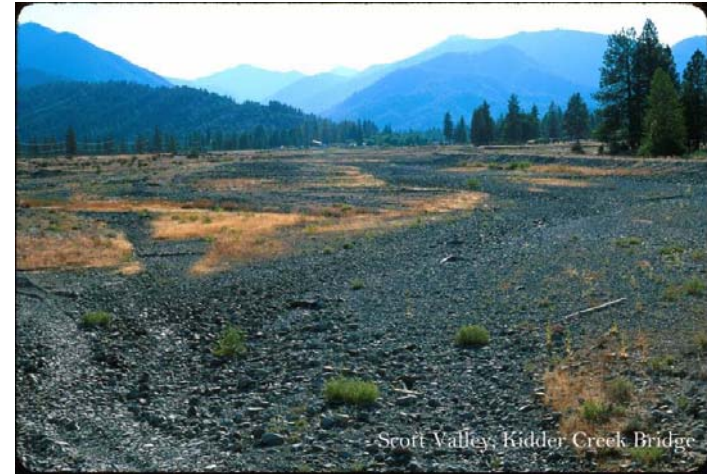


Figure 12. Photo shows Kidder Creek looking upstream off the Highway #3 Bridge in Greenview. Photo from KRIS V 3.0 by Michael Hentz. 2002.



Figure 13. Photo shows Etna Creek looking downstream off the Highway 3 Bridge. Photo from KRIS V 3.0 by Michael Hentz. 2002.

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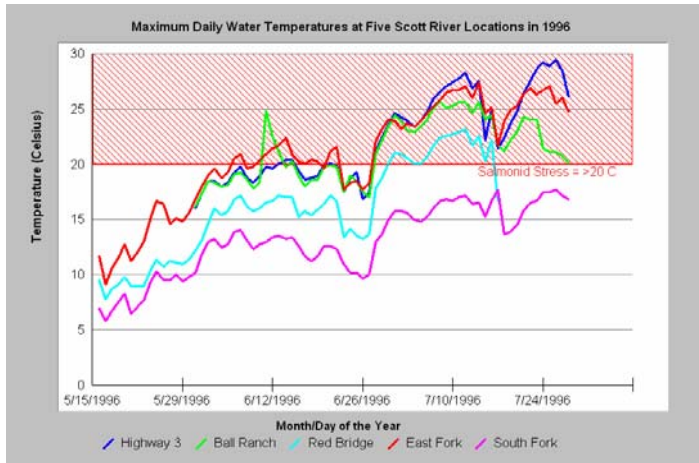


Figure 14. Water temperature at various Scott River mainstem locations in 1996. Chart from KRIS V 3.0 and data from the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District.

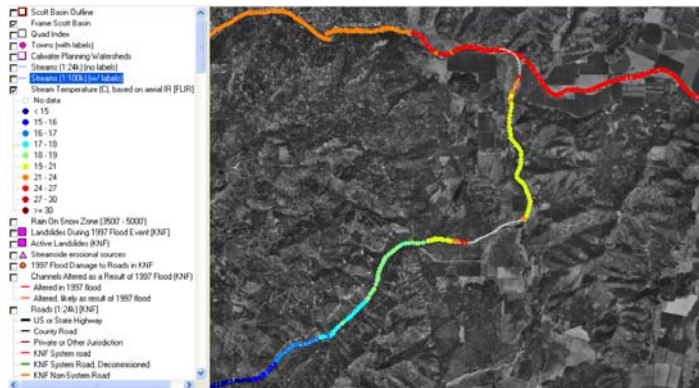


Figure 15. This map shows summary data of Scott River Thermal Infrared Radar (TIR) surveys for Shackleford Creek. Note that water temperature warms in a downstream direction as flow is depleted. Reaches with no temperature coded color (i.e., gray) are dry. Data from Watershed Sciences (2003).

rearing above points of diversion, then warms rapidly as its flow is depleted. Flow resumes below the major tributary Mill Creek, warms again as flow is further reduced by irrigation until surface flows are again entirely lost, just upstream of the convergence with the Scott River.

Although the Scott River is not yet listed as “water quality limited” for nutrients, dissolved oxygen (DO) or pH, these problems may arise if flows drop low enough to cause stagnation. Figure 16 shows a reach of the Scott River with much depleted flows due to irrigation. The algae blooms seen forming here can cause a diurnal increase in pH associated with high rates of photosynthesis and very low nocturnal dissolved oxygen (DO) levels as algae respire.



Figure 16. Photo shows the mainstem Scott River looking downstream with significant signs of algae blooms evident. Algae growth may alter water chemistry. Photo from KRIS V 3.0 by Michael Hentz.

**Sediment and Increased Peak Flows Cause Channel Scour and Lead to Stream Warming**

Kier Associates (2005) point out that changes in sediment yield and watershed hydrology related to logging and road building in the Scott River basin can also contribute to water temperature problems. The January 1997, flood damage report by the Klamath National Forest (de la Fuente and Elder, 1998) indicated that debris torrents caused 437 miles of stream channel scour, which in turn made these streams more subject to warming. Landslides were most frequently triggered by road failures, but were also well above background occurrence levels in recently logged or burned areas. Water temperature data from the Karuk Tribe and Klamath National Forest show that some

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tributaries of the lower Scott River increased in water temperature as a result of debris torrents associated with the January 1997 storm (Figure 17). Canyon Creek and Boulder Creek

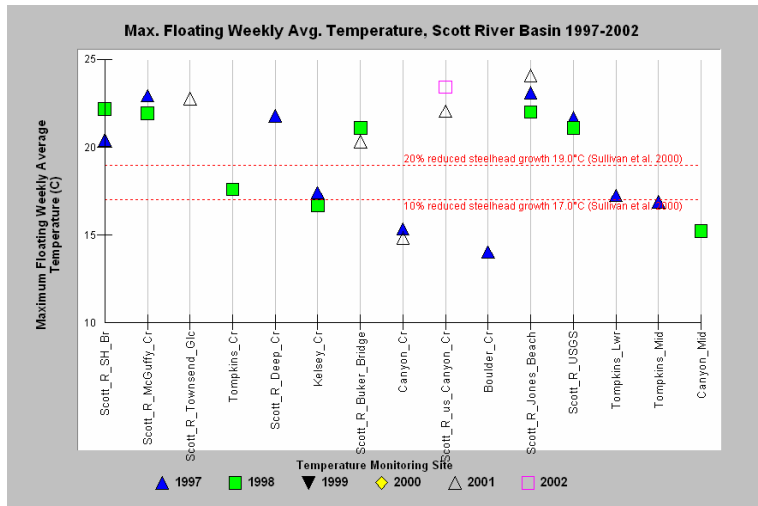


Figure 17. Maximum floating weekly average water temperature (MWAT) for several mainstem Scott River and tributary locations. Data from the Karuk Tribe and USFS.

did not experience debris torrenting and thus still maintain water temperature sufficiently cool to support coho salmon. Welsh et al. (2001) found that coho were present in streams that did not attain a maximum floating weekly average water temperature (MWAT) of greater than 16.8 C. Figure 17 shows reference lines from Sullivan et al. (2001) that indicate suppressed growth in steelhead juveniles at temperatures higher than 17 C.

Kelsey Creek and Tompkins Gulch both had major channel alterations as a result of the January 1997 storm which likewise triggered stream warming. Figure 17 indicates that neither of these streams was sufficiently cool to support coho juveniles after 1997. The Klamath National Forest flood study (de la Fuente and Elder, 1997) noted that the stream damage was high given the fairly low recurrence interval of the storm event, which was judged to be a 14-35 year event. Extensive logging, road building and fires all combine to elevate flood risk (Figure 18) and resulting increased flows and sediment yield caused major channel adjustments (Figure 19).

The lower reach of McGuffey Gulch, a tributary of the lower Scott River, serves as an example of what type of damage debris torrents can cause. Damage to this stream went well beyond loss of channel depth and increased channel width (Figure 20). The channel was buried so deeply that it

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lost surface flow. Kier Associates (2005) point out that channel scour can also occur due to increased peak flows related to rain-on-snow events (Berris and Harr, 1987; Coffin and Harr, 1991). Jones and Grant (1996) describe how road cuts intercepting ground water pathways can shunt water into road ditches, thus increasing peak flows and cutting off ground water recharge downhill, in turn resulting in decreased summer base flows.



Figure 18. Patch clear cuts, areas burned by forest fires, plantations and road networks in upper Kelsey Creek set the stage for flood damage and 70% channel scour by the January 1, 1997 storm. Photo by Patrick Higgins from KRIS V 3.0.

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Figure 19. Kelsey Creek, just upstream of its mouth in early 1997, with snapped alder trees, large rubble and bank erosion near the house indicative of recent debris torrent damage. KRIS V 3.0.



Figure 20. Photo shows McGuffey Creek, a lower the Scott River tributary, just upstream of the Scott River Road. From KRIS V 3.0 by Michael Hentz. 2002.

**Fish Population Status, Trends and Need for Immediate Action**

The low gradient of the mainstem Scott River and its major tributaries made it ideal habitat for summer and winter steelhead, spring and fall chinook and coho salmon. Long term declines in these populations have been well documented (Kier Associates, 1991; CH2Mhill, 1985). Scott River spring chinook and summer steelhead populations are at remnant levels and are only sighted infrequently in surveys.

The low flows coming out of the lower Scott River Valley today not only reduce carrying capacity for juvenile salmonids but would also prevent any successful attempts by summer steelhead or spring chinook adults to hold over during summer. The Scott TMDL needs to recognize also that spring chinook and summer steelhead recovery may be attainable, due to metapopulation function (Rieman et al., 1993), if cold water refugia are restored in the lower Scott River, sediment diminished and water flows improved.

The Scott River TMDL should also specifically target recovery of coho salmon, which are recognized as "threatened" under both the federal and California Endangered Species Acts. The distribution of coho spawning is known (Figure 21), yet the TMDL does not specifically focus protection or restoration on reaches or tributaries that presently harbor ESA-listed coho as "best science" restoration efforts must (Bradbury et al., 1996).

Scott River adult coho returns are now only robust in one out of three year-classes, which is an indicator that the population is trending towards extinction (Rieman et al., 1993; NMFS, 2001; CDFG, 2003). Table 2 shows downstream migrant trapping results from CDFG indicating that coho juveniles are only abundant in one of three years following high spawner years.

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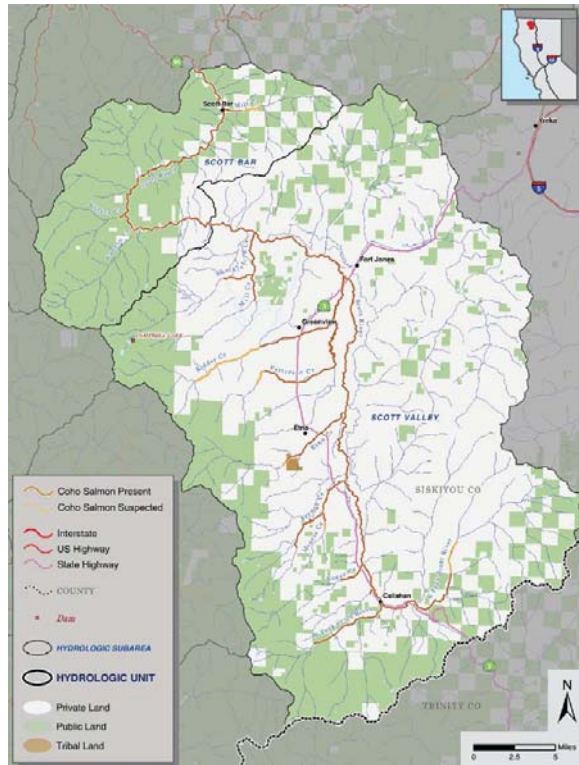


Figure 21. Coho salmon distribution map for known or potential Scott River spawning locations (from Maurer, 2001).

Grand Total by Species:	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	TOTALS
Steelhead	10181	17693	5943	7127	7980	4158	5008	21982	79887	135319	69823	365101
Coho	15	433	0	253	3	8	538	30	69	30019	50	31418
Chinook	2	266	0	3	1	0	0	385	3191	0	0	3828
Totals =>	10198	18392	5943	7383	7984	4166	5546	22377	83147	165338	69873	400347

Table 2. Coho in California Department of Fish and Game trap records as taken from Siskiyou RCD (2004) Table 6c.

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Scott River fall chinook returns likewise plummeted in 2004 and 2005 to the lowest level on record for two years in a row (Figure 22). Higgins et al. (1992) discussed the risk of extinction of northwestern California Pacific salmon stocks and discussed minimum viable population sizes, noting that:

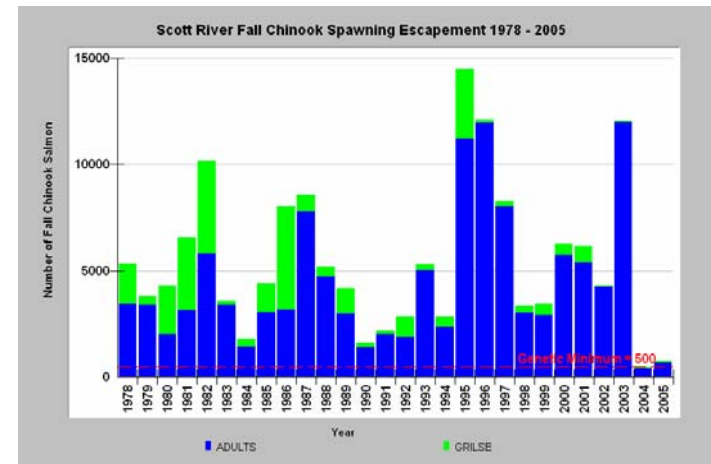


Figure 22. Scott River fall chinook escapement shows both 2004 and 2005 as the lowest years on record. Data from CDFG.

“When a stock declines to fewer than 500 individuals, it may face a risk of loss of genetic diversity which could hinder its ability to cope with future environmental changes (Nelson and Soule, 1986). A random event such as a drought or variation in sex ratios may lead to extinction if a stock is at an extremely low level (Gilpin and Soule, 1990). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, 1987) acknowledged that, while 200 adults might be sufficient to maintain genetic diversity in a hatchery population, the actual number of Sacramento River winter run chinook needed to maintain genetic diversity in the wild would be 400 - 1,100.”

In other words, despite favorable or average ocean conditions (Collison et al. 2003) and wet years with at least average flows, the population of fall chinook in the Scott River has fallen to critically low levels. These populations have some additional ability to rebound without loss of genetic diversity because chinook spawn at different ages (Simon et al. 1986), but the low adult returns should be viewed with considerable alarm. Low flow, water temperature problems and high sediment yield are all playing a role, although mainstem Klamath River water quality problems are also a factor in the decline of Scott River fall chinook (Kier Associates, 2006).

Discussions above show that flows in the lower Scott River in October do not even meet requirements of the *Scott River Adjudication* in October, when fall chinook salmon adults would be migrating upstream

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and spawning. Very low flows in the Scott River canyon cause a concentration of spawning by fall chinook in the lowest reaches (Figure 23). This concentration poses higher risk for egg survival than if flows were sufficient for chinook spawners to disburse upstream (Kier Associates, 2005). Epidemic transmission of disease also becomes a higher risk under such densities. Risk of increased peak flows that might mobilize the stream bed is also higher in the lower mainstem than in upstream reaches or tributaries. Large quantities of decomposed granitic sand in transport through the Scott River canyon may also be mobilized by high flows and smother eggs or entomb alevin.

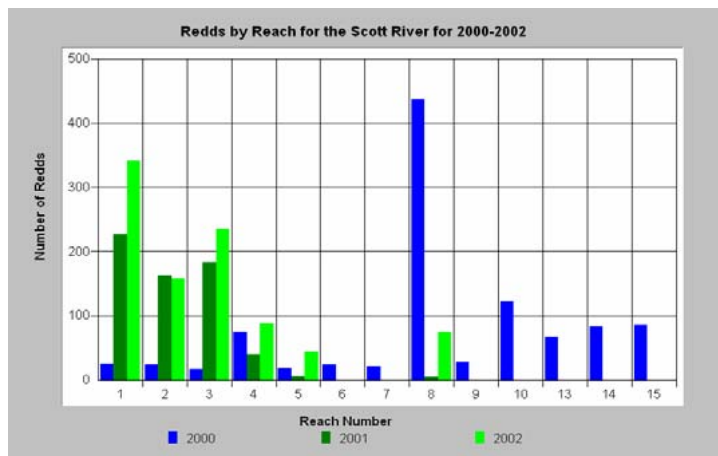


Figure 23. Data from CDFG spawner surveys show that fall chinook salmon spawned mostly in the lowest five reaches of the Scott River in 2001 and 2002, where eggs may be vulnerable due to potential for bed load movement or transport of decomposed granitic sands.

Collison et al. (2003) noted that we are presently experiencing relatively favorable conditions for salmonids in the ocean and in a wet on-land cycle that will likely reverse sometime between 2015 and 2025 in what is known as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) cycle (Hare et al. 1999). That coho salmon and fall chinook salmon populations are at such low levels or showing declines during the positive cycle of the PDO is not a good sign. In order to restore Scott River chinook and coho salmon stocks, flow and water quality problems must be remedied by 2015 or whenever the PDO switches to less favorable conditions for salmon stocks or further extinctions are likely to occur.

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Attachment\_A\_Scott\_TMDL\_2.doc  
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ATTACHMENT 2: "Relative Effects Of Climate And Water Use On Base-Flow Trends In The Lower Klamath Basin," Robert W. Van Kirk and Seth W. Naman. *Journal of the American Water Resources Associations*, Vol. 44, No. 4 (August, 2008).

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Klamath Riverkeeper/PCFFA comments on Scott River Watershed Wide Permitting Program DEIR  
December 8, 2008



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August 2008

**RELATIVE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE AND WATER USE ON  
BASE-FLOW TRENDS IN THE LOWER KLAMATH BASIN<sup>1</sup>**

*Robert W. Van Kirk and Seth W. Naman<sup>2</sup>*

**ABSTRACT:** Since the 1940s, snow water equivalent (SWE) has decreased throughout the Pacific Northwest, while water use has increased. Climate has been proposed as the primary cause of base-flow decline in the Scott River, an important coho salmon rearing tributary in the Klamath Basin. We took a comparative-basin approach to estimating the relative contributions of climatic and non-climatic factors to this decline. We used permutation tests to compare discharge in 5 streams and 16 snow courses between "historic" (1942-1976) and "modern" (1977-2005) time periods, defined by cool and warm phases, respectively, of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation. April 1 SWE decreased significantly at most snow courses lower than 1,800 m in elevation and increased slightly at higher elevations. Correspondingly, base flow decreased significantly in the two streams with the lowest latitude-adjusted elevation and increased slightly in two higher-elevation streams. Base-flow decline in the Scott River, the only study stream heavily utilized for irrigation, was larger than that in all other streams and larger than predicted by elevation. Based on comparison with a neighboring stream draining wilderness, we estimate that 39% of the observed 10 Mm<sup>3</sup> decline in July 1-October 22 discharge in the Scott River is explained by regional-scale climatic factors. The remainder of the decline is attributable to local factors, which include an increase in irrigation withdrawal from 48 to 103 Mm<sup>3</sup>/year since the 1950s.

(KEY TERMS: surface water hydrology; climate variability/change; rivers/streams; Klamath River; salmon; permutation tests.)

Van Kirk, Robert W. and Seth W. Naman, 2008. Relative Effects of Climate and Water Use on Base-Flow Trends in the Lower Klamath Basin. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* (JAWRA) 44(4):1035-1052. DOI: 10.1111/j.1752-1688.2008.00212.x

INTRODUCTION

Snowmelt is an important contributor to discharge in nearly all major rivers of the western United States (U.S.). Analyses of hydrometeorological data from this region show that climate warming has decreased the percentage of precipitation falling as snow and accelerated snowpack melt, resulting in

earlier peak runoff and lower base flows (Hamlet *et al.*, 2005; Mote *et al.*, 2005; Regonda *et al.*, 2005; Stewart *et al.*, 2005; Mote, 2006). These trends may have begun nearly a century ago but are well documented to have occurred over the past 60 years (Hamlet *et al.*, 2005; Mote, 2006). Climate patterns in the Pacific Northwest over this time period have been affected both by long-term, systematic warming and by decadal-scale oscillations (Hamlet *et al.*, 2005;

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Comment Letter 40

Regonda *et al.*, 2005; Stewart *et al.*, 2005). In particular, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) cycled through a cool phase (increased snowpack and streamflow) from the mid-1940s to 1976 and through a warm phase (decreased snowpack and streamflow) from 1977 through at least the late 1990s (Minobe, 1997; Mote, 2006). Regardless of the degree to which climatic trends since the 1940s reflect short-term *vs.* long-term processes, base flow in Pacific Northwest rain-snow systems is strongly dependent on timing and amount of snowmelt, which is reflected by April 1 snow water equivalent (SWE) (Gleick and Chalecki, 1999; Leung and Wigmosta, 1999; McCabe and Wolock, 1999). Trends in April 1 SWE appear to be driven primarily by temperature, which, along the Pacific Coast, is a function of elevation and latitude (Knowles and Cayan, 2004; Mote, 2006), and secondarily by precipitation (Hamlet *et al.*, 2005; Mote *et al.*, 2005; Stewart *et al.*, 2005).

Concurrent with the observed declines in April 1 SWE over the past 60 years, water use in the Pacific Northwest has increased substantially. Total water withdrawal in California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington increased 82% between 1950 and 2000, with irrigation accounting for nearly half of this increase (MacKichan, 1951; Hutson *et al.*, 2004). Accordingly, declines in streamflow over the past half century could be caused by a combination of continental-scale climatic factors and watershed-scale increases in water use rather than by climatic factors alone. Although climate models diverge with respect

to future trends in precipitation over this region, there is widespread agreement that the trend toward lower SWE and earlier snowmelt will continue (Leung and Wigmosta, 1999; McCabe and Wolock, 1999; Miller *et al.*, 2003a; Snyder *et al.*, 2004; Barnett *et al.*, 2005; Zhu *et al.*, 2005; Vicuna *et al.*, 2007). Thus, availability of water resources under future climate scenarios is expected to be most limited during the late summer (Gleick and Chalecki, 1999; Miles *et al.*, 2000). Development and implementation of appropriate water management strategies to deal with these shortages will require distinction between the component of late-summer flow decrease attributable to large-scale climatic factors and that attributable to local-scale changes in water use. Management actions implemented at the watershed or basin scale have the potential to reverse declines in streamflow that have been caused by increased water use but will not reverse those caused by continental-scale climatic factors.

The lower Klamath Basin in northern California (Figure 1) provides an important example of the need to distinguish the effects of climate on observed declines in base flow from those of water use. The Klamath River and its tributaries support populations of anadromous fish species with economic, ecological, and cultural importance. Of these, coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts Evolutionarily Significant Unit) are listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (Good *et al.*, 2005). In addition,

steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in the lower Klamath Basin are of special concern or are at risk of extinction (Nehlsen *et al.*, 1991). Habitat degradation, over-exploitation, and reductions in water quality and quantity have been implicated in declines of these species (Nehlsen *et al.*, 1991; Brown *et al.*, 1994; Good *et al.*, 2005). In particular, low late-summer and early fall streamflow in several tributaries is a major factor limiting survival of juvenile coho salmon (NRC, 2003; CDFG, 2004). Increasing late-summer tributary flow is a major objective of coho salmon recovery efforts, particularly in the Scott River (Figure 1), the most important coho salmon spawning and rearing stream in the basin (Brown *et al.*, 1994; NRC, 2003; CDFG, 2004). If reduction in Scott River base-flow has been caused primarily by climatic factors, as has been proposed by Drake *et al.* (2000), then flow objectives for coho salmon recovery may not be attainable through local management, and the success of other recovery objectives (e.g., habitat restoration) may be limited by continued low base flows. On the other hand, if reduction in base flow is due in substantial part to changes in amount, timing and source of water withdrawal, then at least that particular component of flow reduction caused by water-use factors could be mitigated through local management actions.

#### Research Approach and Objectives

The goal of this study is to distinguish the relative effects of regional-scale climatic factors from those of local-scale factors on trends in late-summer and early fall flows in lower Klamath tributaries, with particular emphasis on the Scott River. We aim to provide water and fisheries managers with information they need to develop realistic and attainable base-flow objectives for fisheries recovery. Ideally, such a study would analyze water-use data, including location and timing of withdrawals, source of water withdrawn (ground *vs.* surface), and rate of consumptive use. Furthermore, in agricultural settings, it is desirable to analyze the type of crops irrigated, method of irrigation application, amount of return flow, and pathways (ground *vs.* surface) by which return flow enters stream channels. Unfortunately, almost no data of these types are available for the watersheds of the lower Klamath Basin, including that of the Scott River, where a large amount of irrigated agriculture occurs. Thus, as an expeditious, first-order attempt to distinguish between effects of climate *vs.* water use on base flow declines, we use statistical analysis of existing SWE and streamflow data from across the basin. Results of this study can then be used to

prioritize future data collection and modeling efforts focused more specifically on mechanisms that could explain the observed statistical trends and on the predicted effects of possible management strategies.

We begin with the operating hypothesis that declines in base flow that have been observed in the Scott River are caused primarily by climate trends, as expected based on the large body of climate literature cited above and on the results of Drake *et al.* (2000), the only published study we could find that has addressed this problem. According to this hypothesis, trends in base flow observed in the Scott River should be consistent with those observed in other streams in the lower Klamath Basin, across which climate is relatively uniform. Further, we expect to observe differences in base-flow trends among these streams because of variation in elevation and latitude, which directly influence SWE. Secondary differences in streamflow trends among streams in the basin can then be attributed to local, watershed-scale factors such as land and water use. Although applied here to a specific basin, our methodology has applicability to any river system in which there are at least a few gaged streams unregulated by storage reservoirs. We use permutation tests for our statistical hypothesis tests, but this is not a methodological study intended to compare the results and applicability of these types of tests to those of other types of statistical tests. However, because permutation tests are not widely applied in water resources research, we provide sufficient detail in statistical methods so that they can be adopted by researchers in other basins.

The objectives of this paper are to (1) quantify basin-scale trends in streamflow and SWE in the lower Klamath Basin, (2) analyze the dependence of base flow and SWE trends on elevation and latitude, (3) compare relative change in base flow among different streams in the basin using a paired-basin approach, and (4) use paired-basin correlation analysis to estimate the component of decline in Scott River base-flow that is attributable to regional-scale climatic factors. The difference between this component and the total decline in base flow is attributable to local-scale factors, which we discuss. We also compare our results with those of Drake *et al.* (2000) and discuss implications for fisheries management.

#### STUDY AREA

We define the lower Klamath Basin as the drainage of Klamath River downstream of the

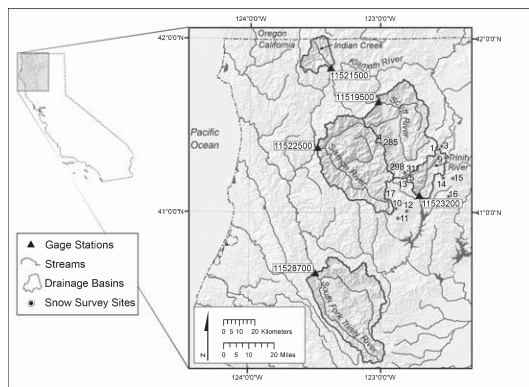


FIGURE 1. Map of Lower Klamath Basin, California, Showing Study Watersheds, Stream Gages, and Snow Courses Used in This Study. Snow course and stream gage numbers correspond to those listed in Tables 1 and 2.

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Comment Letter 40

Oregon-California state line (Figure 1). This coincides approximately with the location of Irongate Dam, which blocks upstream migration of anadromous fish, as well as the point at which the river exits the low-relief, volcanic geology of the Cascade Mountains and enters the high-relief, geologically complex Klamath Mountain and Coast Range provinces. This point is also roughly at the transition between the ocean-influenced climate to the west and the arid, intermountain climate to the east.

Elevations in the study area range from sea level to 2,500 m. Annual precipitation ranges from 50 cm in the eastern valleys to over 200 cm at higher elevations. Nearly all precipitation falls from October through April. Precipitation occurs almost exclusively as rain at elevations below 500 m and almost exclusively as snow above 2,000 m. Snowpack generally accumulates throughout the mid-winter to late-winter at elevations exceeding 1,500 m. High relief and impermeable bedrock geology contribute to rapid runoff of both rainfall and snowmelt from upland areas, and ground-water storage is generally limited to relatively small alluvial aquifers immediately adjacent to major streams. Correspondingly, stream hydrographs in the study area are of the rain/snow type (Poff, 1996), characterized by rapidly increasing discharge at the onset of the rainy season, a broad peak lasting most of the winter and spring, and recession beginning in June, once maximum snowmelt has occurred

(Figure 2). Base flow, which is generally 1.5 orders of magnitude lower than peak flow, occurs during late summer and early fall. Variability in this pattern across catchments is driven by the relative contribution of rain and snowmelt to runoff, which, in turn, is determined primarily by elevation and latitude, and to a lesser degree by distance from the coast and local topographic features.

To focus on changes in streamflow related to climate change, we limited our analysis to streams that have a continuous record of discharge dating back at least 40 years from the present and are unaffected by storage reservoirs. Only five streams in the lower Klamath Basin met these criteria: the Scott, Salmon, Trinity (upstream of reservoirs), and South Fork Trinity rivers and Indian Creek (Figure 1, Table 1).

All five of the study watersheds are sparsely populated, although population is increasing in some locales, particularly in the South Fork Trinity watershed. Uplands are mountainous areas managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Substantial timber harvest has occurred in all five watersheds, although it has been more limited in the Salmon and Trinity watersheds because of large amounts of federally designated wilderness. Rugged terrain and a preponderance of federal land limit most human activities to narrow river corridors in the Indian, Salmon, and Trinity watersheds. Additionally,

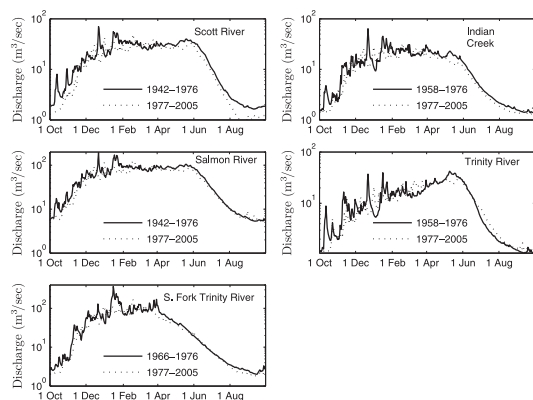


FIGURE 2. Mean Historic-Period and Modern-Period Hydrographs for the Five Study Streams. All streams display a rain-snow hydrologic regime with base flow period during late summer. Discharge is shown on a logarithmic scale to facilitate visual comparison of modern and historic periods at low discharge values. However, statistical comparison of annual and late-summer discharge between periods was performed on untransformed data.

TABLE 1. Study Basin Descriptions and Flow Statistics.

	Scott River	Indian Creek	Salmon River	South Fork Trinity River	Trinity River
USGS stream gage	11519500	11521500	1522500	11528700	11523200
Drainage area (km <sup>2</sup> )	1,691	311	1,945	1,979	386
Mean basin elevation (m)	1,688	1,220	1,386	1,378	1,734
Latitude of basin centroid (°N)	41.479	41.904	41.293	40.468	41.228
Earliest year analyzed	1942	1958	1942	1966	1958
Mean annual historic-period discharge (Mm <sup>3</sup> )	605.7	403.1	1,744	1,420	385
Mean annual modern-period discharge (Mm <sup>3</sup> )	514	345.3	1,517	1,175	361.1
<i>p</i> -value: historic and modern annual discharges equal	0.127	0.116	0.113	0.163	0.294
Mean late summer historic-period discharge (Mm <sup>3</sup> )	10.96	9.193	37.04	14.77	7.273
Mean late summer modern-period discharge (Mm <sup>3</sup> )	6.541	8.274	37.47	12.08	8.024
<i>p</i> -value: historic and modern late summer discharges equal	<0.001	0.055	0.629	0.049	0.799

Notes: Flow data are from the USGS National Water Information System, <http://www.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>, accessed December 2006. Historic period ends in 1976; modern period is 1977 through 2005; *p*-values are reported for the one-sided alternative hypothesis that modern-period discharge is less than historic-period discharge.

## METHODS

topography prevents substantial agricultural development. The South Fork Trinity watershed supports some agriculture, primarily fruit and vegetable farms, vineyards, and cattle grazing operations. Because agricultural development in the South Fork Trinity watershed is relatively small in scale, few if any data on irrigation withdrawals are available.

Only the Scott watershed contains large areas of private, non-mountainous land that support large-scale agriculture; about 120 km<sup>2</sup> of pasture, grain, and alfalfa are irrigated in the Scott watershed. A typical western-U.S. system of water rights based on the doctrine of prior appropriation governs withdrawal and delivery of surface water for irrigation in the Scott Valley (California Superior Court, 1950, 1958, 1980). Under this type of water rights system, surface water diverted from streams is delivered to water users in order of decreed water right priority date (date on which the claim to put the water to beneficial use was first made; these are typically dates in the mid to late 19th Century in California). Early in the irrigation season, when streamflows are high, all users receive their full allocation of water. As streamflow declines throughout the irrigation season, those users with junior (i.e., more recent) priority dates must cease diversion to leave the available water to users with more senior rights. By the end of a typical irrigation season, only users with the most senior rights continue to divert surface water. The California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) collects some data on irrigation use in the Scott Valley. However, CDWR does not provide watermaster service to account for distribution of decreed surface rights in all areas of the Scott watershed, and withdrawal and distribution of ground water is unregulated.

Streamflow and SWE data were available in our study area from the mid-1940s to the present. Given our working hypothesis regarding climate effects and the natural division of this time period into two distinct phases of the PDO (cool from mid-1940s to 1976, warm from 1977 on), we used a two-step comparison approach to analysis of temporal trends (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992). Because streamflow data for the Scott River were first collected in water year 1942, we defined the "historic" period as 1942-1976 and the "modern" period as 1977-2005. We then analyzed differences in SWE and streamflow between these two time periods. We used permutation tests (Ramsey and Schafer, 2002; Good, 2005; see Appendix A) to perform all statistical hypothesis tests. We performed these tests at the  $\alpha = 0.05$  significance level.

All of the hypothesis tests involved comparing values of a particular SWE or discharge variable between the historic and modern periods. Although use of permutation tests does not require the data to meet any distributional assumptions, it does require independence of observations (Good, 2005). Thus, we first corrected the data for dependence caused by first-order serial autocorrelation using the correction as

$$x_t = u_t - ru_{t-1}, \quad (1)$$

where  $x_t$  is the corrected value of the variable for year  $t$ ,  $u_t$  is the uncorrected value for year  $t$ , and  $r$  is first-order serial autocorrelation coefficient (i.e., the Pearson correlation coefficient between  $u_t$  and  $u_{t-1}$  (Neter *et al.*, 1989; Ramsey and Schafer, 2002). We then calculated the test statistic as

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Comment Letter 40



$$T = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{SE}, \tag{2}$$

where  $\bar{x}_1$  is the mean of the corrected daily discharge values over Group 1,  $\bar{x}_2$  is the mean over Group 2, and

$$SE = s\sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}}, \tag{3}$$

where  $s$  is the pooled standard deviation,  $n_1$  is the number of years in Group 1 and  $n_2$  is the number of years in Group 2. Groups 1 and 2 refer to the complementary subsets into which the data are divided according to a given permutation (see Appendix A). To calculate the value of the test statistic obtained from the data as they occurred in the observed permutation, Group 1 is taken to be the collection of data observed over the modern period of years, and Group 2 is that observed over the historic period, that is,

$$T_{\text{observed}} = \frac{\bar{x}_{\text{modern}} - \bar{x}_{\text{historic}}}{SE} \tag{4}$$

Although (Equation 4) is the test statistic of the standard two-sample  $t$ -test, we use it instead in permutation tests and as the response variable in regressions. Thus, we refer to it as a generic “ $T$ ”-statistic.

As we wanted to focus our analysis on the period of days during the base flow period over which declines in discharge in the Scott River have been most apparent, we defined the “late summer” period of base flow based on analysis of the Scott River data at the daily scale instead of defining this period based on visual examination of hydrographs or on a convenient calendar designation (e.g., August and September). We first  $\log_{10}$ -transformed daily discharge for each individual day between June 1 and November 30. The transformation was performed not to meet the assumptions of the hypothesis test but rather to prevent rare but extreme daily flow events from exerting excessive influence over group mean. We then compared the mean of the transformed discharge between historic and modern periods of years with a permutation test on the  $T$ -statistic (see Appendix A). We performed these tests with a two-sided alternative. This analysis showed that the mean of  $\log_{10}$ -transformed daily discharge (equivalently, the geometric mean) differed significantly between the historic and modern periods on every day of the period August 2 through October 5. We thus defined “late summer” to be this period of consecutive days.

*Streamflow and SWE Trends*

We tested for differences in total late-summer discharge between historic and modern periods at all five stream gages. For streams on which gaging began after 1942, we defined the historic period to begin with the first year in the period of record (Table 1). Because of the smoothing inherent in averaging daily discharge over the 65-day late-summer period, we did not transform the raw discharge data. These tests were performed with the one-sided alternative that late-summer discharge during the modern period was less than that during the historic period, in accordance with what would be expected based on climate change. We also performed this analysis on annual water-year discharge at each stream gage and on April 1 SWE at all 16 snow courses in the study area for which at least 40 years of data were available (Figure 1, Table 2). For these tests, we also used a one-sided alternative, for consistency with the late-summer for analysis.

*Dependence of Base Flow and SWE Trends on Elevation and Latitude*

To quantify dependence of change in SWE and streamflow on elevation, we performed permutation regression analysis (see Appendix A) of the observed  $T$ -statistic (Equation 4) as a function of elevation. In this case,  $T_{\text{observed}}$  serves as a dimensionless measure of change in SWE or streamflow between historic and modern periods and thus allows direct comparison of the regression line for streamflow to that for SWE. To incorporate the effect of latitude, we used Mote’s (2006) estimate that winter isotherms along the Pacific Coast of North America increase southward at a rate of 137 m in elevation per degree of latitude. We referenced latitude to that of Indian Creek, the furthest north of the study watersheds, and defined latitude-adjusted elevation of a given snow course or study watershed to be

$$E_{\text{adjusted}} = E - 137(L_{\text{Indian}} - L), \tag{5}$$

where  $E$  is the actual elevation of the snow course or watershed (mean over the watershed),  $E_{\text{adjusted}}$  is the adjusted elevation,  $L_{\text{Indian}}$  is the watershed-centroid latitude of the Indian Creek watershed, and  $L$  is the latitude of the snow course or watershed centroid. Centroids and mean elevations of the drainage basins were computed in a Geographic Information System from Digital Elevation Models. For the SWE analysis, we regressed dimensionless change in April 1 SWE

40-43  
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TABLE 2. Snow Course Descriptions and April 1 Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Statistics.

Course Number	Elevation (m)	Latitude (°N)	Earliest Year of Record	Mean Historic-Period April 1 SWE (cm)	Mean Modern-Period April 1 SWE (cm)	$p$ -Value: Historic and Modern April 1 SWE Equal
17	1,554	41.077	1946	40.3	30.2	0.021
14	1,646	41.150	1947	84.7	90.2	0.666
285	1,676	41.397	1951	104.2	68.2	0.001
15	1,722	41.197	1947	66.2	52.0	0.022
298	1,737	41.233	1956	49.4	44.5	0.224
3	1,783	41.382	1942	37.0	30.0	0.059
4	1,798	41.400	1951	95.0	52.1	<0.001
16	1,838	41.093	1942	55.5	51.5	0.261
13	1,875	41.200	1949	91.1	91.1	0.482
311	1,890	41.225	1949	71.1	72.5	0.568
12	1,951	41.008	1947	127.8	126.7	0.434
11	1,981	40.967	1947	95.2	101.2	0.704
5	2,012	41.217	1946	80.8	81.4	0.524
1	2,042	41.367	1942	95.3	88.4	0.218
10	2,042	41.023	1946	111.7	112.7	0.542
9	2,195	41.318	1946	84.2	86.9	0.634

Notes: Table is sorted by elevation for ease of interpretation. Data are from the California Department of Water Resources snow course database, <http://www.cdwr.ca.gov/misc/SnowCourses.html>, accessed May 2007. Historic period is earliest year of record through 1976; modern period is 1977 through 2005;  $p$ -values are reported for the one-sided alternative hypothesis that modern-period SWE is less than historic-period SWE.

against latitude-adjusted snow course elevation. We performed an analogous regression for change in late-summer discharge against latitude-adjusted mean watershed elevation for the five study streams.

in a given pair should have the lower relative streamflow during the modern period.

*Component of Scott River Base-Flow Decline Attributable to Climate*

We estimated the component of base-flow decrease in the Scott River due to climate by comparing daily flow in the Scott River with that of a reference stream. Based on geographic proximity and lack of substantial changes in anthropogenic effects on water resources over the past half-century, either the Salmon or Trinity could serve as the reference stream for this estimate. Although the Trinity watershed is closer in elevation to that of the Scott, we chose the Salmon as the reference watershed because it is much closer in size to that of the Scott (Table 1) and because the hydrograph of the Salmon River is more similar to that of the Scott than to any of the other study streams (Figures 2 and 3). Furthermore, because the latitude-adjusted elevation of the Salmon River watershed is lower than that of the Scott River, comparison with the Salmon River provides an overestimate of the effect of climate and hence an underestimate of the effect of local-scale factors on Scott River base-flow. We used the line of organic correlation (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992) to determine the linear relationship between daily Scott River discharge and daily Salmon River discharge. Because the relationship was used for prediction and not for hypothesis

40-43  
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Comment Letter 40

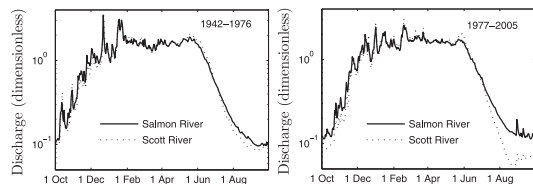


FIGURE 3. Period-of-Record Mean Dimensionless Hydrographs for the Salmon and Scott Rivers, Historic and Modern Periods. Dimensionless discharge is daily discharge divided by mean period-of-record discharge. Note that the hydrographs were nearly identical during the historic period but that during the modern period, Scott River discharge was much lower than Salmon River discharge from early July through late October.

testing, we did not correct daily values for serial autocorrelation. In this analysis we used all daily flow values from July 1 through October 22 during each of the calendar years in the historic period. This period of days was chosen because it was the time period over which the relationship between Scott and Salmon river hydrographs differed most between the historic and modern periods (Figure 3). We applied the organic linear relationship to modern-period Salmon River daily discharge values to estimate what discharge would have been in the Scott River during the modern period if response of flows in the Scott River to regional climate change had been the same as that of flows in the Salmon River. Because the line had a negative intercept, predicted discharge on a small percentage of days was slightly negative, and discharge on these days was set to zero. The difference between this estimated modern-period discharge and the observed modern-period discharge was our estimate of the component of Scott River summer discharge decrease due factors other than climate. For comparison, we also determined the line of organic correlation relating Scott and Salmon river discharge over the modern period.

RESULTS

Streamflow and SWE Trends

Mean daily hydrographs showed relatively small differences between historic and modern periods, with the exception of substantially lower modern-period discharge during late summer and early fall in the Scott River (Figure 2). Mean annual discharge in all five study streams was lower during the modern period, but none of the differences were significant (Table 1). The Scott River showed by far the greatest

decrease in late summer discharge between the two time periods (40.3% decrease,  $p < 0.001$ ), followed by the South Fork Trinity (18.2% decrease,  $p = 0.049$ ) and Indian Creek (10.0% decrease,  $p = 0.055$ ). Late-summer discharge increased slightly in the Salmon (1.2% increase,  $p = 0.629$ ) and Trinity (10.3% increase,  $p = 0.799$ ) rivers between historic and modern periods.

Mean April 1 SWE was lower in the modern period at all seven snow courses below 1,800 m, and these differences were significant at four of these courses and marginally significant at a fifth (Table 2). Mean April 1 SWE was higher in the modern period at five of the nine courses with elevations above 1,800 m, but none of these differences were significant.

Dependence of Base Flow and SWE Trends on Elevation and Latitude

Change in April 1 SWE between historic and modern periods showed a significant, positive dependence on latitude-adjusted snow-course elevation (Figure 4). There was no significant dependence of change in late summer streamflow on latitude-adjusted drainage-basin elevation among the five study watersheds, but this dependence was significant when the Scott River was removed from the analysis (Figure 4). The slopes of the SWE and the significant (i.e., Scott River not included) flow regression lines were similar (0.00427/m for change in SWE, and 0.00539/m for change in late summer flow). Under the null hypothesis that the SWE and significant flow regressions are independent of each other, permutation analysis showed that the probability of obtaining a linear relationship between change in SWE and elevation as significant as that observed and a relative difference between the slope of the two lines this small is  $p = 0.00203$  (see Appendix A). This provides strong evidence that the similarity in slopes of these two

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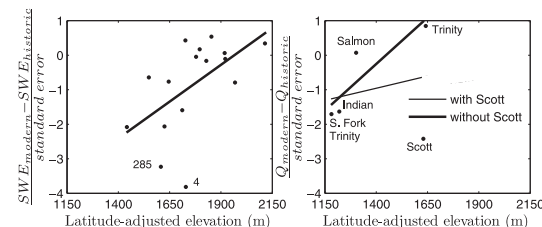


FIGURE 4. Change in April 1 Snow Water Equivalent (SWE; left) and Late-Summer Flow (right) Between the Historic and Modern Periods as a Function of Latitude-Adjusted Elevation. Decrease in both parameters is measured by the dimensionless T-statistic (Equation 4). Snow course Numbers 4 and 285 are identified in the left panel. Change in April 1 SWE showed a significant dependence on elevation ( $y = 0.00427x - 8.39$ ,  $p = 0.028$ ). Change in late-summer flow showed no significant dependence on elevation with all data included ( $y = 0.00141x - 2.39$ ,  $p = 0.700$ ) but showed significant dependence on elevation when the Scott River was removed from the analysis ( $y = 0.00539x - 7.80$ ,  $p = 0.042$ ).

regression lines cannot be caused by chance alone, that is, that the dependence of change in streamflow on elevation is linked with that of change in SWE, as expected based on the underlying hydrologic processes.

Comparison of Relative Base-Flow Decline Among Study Streams

Late-summer flow in the Scott River declined between historic and modern periods relative to all four of the other study streams, and all of the differences in discharge ratio involving the Scott River were significant (Table 3). Decline in base flow in the Scott River was greatest relative to the Trinity River, followed by that relative to the Salmon River, Indian Creek, and the South Fork Trinity River, respectively. Late-summer flow in the South Fork Trinity declined

relative to all study streams except the Scott, and these differences were all significant. Late-summer flow in Indian Creek declined relative to the Trinity and Salmon rivers, but only the decline relative to the Trinity was significant. As mentioned above, late-summer discharge in the Salmon and Trinity rivers increased slightly between the historic and modern periods, and the paired-basin test showed that the increase observed in the Trinity River was significantly greater relative to that in the Salmon River.

Component of Scott River Base-Flow Decline Attributable to Climate

Scott River daily discharge from July 1 to October 22 was much lower relative to Salmon River discharge during the modern period than during the

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TABLE 3. Paired-Basin Tests of the Null Hypothesis That the Ratio of Late Summer (August 2 through October 5) Discharge Is Equal Between Modern and Historic Periods.

Pair	Mean Ratio of Late-Summer Discharge (historic)	Mean Ratio of Late-Summer Discharge (modern)	Stream With Lower Relative Late Summer Discharge in Modern Period	p-Value: Historic and Modern Ratios Equal
Scott/Trinity	1.65	0.602	Scott	<0.001
Scott/Salmon	0.136	0.063	Scott	0.001
Scott/Indian	0.961	0.589	Scott	0.003
Scott/South Fork Trinity	0.599	0.400	Scott	0.010
Trinity/South Fork Trinity	0.397	0.590	South Fork Trinity	0.007
South Fork Trinity/Salmon	0.334	0.272	South Fork Trinity	0.035
Indian/ South Fork Trinity	0.590	0.747	South Fork Trinity	0.018
Trinity/Indian	0.803	0.973	Indian	0.001
Indian/Salmon	0.237	0.223	Indian	0.174
Trinity/Salmon	0.172	0.193	Salmon	0.045

Notes: Mean ratios of late-summer discharge are shown here; means of late summer discharge for each basin are given in Table 1; p-values are reported for the two-sided alternative hypothesis.

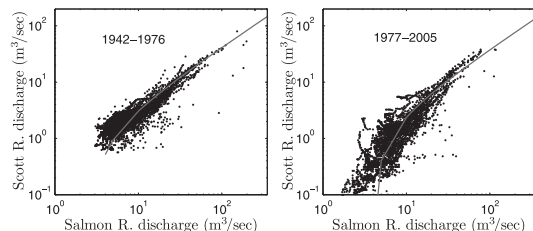


Figure 5. Scatterplots and Lines of Organic Correlation Relating Scott River Daily Discharge (y) and Salmon River Daily Discharge (x) for July 1 Through October 22, Historic and Modern Periods. Lines of organic correlation are  $y = 0.422x - 1.17$  for the historic period and  $y = 0.398x - 1.62$  for the modern period. Discharge is plotted on logarithmic scales to show detail at low discharge values; however, the lines of organic correlation and all analyses were performed on the untransformed data. Note that daily discharge in the Scott River never fell below  $0.566 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$  during the historic period but fell below this value on 28.6% of all days between July 1 and October 22 during the modern period.

historic period (Figures 3 and 5). Furthermore, whereas the magnitudes of daily discharge in the Salmon River showed little difference between the historic and modern periods, daily discharge in the Scott River showed a large decrease in mean (from  $3.23$  to  $2.15 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ ). During the historic period, discharge in the Scott River was less than  $1 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$  on 4.3% of all days from July 1 through October 22, whereas during the modern period, flows were less than  $1 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$  on 46.2% of these days. Applying the historic-period organic linear relationship to modern-period Salmon River daily discharge produced an estimate of Scott River daily flow under the influence of regional-scale climate trends alone (Figure 6). The estimated mean hydrograph differed very little from the observed his-

toric-period hydrograph from July 1 through early August, but estimated modern-period discharge was lower over most of August, September, and October. Observed July 1 through October 22 discharge in the Scott River averaged  $31.8 \text{ Mm}^3/\text{year}$  over the historic period and  $21.3 \text{ Mm}^3/\text{year}$  over the modern period. Our estimate of July 1 through October 22 discharge under the influence of regional-scale climate trends alone averaged  $27.8 \text{ Mm}^3/\text{year}$  over the modern period. Thus, the component of decrease in Scott River discharge caused by factors other than regional-scale climate is estimated at  $6.5 \text{ Mm}^3/\text{year}$ , 61% of the observed decrease.

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DISCUSSION

Streamflow and SWE Trends and Dependence on Elevation and Latitude

Base flow and April 1 SWE in the lower Klamath Basin follow general trends toward lower April 1 SWE and lower base flows observed throughout the Pacific Northwest over the past 60 years (Hamlet *et al.*, 2005; Mote *et al.*, 2005; Regonda *et al.*, 2005; Stewart *et al.*, 2005; Mote, 2006). Models indicate that global warming may increase precipitation over the Pacific Northwest (Leung and Wigmosta, 1999; McCabe and Wolock, 1999; Salathé, 2006) so that at the highest elevations, April 1 SWE may actually increase because of increased winter-time precipitation, despite the trend toward higher temperatures. In the lower Klamath Basin, SWE has decreased significantly at lower-elevation snow courses but has

increased slightly at several higher-elevation courses (Table 2). Thus, our results are consistent with regional-scale analyses and reflect trends in both temperature and precipitation. The patterns of base-flow change between the historic and modern periods in the South Fork Trinity, Indian, Salmon and Trinity watersheds are exactly as predicted by SWE-elevation-latitude relationships. The within-basin analysis (Table 1), the paired-basin analysis (Table 3), and the regression analysis (Figure 4) all showed that when compared with that of the historic period, late-summer discharge in the modern period in each stream, both independently and relative to the other streams, followed the order predicted by latitude-corrected elevation and by the SWE patterns. Base flow decreased in the two watersheds with the lowest latitude-adjusted elevation (South Fork Trinity River and Indian Creek), and the decrease was greatest in the South Fork Trinity, which has the lowest latitude-adjusted elevation of any of the study streams. Base flow increased in the Trinity and Salmon rivers, and the increase was greatest in the Trinity River, which has the highest latitude-adjusted elevation of any of the study streams. The increases in late-summer flow observed in the Salmon and Trinity watersheds have occurred despite moderate decreases in total annual flow in these streams, suggesting effects from finer-scale patterns in temperature and precipitation that we did not analyze.

Base-Flow Decline in the Scott River Relative to the Other Streams

Base-flow trends in the Scott River clearly do not follow those of the other four streams. The latitude-corrected elevation of the Scott River watershed is only  $31.5 \text{ m}$  less than that of the Trinity River watershed (Figure 4), but base flows in the Scott River showed by far a greater decrease between historic and modern periods than those in any of the other four watersheds. The paired-basin analyses (Table 3), regression relationships (Figure 4), and Salmon River comparison (Figures 3 and 5) provide strong evidence that base flow in the Scott River has responded to regional-scale climate in a much different way than the other four streams and/or that factors other than climate have contributed to changes observed in Scott River base-flow since the late 1970s.

Certainly, some of the trends in Scott River base-flow are caused by the same climatic factors that have affected the other study streams. Decreases in mean annual discharge between historic and modern periods were 6.2% in the Trinity River, 13.0% in the Salmon River, 14.3% in Indian Creek, 15.1% in the

Scott River, and 17.0% in the South Fork Trinity River (Table 1). The *p*-values for the significance of these declines were remarkably similar for all but the Trinity River (Table 1). Furthermore, the paired-basin analysis showed no significant trends in total annual discharge among the study streams. Differences in response of the Scott River relative to the other streams appear to be limited only to base flow trends because at the annual scale, response of the Scott River to climatic differences between the two time periods was indistinguishable from those of the other study streams.

Factors Affecting Scott River Base-Flow

Geographic factors may be partially responsible for the large apparent difference in base-flow response between the Scott River and the other study streams. Although not the furthest east of the study basins, the Scott watershed does lie partially within a precipitation shadow formed by the large region of high-elevation terrain to the west of the watershed, contributing to a drier, more continental climate than that of the other four study watersheds. The Scott watershed has by far the smallest basin yield (discharge per unit watershed area, Table 1), an indication of both lower precipitation and higher evapotranspiration, the latter of which includes a large amount of irrigation not present in the other watersheds. The elevation dependence exhibited by base-flow change in the other streams predicts an increase in base flow in the Scott River between historic and modern periods (Figure 4). However, the comparison with the Salmon River predicts a decrease, albeit one only about 40% as large as that observed. The two snow courses with the largest decreases in April 1 SWE were Courses 4 and 285, located on the western side of the Scott watershed (Table 2, Figures 1 and 4). Although these are two of the lower-elevation snow courses in the study area, their decline is disproportionate with their elevation (Figure 4). The large decreases in April 1 SWE at these courses could be caused by local geography (e.g., the precipitation shadow), but a snow survey technician who has conducted measurements at these courses noted that forest vegetation has encroached on the courses, reducing accumulation of snowpack on the courses themselves (Power, 2001; J. Power, personal communication). Furthermore, none of the other courses in the Scott basin (Numbers 5, 298, and 311) show patterns inconsistent with the rest of the courses, and SWE has increased slightly at Courses 5 and 311 (Table 2).

Additional data provide evidence that part of the observed decrease in Scott River base-flow since the

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Comment Letter 40

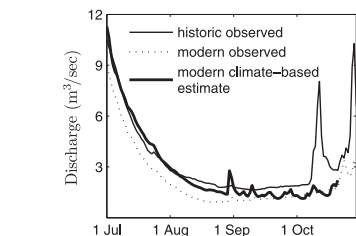


FIGURE 6. Mean July Through October Hydrographs for the Scott River, Showing Observed Historic-Period and Modern-Period Discharge and Estimated Modern-Period Discharge Based on Correlation With the Salmon River (climate-based estimate). Estimated modern-period flows show little deviation from historic-period flows during July and early August but are lower than historic-period flows from mid-August through late October.

1970s is likely caused by an increase in withdrawal of water for irrigation in the Scott Valley. Although data on water use in the Scott Valley are sparse and difficult to obtain, those that we were able to acquire show that irrigation withdrawals in the Scott Valley increased by 115% between 1953 and the period over which modern data are available (1988-2001; Figure 7). We were unable to locate data from the 1960s and 1970s to determine when the majority of the increase occurred, but across the western U.S. as a whole, the largest increase in irrigation withdrawal between 1950 and 2000 occurred in the 1970s (Hutson *et al.*, 2004). This increase in irrigation withdrawal accompanied an 89% increase in irrigated land area (Figure 7). In 1953, 77 cm of irrigation was applied over the growing season, and Mack (1958) reported that application rates in the 1940s averaged about 76 cm per year. Average application rate over the period 1988-2001 was 88 cm per year, a 15% increase over historic values. The limited data available show no change in crop types since the 1950s; irrigation has been applied primarily to alfalfa, grain, and pasture through both the historic and modern periods. Climatic factors could have influenced the increase in irrigation application rate; a warmer climate could result in a longer growing season and in higher evapotranspiration rates. However, the 15% increase in application rate is small compared the observed increases of 89% in irrigated land area and

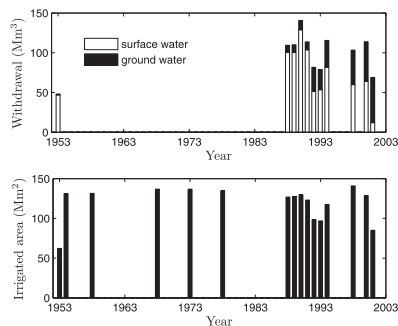


FIGURE 7. Annual Irrigation Withdrawal (top) and Irrigated Land Area (bottom) in the Scott River Basin From 1953 to 2001. Note that ground water made up less than 3% of total withdrawals in 1953 and more than 80% in 2001. Total annual withdrawal increased from 48 Mm<sup>3</sup> in 1953 to an average of 103 Mm<sup>3</sup> over the period 1988-2001, in close proportion to increase in irrigated area (62 Mm<sup>2</sup> in 1953, average of 117 Mm<sup>2</sup> over 1988-2001). Data for 1953 are from Mack (1958). All other data were provided by the California Department of Water Resources upon request.

115% in irrigation withdrawal between the historic and modern periods.

A second important trend in irrigation practices in the Scott Valley is that most irrigation in the Scott Valley is currently applied with sprinklers, and conveyance occurs in a pipe network. Recharge of ground water resulting from former flood irrigation practices has been largely eliminated, as has been observed in other locations around the western U.S. (Johnson *et al.*, 1999; Venn *et al.*, 2004). Mack (1958) estimated that during water year 1953, recharge to the alluvial aquifers in the Scott Valley was provided by precipitation (about 25 Mm<sup>3</sup>), tributary inflow (unspecified amount), and irrigation seepage (about 21 Mm<sup>3</sup>). Thus, in 1953, of the 48 Mm<sup>3</sup> withdrawn for irrigation, only about 27 Mm<sup>3</sup> (56%) was used consumptively. This efficiency is typical of flood irrigation systems with ditch conveyance (Battikhi and Abu-Hammad, 1994; Venn *et al.*, 2004). Conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation has been reported to increase efficiencies to about 70% (Venn *et al.*, 2004), implying that while withdrawal of irrigation water in the Scott Valley has increased 115% since the 1950s, consumptive use may have increased by as much as 167%. Venn *et al.* (2004) reported that after conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation in an alluvial valley in Wyoming, streamflow decreased significantly in the late summer and early fall because of decreased recharge of ground water, and this same mechanism could be acting in the Scott Valley as well.

A third important change is that ground water replaced surface water as the dominant source of irrigation water between 1990 and 2000 (Figure 7), reflecting trends observed across the western U.S. (Hutson *et al.*, 2004). Even if recharge from precipitation and tributary inflow have remained unchanged since the 1950s, change in irrigation conveyance and application methods and increased pumping of ground water in the Scott Valley could have resulted in decline of aquifer water levels. These alluvial aquifers discharge to the Scott River and its tributaries (Mack, 1958), and thus decline in aquifer levels could result in lowered base flows in the Scott River. In the upper Snake River basin of Idaho, where ground water-surface water interactions in an irrigation system have been extensively studied, conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation and increase in pumping of ground water have resulted in significant declines discharge from the aquifer into the Snake River (Johnson *et al.*, 1999; Miller *et al.*, 2003b). Because of lag times inherent in ground water responses, withdrawal of ground water in the middle of the irrigation season can affect stream base-flow into the late summer and early fall. Furthermore, ground water provides a source of irrigation water late in the season

when streamflow is low and availability of surface water is limited. Thus, transition from an irrigation system based primarily on diversion of surface water from streams to one with a large capacity to pump ground water allows more water to be used late in the irrigation season. Finally, because ground-water pumping in the Scott Valley is unregulated, actual withdrawal amounts could differ from those reported on an annual basis by CDWR, and there is a general lack of data that is sufficient in spatial and temporal extent to perform the mechanistic modeling of interactions between ground and surface water that would be necessary to quantify the effect that changes in irrigation practices have had on streamflow in the Scott River.

#### Comparison With Drake *et al.* (2000)

Our estimate that 39% of the decrease in Scott River base-flow is due to climatic factors is contrary to that of Drake *et al.* (2000), who concluded that 78% of the decrease is due to decline in April 1 SWE. The disparity in these conclusions is easily explained by analysis methods. First, Drake *et al.* (2000) analyzed hydrologic data from the Scott River watershed alone, whereas our study employed a comparative approach using other watersheds in the basin. Secondly, they did not use any variables related to water use, which clearly show substantial changes over the same time period during which base flows have decreased (Figure 7). Finally, Drake *et al.* (2000) based their conclusion on decrease in April 1 SWE at Snow Courses 4 and 285 and a single term representing this SWE decrease in a multiple regression equation explaining September discharge in the Scott River. Their regression equation was

$$Q = (2.5 + 1.18 \times \text{annualprecip.} + 8.6 \times \text{Augustprecip.} - 6.7 \times \text{Julyprecip.} + 0.48 \times \text{Course 285 SWE} + 0.25 \times \text{Course 5 SWE})^2, \quad (5)$$

where  $Q$  is September discharge, annual and monthly precipitation are as recorded on the Scott Valley floor, and April 1 values were used for the SWE terms. Because SWE at Snow Courses 4 and 285 were highly correlated, Snow Course 285 was chosen to represent these courses in the regression equation. Snow Course 5 was used to represent SWE at Courses 5 and 298, two highly correlated courses at which April SWE exhibited little temporal trend. The regression analysis did not include SWE at the other

snow course in the Scott River watershed (Course 311) nor at courses near the Scott River drainage basin divide in adjacent watersheds (Courses 1 and 13; Figure 1). April 1 SWE at these courses showed no significant decrease between historic and modern periods (Table 2). The estimate that 78% of the decline in Scott River base-flow is due to climate was based on the  $r^2$ -value of 0.78 for the regression Equation (5).

Based on mean values for the explanatory variables in the regression equation, the annual precipitation term is six times greater in magnitude than the August precipitation term and over 10 times greater in magnitude than the July precipitation term. Thus, July and August precipitation contribute relatively little to September discharge. The annual precipitation term is about 1.5 times greater than the Snow Course 285 term and about three times greater than the Snow Course 5 term. Mean annual precipitation at the Ft. Jones weather station, located near the Scott River gage, was 55.9 cm during the historic period and 54.8 cm during the modern period. April 1 SWE at Course 5 averaged 80.8 cm during the historic period and 81.4 cm during the modern period. These two variables show almost no change between historic and modern periods, and the sum of their respective terms in the regression equation is over twice as large as the Snow Course 285 term. Therefore, the conclusion of Drake *et al.* (2000) is based on a single term that accounts for less than one-third of the total magnitude of the variable terms in the regression equation.

#### Implications for Fisheries

Based on our estimate of the component of Scott River base-flow decrease attributable to changes in water use, returning irrigation to historic-period patterns in the Scott River would, in theory, increase July 1-October 22 discharge by an average of 0.65 m<sup>3</sup>/s. This estimate includes continued irrigation withdrawal at the pre-1970s rate of about 50 Mm<sup>3</sup>, albeit with as much as 21 Mm<sup>3</sup> of this returning to the aquifer and streams via canal seepage. It also accounts for decrease in streamflow caused by regional-scale climate trends. Under current conditions, streamflow in the Scott River can drop below 0.283 m<sup>3</sup>/s in the late summer and early fall of dry years. At this discharge, some reaches of the river become a series of stagnant and disconnected pools that are inhospitable to many aquatic species. An additional 0.65 m<sup>3</sup>/s could create a viable corridor for movement of aquatic species, decrease fluctuations in water temperature (particularly daily maxima), and maintain the functionality of cold-

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Comment Letter 40

water seeps and tributary mouths upon which salmonids rely (Cederholm *et al.*, 1988; Sandercoc, 1991; Stanford and Ward, 1992). Bartholow (2005) observed a warming trend of 0.5°C/decade in Klamath River water temperatures over the same period of years we have analyzed, suggesting that provision of cold-water refugia for aquatic life will become even more critical as climate warming continues. Although it is not likely that irrigation sources, withdrawal amounts, and application methods in the Scott River watershed will revert back to those of the 1960s, our results at least provide evidence that observed declines in base flow have not been caused by climate trends alone and hence could be reversed to the benefit of salmon and other aquatic life through changes in water management. However, management of water resources in the Scott Valley to meet the needs of both agriculture and fish will require consistent and accurate watermaster service for the entire valley, quantification of ground-water withdrawals and their effects on surface water, and water-use data that are easily obtainable. A major research need in the Scott Valley relevant to water management and aquatic species conservation is a comprehensive study of interactions between ground water and surface water that includes mechanistic modeling of effects of ground-water withdrawal on streamflow throughout the valley.

## CONCLUSIONS

We statistically analyzed streamflow in five lower Klamath Basin streams that are unregulated by storage reservoirs as well as April 1 SWE at all 16 snow courses in the basin with long periods of record. We compared streamflow and April 1 SWE between historic (1942-1976) and modern (1977-2005) periods, which were defined based on two distinct phases of the PDO. The historic period was a cold phase, which has been associated with high snowpack and high streamflows throughout the Pacific Northwest, and the modern period was a warm phase, which has been associated with lower snowpacks and streamflows region-wide. April 1 SWE decreased significantly between historic and modern periods at low-elevation snow courses in the lower Klamath Basin. No significant trends were apparent at higher elevations. Correspondingly, base flow decreased significantly in the two study streams with the lowest latitude-adjusted elevation and increased slightly in two of the higher-elevation study streams. With the Scott River excluded from the analysis, the depen-

dence of base-flow change on adjusted elevation follows the same trend as that of SWE. Despite a latitude-adjusted elevation only 1.8% lower than the highest-elevation watershed in the study, the Scott River has experienced a much larger reduction in base flow than the other study streams. Geographic differences may account for some of the discrepancy in base flow trends between the Scott River and the other four watersheds. However, irrigation withdrawal in the Scott watershed has increased from about 48 Mm<sup>3</sup> per year to over 100 Mm<sup>3</sup> since the 1950s, and the amount of ground water withdrawn for irrigation has increased from about 1 Mm<sup>3</sup> per year to about 50 Mm<sup>3</sup>. We estimate that 39% of the observed 10 Mm<sup>3</sup> decline in July 1-October 22 discharge in the Scott River has been caused by regional-scale climatic factors and that the remaining 61% is attributable to local factors, which include increases in irrigation withdrawal and consumptive use. Even after accounting for climatic factors, returning water use to pre-1970s patterns of withdrawal sources and quantities, conveyance mechanisms, and application methods in the Scott River watershed could benefit salmon and other aquatic biota by increasing July 1-October 22 streamflow by an average of 0.65 m<sup>3</sup>/s.

If our study watersheds are representative of others in the lower Klamath Basin, climate-induced decreases in late-summer streamflow in low-elevation watersheds will, at best, complicate the recovery of anadromous salmonids and may, at worst, hinder their persistence. Sound water management and recovery efforts such as habitat and watershed restoration will be required to help offset the effects of climate warming on river ecology, particularly because both decreased base flows and increased water temperatures occur simultaneously during periods of warm climate. Because streams at lower elevations are more susceptible to decreases in base flow caused by decreases in April 1 SWE, local-scale human-induced changes associated with water and land use could have a greater affect on streamflow and water temperature in these streams than in higher-elevation streams experiencing the same continental-scale warming. The South Fork Trinity River is of particular concern. It harbors one of the few remaining stocks of wild spring Chinook salmon in the entire Klamath Basin, and the latitude and elevation of the drainage put it at particular risk of climate-induced changes that adversely affect Chinook salmon and other species. Furthermore, development and largely unquantified water use on the South Fork Trinity River and important fish bearing tributaries such as Hayfork Creek exacerbate the problem. We recommend additional gaging on streams that are susceptible to the effects of human use, such as Hayfork

Creek, and on "control" streams that drain wilderness areas, such as Wooley Creek in the Salmon River watershed and the North Fork Trinity River, to monitor future trends in water use and climate in the lower Klamath Basin.

## APPENDIX A: PERMUTATION TESTS

Standard statistical hypothesis tests are commonly used to analyze time-series data collected at precipitation and streamflow gages (e.g., Helsel and Hirsch, 1992; McCuen, 2003). Most of these tests, whether parametric or non-parametric, are based on the assumption that the data were obtained through random sampling of infinite populations. However, this assumption is generally not met by data sets collected at precipitation and stream gages. First, these types of data are not randomly selected. The locations of stream and precipitation gages are almost never randomly chosen, and the recording of data at regular intervals such as days, months, or years does not constitute random selection. Second, the data rarely constitute a sample but rather comprise the entire population. For example, if we analyze difference in annual discharge between two time periods and have discharge values for every year in both time periods, then we have the entire population at hand. There is no sampling, and hence no infinite population to which inference can be drawn. Permutation tests, often called randomization tests in experimental contexts, are appropriate statistical tests to use for analysis of these and other types of non-sampled data (Ramsey and Schafer, 2002). We refer the reader to the comprehensive texts by Edgington (1995) and Good (2005) for a full treatment of theory and methodology and here present only a brief treatment of the two permutation tests used in this paper.

The basic concept behind permutation tests is best illustrated by the example of testing for differences in mean between two groups. Consider the comparison of late-summer discharge in the Scott River between the two time periods. Once the time-series data are corrected for serial autocorrelation, the observations constitute independent, annual values for each of the 64 years between 1942 and 2005, inclusive, and hence satisfy the assumptions of permutation tests. We then measure the magnitude of difference in the mean for each of the two time periods 1942-1976 and 1997-2005, relative to variability, using the test statistic (Equation 4). This division of 64 years into the historic and modern period is only one of the  $\frac{64!}{3729!} \approx 1.39 \times 10^{15}$  distinct ways in which this set of 64 annual values can be divided into two groups of size

35 and 29. Each of these distinct ways is called a permutation, and each has associated with it a particular value of the test statistic (Equation 2). The distribution of these test statistics is called the permutation distribution. The *p*-value of the permutation test is the probability that we could have selected a permutation at random for which the value of the test statistic was at least as extreme (using either one or two tails, as appropriate to the alternative hypothesis) as that of the observed grouping (i.e., division of the time period into 1942-1976 and 1977-2005 time periods).

In practice, when the number of permutations is on the order of 10<sup>4</sup> or less, one computes the test statistic for every possible permutation and obtains the exact *p*-value of the test. This procedure is inherently non-parametric and requires no assumptions about the distribution of the original data or the number of observations, even if one uses a test statistic such as (Equation 2) that can be used in the context of a parametric test. When the number of permutations is large, there are two choices for conducting the test. One is to randomly select a large number of permutations from among those possible and use this sample to represent the entire set of permutations (see Supplementary Material). The other is to use a standard parametric test statistic (such as the *T*-statistic) from an analogous sample-based hypothesis test. It has been shown that for the permutation versions of most of these basic tests, the permutation distribution approaches the sampling distribution of the test statistic asymptotically as the number of permutations becomes infinite, regardless of the distribution of the original data (Edgington, 1995; Good, 2005). In our example of  $1.39 \times 10^{15}$  permutations, the permutation distribution of (Equation 2) is in fact a *t*-distribution (Figure A1). Hence, we can calculate the *p*-value of the test by comparison of the test statistic with the standard *t*-distribution without having to generate any permutations. In this case, the *p*-value of the permutation test for difference in mean coincides with that of the two-sample *t*-test but the interpretation is different. In the permutation test, the *p*-value is the probability of having obtained a difference in *population* mean at least as extreme as that observed in a randomly selected division of the data into two *populations* of sizes 35 and 29. In the two-sample *t*-test, the *p*-value is the probability of having obtained a difference in *sample* mean at least as extreme as that observed based on random selection of a *sample* of size 35 from one population and a *sample* of size 29 from a second, independent population, under the null hypothesis that the population means are the same. Thus, even though we might get the "right answer" in terms of the *p*-value with naive use of a two-sample *t*-test, our inference would be

40-43  
cont.

40-43  
cont.

Comment Letter 40

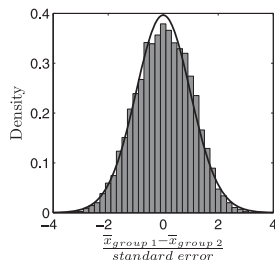


FIGURE A1. Permutation Distribution of the  $T$ -Statistic (Equation 1) for the Difference Between Historic-Period and Modern-Period Late Summer Discharge in the Scott River (Table 1). The histogram shows  $T$ -statistics from 10,000 randomly selected permutations (from among the  $1.39 \times 10^{18}$  possible), and the curve is the Student's  $t$ -distribution that would be used for the analogous  $t$ -test based on random samples from populations with unequal variances. The  $t$ -distribution has 39 degrees of freedom, as calculated using Satterthwaite's approximation (Ramsey and Schafer, 2002). In this case, the permutation and sampling distributions of the test statistic are identical.

inappropriate because our data do not constitute samples from infinite populations.

In the permutation version of linear regression, the permutations consist of all possible ways of pairing the observations of the dependent variable,  $y$ , with those of the independent variable,  $x$ . There are  $n!$  such permutations possible with a set of  $n$  ordered pairs. We perform the permutation test on the standard regression test statistic given by the ratio of regression mean square to error mean square. The observed statistic is that obtained from the data points as they were reported, and that value is compared against the values obtained from all of the other permutations. When the number of permutations is large, the permutation distribution of this test statistic is an  $F_{1,n-2}$ -distribution, identical to the sampling distribution of this test statistic. The SWE regressions used data pairs from 16 stations, so the number of permutations is  $16! \approx 2.09 \times 10^{13}$ , and use of the standard  $F$ -distribution is appropriate for computing the  $p$ -value of the permutation test. However, the number of permutations in the streamflow regressions was very small, so the standard  $F$ -distribution is not a good approximation to the permutation distribution. In the regression with the Scott River removed ( $n = 4$ ), the value of the test statistic obtained from the observed pairing of dependent and independent variables was 7.58, the largest among the 24 permutations. Thus, the  $p$ -value for this test is  $1/24 = 0.0417$  (Table A1). Regression analysis of these same four data points based on random

Table A1. Cumulative Distribution of the Test Statistic  $\frac{MSR}{MSE}$  for the Regression of Change in Streamflow vs. Adjusted Basin Elevation With Scott River Removed (Figure 4).

Test Statistic Value	Permutation Probability	Sampling Probability
7.5800	0.0417	0.1105
7.3102	0.0833	0.1139
2.6847	0.1250	0.2430
2.2445	0.1667	0.2728
2.1459	0.2083	0.2806
2.0749	0.2500	0.2864
1.9534	0.2917	0.2971
1.8136	0.3333	0.3104
1.2981	0.3750	0.3726
1.2497	0.4167	0.3799
1.0196	0.4583	0.4189
0.9162	0.5000	0.4395
0.9001	0.5417	0.4429
0.8407	0.5833	0.4560
0.5477	0.6250	0.5363
0.5388	0.6667	0.5393
0.4449	0.7083	0.5734
0.4289	0.7500	0.5798
0.3393	0.7917	0.6191
0.2621	0.8333	0.6596
0.2047	0.8750	0.6953
0.1894	0.9167	0.7059
0.0677	0.9583	0.8191
0.0622	1.0000	0.8263

Note: The test statistic values are those from each of the 24 possible permutations. The permutation probability is the probability of observing a test statistic at least as large from the permutation distribution, and the sampling probability is the probability of observing a test statistic at least as large from the sampling distribution, namely an  $F_{1,2}$ -distribution. The  $F$ -distribution underestimates probabilities for small values of the test statistic and overestimates them for the larger values.

sampling produces a  $p$ -value of 0.110 (Table A1). If the four study streams had been randomly selected from a large number of streams (on the order of 40 streams or more), then the probability is 0.110 of having observed a linear relationship at least this strong in a sample of four  $(x,y)$  pairs, under the null hypothesis that there was no linear relationship between  $x$  and  $y$  in the whole population. However, because these four streams were not selected at random (they were selected because they were streams that happened to have long periods of flow records), it is inappropriate to draw inferences to a large population from this set of four. Using permutation testing, the probability is 0.0417 of having observed a linear relationship this strong by chance assignment of the  $x$  and  $y$  values into  $(x,y)$  pairs, and we conclude that among this population of four study streams, there is a significant dependence of  $y$  on  $x$ .

To compare the slopes of the SWE and streamflow regressions (Figure 4), we first computed slopes  $m_i$  for each of the possible 24 permutations of the

streamflow data and slopes  $m_j$  for each permutation in a random sample of 1,000 permutations from among the  $16!$  possible for the SWE data (see Supplementary Material). We then calculated the symmetric relative difference between the slopes given by

$$\frac{|m_i - m_j|}{0.5(|m_i| + |m_j|)} \quad (6)$$

for all possible combinations  $i, j$  as  $i$  ranged over the 24 streamflow permutations and  $j$  ranged over the 1,000 randomly selected SWE permutations. The observed relative difference was smaller than 92.61% of these differences. However, we are interested in differences in slopes not for all possible pairs of regression lines but only for those that are statistically significant to begin with. If the dependence of change in streamflow on adjusted elevation is independent of that of SWE on adjusted elevation, then the probability of randomly selecting a regression pair with a difference in slopes as small as the observed difference and randomly selecting a permutation of the SWE data showing as strong a linear relationship as that observed is the product of the two individual probabilities. The probability of the former event is  $1 - 0.9261 = 0.0739$ , and the probability of the latter is 0.0275. Thus, the desired probability is 0.00203. We conclude that it is extremely unlikely to have observed regression relationships this similar by chance alone if the dependence of change in streamflow on elevation is independent of that of change in SWE on elevation.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Diana Boyack of the Idaho State University Digital Mapping Laboratory created the study area map and computed drainage basin statistics. The California Cooperative Fish Research Unit, U.S. Geological Survey, provided administrative support to SWN. DeW. Derryberry of the Idaho State University Department of Mathematics provided helpful references and comments on permutation tests. The suggestions of four anonymous reviewers greatly improved the manuscript.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Supplementary materials mentioned in the text (computer code to conduct permutation tests) are available as part of the online paper from: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com>.

Please note: Neither AWRa nor Blackwell Publishing is responsible for the content or functionality of any supplementary materials supplied by the authors. Any queries (other than missing material) should be directed to the corresponding author for the article.

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cont.

December 2, 2008

Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
Conservation Planning  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Northern California - North Coast Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001

California Department of Fish and Game

RE: The Scott & Shasta EIR & ITP

1) The science used to support the EIR & ITP was inadequate. 41-1

2) There needs to be just compensation from DFG for water users that make water available for environmental needs. 41-2

3) There needs to be written that a water user will not lose any water rights. 41-3

There are many other issues that need to be discussed on the Scott system. If the DFG is really interested make the Scott River a good fishery. DFG will do the work needed Sincerely, to make the Scott a stable system, which right now it is an unstable system. 41-4

Maria Burch 8720 Juniper Ln  
Printed Name Address

Montague CA 96064  
City



Comment Letter 42

December 2, 2008

Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
Conservation Planning  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Northern California - North Coast Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001

California Department of Fish and Game

RE: The Scott & Shasta EIR & ITP

If you really want to save the fish "Coke"

# 1 START with the real problem "Foreign Fisherman"

42-1

Expand our fishing boundaries in the Ocean

# 2 Clear off some of the Juniper<sup>sp</sup> Trees

& Brush In the 1800's & early 1900's there

was little brush & Juniper trees on the

East side of Scott Valley - Most of all the

glades had water and fish.

42-2

# 3 When there is ample water let the farmers

Take more water - Keep the outlying AREA

charged with water - The River will Run

longer & cooler.

42-3

# 4 MAKE the program VOLUNTEER you will have much

more success NO 1600's OF ITP

42-4

Sincerely,

CLINT CUSTER 2212 So. Hwy 3 STPA Ca 96027  
Printed Name Address City

# Comment Letter 43

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...R%20public%20comments/Scott%20only%20comments/I\_edwards\_scott.htm

**From:** Jeff Edwards [jeff@mcn.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 07, 2008 11:43 AM  
**To:** SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov  
**Cc:** bwilliams@dfg.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Scott River Watershed-wide permitting program.  
Dear Mr. Williams,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by the California Fish and Game and the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District to delegate all permitting for the Scott River watershed to the “Agricultural Operators” (CDFG’S wording in the Scott River draft EIR).

43-1

This proposal is completely unsound. If we were to use this flawed logic for the construction industry we would be delegating the issuance of building permits and zoning rules to the construction contractor associations!

The Scott River salmon are a threatened species. There is massive scientific evidence that the primary challenge to the survival of Scott River Coho, as well as the other Klamath fish is inadequate water flows.

43-2

The idea that the agencies that regulate diversion of the water should be composed of the very individuals that do the water diversion completely lacks common sense. This will do nothing but threaten the much needed flows even further.

43-3

As a salmon fisherman and good “customer” of the DFG (lots of \$\$\$ on Fishing/Hunting Licenses and tags) I respectfully request that you direct the California DFG to retain all regulatory control and enforcement in this matter and not proceed with this proposal.

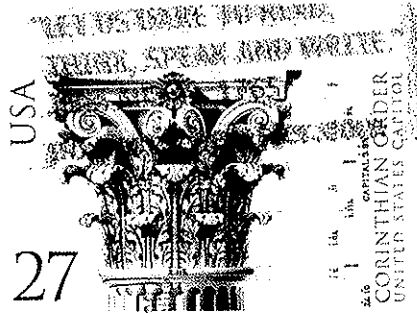
43-4

Thank You,

Jeff Edwards  
31401 Sherwood Rd.  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
(707)964-4938

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Mr Thomas Force  
420 N Pine St  
Ukiah, CA 95482



Bob Williams  
D.F.G.  
601 Locust  
Redding, Ca. 96001

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44-1

Sir - As both a farmer and a fish lover <sup>(eating)</sup> I river  
rafter I have to side against the ITP.

44-2

The irrigation methods used in Scott  
Valley (and I was there recently) are for areas  
up north where there is enough water to waste  
like they do. I use drip irrigation for all my  
crops. These guys are water guzzlers and it's  
not fair to the fish or the water ways and you're  
looking at a recipe for disaster. It's bad land  
management. Let's get real. Thanks, Tom Force

# Comment Letter 45

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**From:** Jim Harris [harrijam77@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 9:03 PM  
**To:** shastadeir@dfg.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Scott Valley EIR & ITP

For Scott Valley EIR & ITP Comments.

First off I would like to say that if the EIR and ITP are implemented correctly they could be successful. Being a water user of French Creek, I have some concerns about the EIR & ITP.

45-1

1) DFG say that under the EIR and ITP will take water when flows are low after June 1st. What will stop the DFG from taking water earlier or taking water when flows are not low and just straight taking all of the water. What gives the DFG the right to have the ALL the water. If DFG takes all the water for the fish not only will it put the farmers and ranchers of Scott Valley out of Business, but, we will start to see wells going dry, pasture drying up, and an ecosystem die that relies on the flow of that water.

45-2

2) If water is to be taken from the farmers there should be FAIR compensations for that water. We need to be given what other farmers and ranchers in California receive. What has been offered in the past will not even cover one months power bill not to mention the other costs that we will face without the water.

45-3

3) Does the DFG have any supporting data showing how many fish need to return to the rivers for this program to be successful? Then if successful will the farmers and ranches get back full water rights? My guess is most likely not.

45-4

4) Has there been any thought to the fact that off shore fishing has more of an impact than the farmers or ranchers in Scott Valley. Any data or historically accurate data and studies showing farming is more adverse?

45-5

5) Finally I would like to say that I am worried how this will affect landowners property rights. Already the DFG thinks it can come and go as it pleases on our property. This is unacceptable. DFG has left gates open, that has lead to cows on the highway. Pulled water broads that lead to cows almost dying because of no water (there was no notice of the boards being pulled).

45-6

Why is it that the DFG and farmer and ranchers are always fighting when they should be working together. Make the changes that are being requested. Work with us, because we will not take this laying down.

45-7

Jim Harris  
Scott Valley

# Comment Letter 45

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...IR%20public%20comments/Scott%20only%20comments/I\_harris\_scott.htm

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# Comment Letter 46

## Shasta River and Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Programs Draft Environmental Impact Reports

The public is invited to provide comments or concerns related to the environmental analysis of the Shasta River and/or Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Environmental Impact Report(s).

Name: Rick Haxden

Address: PO Box 1514

City, State, Zip: Callahan CA 96014

Telephone: 530 467 3405

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle which document you are commenting on:

Shasta EIR

Scott EIR

Comments may be submitted tonight or mailed to:

Mr. Bob Williams, Staff  
Environmental Scientist

Conservation Planning (CDFG)  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300 (phone)  
(530) 225-2381 (fax)

- 46-1 Comment: I AM THE OWNER OF SOME OF THE PRIME COHO HABITAT I SAW NO <sup>ONE</sup>  
THE CHARGING OF UNECONOMICAL FEES & PERMITS  
CEQA ITPS TO GET YOUR WATER RIGHT IS A  
TAKING OF PROPERTY
- 46-2 WHAT ABOUT MANY NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUAL HOUSE WELLS  
USED IN INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLDS (PUT QUOTA ON # OF PEOPLE TO MOVE INTO VALLEY) =  
DISCRIMINATION OF RANCHERS FARMERS.
- 46-3 LACK OF BIO. INFO. ON PARASITES & BACTERIA THAT REGULARLY KILL 90%  
OF SMOLT BEFORE THEY REACH OCEAN
- 46-4 NATURAL ALLUVIA FANS THAT HAVE DRIED MANY PORTIONS OF MANY STREAMS FOR  
MANY YEARS
- 46-5 TRIPES KILLING 30% OF ADULT MALES & FEMALES - 3000 RES. B. L. Y. PER FISH (FEMALE)  
MAYBE SPAWN & MOVE FERTILIZED EGG IN SPAWN BOXS TO UP STREAM WATER ROCKERS -  
THIS IS 1/2 OF YOUR PROBLEM OF RETURNING FISH #S
- 46-6 STOP ALL FISHING UNTILL FIS ARE UP AND ABOVE  
SUSTAINABLE LEVEL.
- 46-7 HOW CAN WE WITH YOU VERIFY WHICH MITIGATIONS ARE WORKING  
WHICH ARE NOT MUST COMPENSATE LAND OWNER FOR FAILED  
PROJECT BECAUSE THEY HAVE SACRIFICED

Feel free to use the back or extra sheets if necessary.

Thank you for your participation!

46-8 | This issue seems to be following the same trail as the spotted owl issue and ranchers/farmers will feel the same economic crises as loggers, which in turn has affected local economy in an adverse way.

**Comment Letter 47**

**Shasta River and Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Programs  
Draft Environmental Impact Reports**

*Scott-Shasta  
vs Caroline  
Luiz*

The public is invited to provide comments or concerns related to the environmental analysis of the Shasta River and/or Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Environmental Impact Report(s).

Name: Caroline Santos Luiz  
Address: 3414 W. Moffett Ck Rd  
City, State, Zip: Ft. Jones, CA 96032  
Telephone: 530-468-2854  
E-mail: luiz@sisqtel.net

Comments may be submitted tonight or mailed to:  
  
Mr. Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
  
Conservation Planning (CDFG)  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300 (phone)  
(530) 225-2381 (fax)

Circle which document you are commenting on:

Shasta EIR

Scott EIR

Comment:

I have several concerns regarding the environmental analysis of the Scott River Watershed Wide Permitting Program Environmental impact Reports.

47-1

The 1st would be; have weather conditions and mother nature been carefully considered?

drought/Rain/snow fall/flooding and many other uncontrollable items can drastically affect streams, streambeds and the amount of available water for fish.

2nd) Has it ever really been proved that coho are a native species?

47-2

Feel free to use the back or extra sheets if necessary.

**Thank you for your participation!**



to Scott Valley or were they planted here in the 1940's and then a population was established from that?

47-2  
cont.

3) Is there really a need for an incidental take permit if the coho are not native to Scott Valley?

4) Will the cost of these permits be reasonable if an individual goes with the watershed wide permitting process say under \$100? Or will the cost be just an added expense that farmers + ranchers can't afford and will eventually put many out of business?

47-3

5) Who determines which streambeds will be involved? Who decides who has to pay? Is it a fair process? and 6) The use of a pre 1900 standard for the designation of which areas will require a permit is ludicrous and a big

47-4

*concern.* Just the increase in human population is enough to change the amount of available water; it can't all be blamed on agriculture. These are just a few items that concern my family and myself. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. Thank you again,  
Caroline Santos Ruiz, *concerned citizen*

# Comment Letter 48

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/0...IR%20public%20comments/Scott%20only%20comments/L\_marsh\_scott.htm

**From:** Annie Marsh [annie\_marsh@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 2:52 PM  
**To:** scottdeir@dfg.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Comment Scott Rive Watershed-wide Permitting Program – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)  
Anna L. “Anne” Marsh  
4628 Pine Cone Drive  
Etna, CA 96027

December 8, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Fax: 530-225-2381  
E-mail: SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov

VIA email

Dear Mr. Williams:

RE: Comment Scott Rive Watershed-wide Permitting Program – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Thank you for allowing my comment on the above referenced program. I am a property owner and well owner in the Scott River Watershed. As such, I am a stake-holder in the effects of the implementation of this program. 48-1

1. Allowing the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (SQRCD) and the ranching/farming/timber community to monitor and manage the water in the Scott River Watershed creates a potential for property owners/well owner’s water usage to be monitored by the SQRCD. In order to provide adequate water for the fish and agriculture, SQRCD could also ration or otherwise restrict the use of water by small property owners who are dependent upon wells for their water. The State of California should strictly monitor any such program to assure that we have adequate use of our water. 48-2

2. In 2002, rancher/farmers on the eastside of the Scott River Watershed were allowed to install high-impact irrigation wells on their property. During that year, there was a County moratorium on fees for installing wells. More recently, in 2005 or 2006 the SQRCD voted to allow landowners with adjudicated water rights to also install irrigation wells on their property. 48-3

While the DEIR states that there will be no significant reduction in water supply, it appears that there will be significant reduction of water supply due to population increase and therefore increased well installation and well use; and greater agricultural use.

# Comment Letter 48

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/0...IR%20public%20comments/Scott%20only%20comments/L\_marsh\_scott.htm

Also, it does not make sense to put our second greatest resource in the hands of the greatest users of this resource, i.e., the rancher/farmers/timber community and the SQRCD, which is mostly composed of people from the ranching/farming/timber communities. To do so could very likely create a substantial depletion of our groundwater and a substantial deficit in our aquifer. 48-4

The level of groundwater and the condition of our aquifer do not seem to be addressed in the DEIR. Surely we have technology which could give us a report on them prior to approving management of our water by those who use the most of it. 48-5

3. CDFG – Table 4-1 mentions the Tschopp Kidder Creek Mine as having activity in 2008. This mine is the subject of an appeal of a revised Reclamation Plan, and has been determined to be “Abandoned” by the State Mining and Reclamation Board. No mining activity should be taking place on this mine until a full determination of its status has been determined. 48-6

4. The Scott River is a navigable river. In my brief analysis of the DEIR, I did not see any mention of this fact. It should be added to the Program. 48-7

The best solution for all the property owners of the Scott River Watershed would be a readjudication of the water. While that is not being considered, the next best thing for the NON-ranching/farming/timber owners is that the State of California maintain strict control over the SQRCD and its helpmate, the Scott River Watershed Council. To do less will be to jeopardize the ability of the small property owner to main his or her quality of life in terms of water. 48-8

I reserve the right to add to my comments if there should be an extension of time to comment. Thank you for accepting my input.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Marsh

Anna L. “Anne” Marsh

# Comment Letter 48

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/0...20only%20comments/I\_marsh2\_scott--combine%20into%20one%20pdf.htm

**From:** Annie Marsh [annie\_marsh@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 08, 2008 3:12 PM  
**To:** scottdeir@dfg.ca.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Comment Scott Rive Watershed-wide Permitting Program – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) #2  
Anna L. “Anne” Marsh  
4628 Pine Cone Drive  
Etna, CA 96027

December 8, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Fax: 530-225-2381  
E-mail: SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov

VIA email

Dear Mr. Williams:

RE: Comment Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) #2

Please add to my comments the following:

In 2002 when the Coho Salmon were being listed as protected, this was a huge issue. Cattle in the streams and rivers not only pollutes, but causes much of the destruction of the stream/river banks and surrounding vegetation. Keeping livestock out of the streams/ rivers would result in less costly restoration in the future.

48-9

Again, thank you for accepting my comments.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Marsh

Anna L. “Anne” Marsh

# Comment Letter 48

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/0...20only%20comments/I\_marsh2\_scott--combine%20into%20one%20pdf.htm

## Comment Letter 48

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20public%20comments/Scott%20only%20comments/l\_marsh3--combine.htm

**From:** Annie Marsh [annie\_marsh@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 8:48 AM  
**To:** scottdeir@dfg.ca.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Comment Scott Rive Watershed-wide Permitting Program – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) #3

Anna L. “Anne” Marsh

4628 Pine Cone Drive

Etna, CA 96027

December 8, 2008

Mr. Bob Williams

Department of Fish and Game

601 Locust Street

Redding, CA 96001

Fax: 530-225-2381

E-mail: SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov

VIA email

Dear Mr. Williams:

RE: Comment Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) #3

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%2...ments/Scott%20only%20comments/l\_marsh3--combine.htm (1 of 2)12/12/2008 12:48:18 PM

# Comment Letter 48

file:///G:/206xxx/D206063.00%20-%20Shasta%20Scott%20Watersheds/06...20public%20comments/Scott%20only%20comments/I\_marsh3--combine.htm

Please add to my two previous comments the following:

The residents of Siskiyou County have recently learned that Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) is beginning to do cloud seeding for weather modification

in the county. Could the State of California please assure that the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (SQRC) or any other entity be banned from

doing such weather modification. The Scott River Watershed would be severely impacted by silver oxide/nitrate or other chemicals that are used in cloud seeding.

48-10

Again, thank you for accepting my comments.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Marsh

Anna L. "Anne" Marsh

*Previously e-mailed*

**From the desk of Felice Pace**

28 Maple Road Klamath, Ca 95548 707-482-0354 unofelice@gmail.com

November 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program DEIR  
1. DFG's failure to acknowledge/address my scoping comments, and  
2. Significant new information

Mr. Bob Williams  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Fax: 530-225-2381  
Via E-mail: SCOTTDEIR@dfg.ca.gov

Dear Bob Williams,

This message is being sent to you because you are the person listed as the contact for the proposed Scott River Watershed-Wide permitting DEIR.

*to the e-mail version*

**1. DFG's failure to acknowledge/address my scoping comments**

Attached are my letter dated November 5th, 2006 and the Scoping Comments which that letter transmitted to both the Chief and the Regional Manager. However, you have failed to list me in Appendix E - Scoping Comments Summary for the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report. More importantly you have failed to identify some of the issues which I identified for the DEIR in my scoping comments and you have failed to address these issues adequately in the DEIR. This is, of course, a violation of CEQA. Therefore I am requesting that you correct the deficiencies by withdrawing the DEIR and considering my scoping comments which identify significant deficiencies and issues which are not addressed in the DEIR.

49-1

*to the e-mail version*

**2. Significant new information**

Attached to this message is the abstract of a peer reviewed research paper which uses empirical data on Scott River streamflow, snow pack and precipitation and applies advanced statistical techniques. The researchers reach the conclusion that - in contrast to other Lower Klamath River Basin streams studied, over 60% of the very significant reduction in Scott streamflow as measured at the USGS gauging station can not be explained by changes in precipitation and snow pack. The authors conclude that the doubling of groundwater pumping for irrigation since the 1950s is primarily responsible for the decrease in stream flow. These decreases mean that adjudicated US Forest Service rights to streamflow in the Scott are now not met in the late summer and fall even in average water years. This water right (these flows) was provided for fish. As a result of adequate flows not being provided, Chinook can now not reach spawning grounds in average water years and Coho spawning migration is delayed in drought years.

49-2

This significant new information is directly related to the proposed action and pursuant to CEQA regulations must be considered in the DEIR. Because the proposed action would legalize



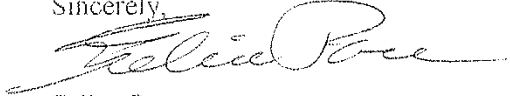
# Comment Letter 49

the dewatering which has resulted from the unregulated groundwater pumping implicated in the significantly decreased flows and consequent impacts to Coho salmon - and because this significant new information was not considered in the DEIR - I am requesting that CDFG withdraw the DEIR and reissue it with this new information fully considered.

↑  
49-2  
cont.

Please acknowledge receipt of this e-mail and advise me of how CDFG intends to respond to my request that the DEIR be withdrawn, reworked and reissued.


Sincerely,



Felice Pace

resident and landowner in the Scott River Sub-basin for 31 years.

cc: interested parties

Bob Williams - Please do me the courtesy of providing a <sup>substantive</sup> reply or a phone call. TX 

**From the desk of Felice Pace**

**28 Maple Road Klamath, Ca 95548 707-482-0354 felice@jeffnet.org**

November 5, 2006

Loris Broddrick, Director  
California Department of Fish and Game  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Don Koch, Regional Director  
California Department of Fish & Game  
Redding, CA

**SUBJECT: Proposed Take Permit for agricultural irrigation interests in the Scott River Sub-basin and for the Siskiyou RCD:**

- 1. Concerns with the content and legality of the Proposed Take Permit;**
- 2. Concerns with the PROCESS used to develop the proposed Take Permit;**
- 3. Response to Notice and Initial Study for the proposed Take Permit;**
- 4. Call for release of the Draft Take Permit (ITP) and for an all-party process for developing the proposed Pilot Project (Take Permit).**

Dear Mr. Broddrick and Mr. Koch:

Attached are my detailed comments on the proposed Scott Take permit for Agricultural Operations. Please consider these comments if you move forward with the proposal and please make sure I receive a copy of the proposed permit itself as soon as possible and the DEIR when it is released.

To summarize my comments:

The proposed Take Permit is not ready for CEQA review because the text of the proposed Take Permit – the CEQA project – has not been released for review by the public, other agencies and governments.

The proposed Take Permit appears to have numerous legal, procedural and practical problems. A few of these problems rise to the level of major flaws. Unless these flaws are addressed, the Coho Recovery Goals applicable to the Scott River will not be achieved, Coho will remain at high risk of extinction in the Scott Subbasin and conditions for Coho – most notably flows and flow related habitat conditions including temperature - will likely continue to degrade.

Major flaws in the proposed Take Permit include:

- ◆ The proposed Take Permit does not do enough for Coho. Coho in Scott Valley need over-summer and over-winter habitat. The “mitigations” discussed in the Initial Study are mostly either for regulatory compliance or paying irrigators to pump water into the river that will be sucked out again by pumps near the river farther down stream. The proposed Take Permit does not advance recovery strategy goals. In fact, it diverts scarce resources from true restoration to pay for irrigator regulatory compliance.

- ◆ The proposed Take Permit ignores the collegial and respectful approach to restoration that has been used in Klamath River for the past 20 years. Under the Klamath Act the State of California acted

49-3

49-4

49-5

as a partner with tribes, fishermen, local government and federal agencies. Unfortunately, in this case those who have a vital interest in water management in the Scott River – tribes, fishermen, river and coastal communities – the Downstream Interests - and the considerable localized knowledge and expertise in fisheries restoration which the tribes and communities in particular have developed - have been excluded from the process. This ITP is truly a lost opportunity and a backward step for Klamath River Basin restoration.

↑  
49-5  
cont.

◆ Take permit protection will cover all agricultural activities including groundwater pumping; but groundwater pumping – which according to the Department of Water Resources constitutes 54% of Scott River irrigation – is not addressed in the regulatory or mitigation frameworks.

49-6

◆ The RCD board – responsible under the proposed take permit for monitoring compliance and reporting those who do not follow through with what is needed to minimize take -are likely to be holders of sub-permits. Based on self-interest, past performance and declared philosophy concerning regulation of land, water and wildlife, the RCD can not be relied upon to monitor and report non-compliance. As in the past, the RCD policy will likely be “don’t ask; don’t tell.” From a legal standpoint, participation on boards which make regulatory decisions is not permitted for members of the regulated community. Therefore, for the RCD to be in charge of compliance monitoring the Supervisors would have to appoint board members who are not involved in irrigated agriculture.

49-7

◆ The DFG has ignored the Coastal Commission: a trustee agency with a clear interest in the proposed ITP and a required CEQA reviewer.

49-8

◆ It is likely that the proposed ITP will result in continued non-enforcement of Fish & Game Code 5937. Indeed F&G Code 5937 is not mentioned in documents released to date. In addition, as proposed, the Take permit would violate the CESA and its implementing regulations, CEQA regulations and case law, and the Scott River Adjudication Decree.

49-9

Not only is the proposed Take permit fatally flawed but the process the Department of Fish & Game used to develop the Take Permit has been flawed. The implementation of Coho take prohibitions and development of protection and mitigation for incidental take of Coho salmon by irrigators are subjects in which tribal governments, fishermen, coastal and river communities and counties have a vital stake. It is not right and it is a violation of State of California Environmental Justice regulations to exclude these specific interested governments from a process that vitally impacts them.

49-10

It is not American for public officials to negotiate over public trust resources in secret; it is not American for a small group of irrigators in a small Valley to get special privileges that amount to an exemption from the laws and regulations which other residents of the Basin must follow.

49-11

Fishermen must cut back on fishing or stop entirely; tribes must compromise their culture and wait for future economic development. But Scott Valley irrigators can have a plan under which they can continue the progressive dewatering of the Scott River and the directly related progressive extirpation of Coho and Chinook salmon while receiving exemption from the most important laws Californians have enacted to protect and restore salmon and other native species. There is something very wrong with this picture.

49-11

Until it decided to go into the back room with private irrigators and the Siskiyou RCD to negotiate the proposed Take Permit, the Department of Fish and Game had been committed to the collegial and cooperative approach to restoration which has held sway under the Klamath Act since 1986. Now, the Department has gone solo in the Klamath Basin on behalf of a small group of ranchers and alfalfa

49-12  
↓

## Comment Letter 49

growers who believe their specialness includes being free from oversight by the Department of Fish and Game or any other government excepting those quasi-government agencies they closely control.

Leaders at the Department of Fish and Game need to refocus on their core responsibilities under the California Constitution and as agents of the People of California. When an agency, acting on behalf of the State of California, proposes a radically new approach to fulfilling its obligations under Fish and Game Codes sections 5937, 1603, 2050- 2068, 2070-2079, 2080-2085 and California Code of Regulations sections 783-783.8 and 786-786.8 and impacting the CSEA and other laws, comity suggests that the agency would consult with and involve all affected governments and interests.



49-12  
cont.

Sincerely,

Felice Pace

Resident and landowner in the Scott River Subbasin for 31 years.

cc: interested parties

The Proposed Scott River ITP

Comments prepared for the Department of Fish and Game and the Public  
in response to CDFG’s October 19, 2006 Notice of Preparation of DEIS  
Scott-River Watershed-wide Permit allowing “take” of Coho Salmon

By those engaged in agriculture and irrigation

Submitted by

Felice Pace

Landowner, Homeowner and former resident (35 years) of the Scott River Basin

These comments are based on 35-years of experience and study, including intense involvement in studying and seeking to restore Coho and other anadromous fisheries in the Scott Sub-basin and the Klamath River Basin since 1986.

I will address the following topics:

- ◆ What is at stake?
- ◆ Is the proposed Basin-wide Take Permit ready for review?
- ◆ Will the proposed Take Permit advance the goals of the *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch)* (Recovery Strategy) developed by DFG and adopted by the California Fish & Game Commission? In other words, how is implementation of the proposed Take Permit likely to impact Coho salmon?
- ◆ Does the proposed Take Permit comply with applicable California laws and regulations?
- ◆ When the proposed project is ready for CEQA Review, what critical issues and what critical information must be considered?

49-13

I. What is at stake?

Coho salmon in the Scott River are at high risk of extinction. There is only one cohort out of three that has a viable spawning population. Conditions for juveniles in the Scott River, many tributaries and the Klamath River is not hospitable. Most smolt-juvenile production is lost to mortality directly related to poor water quality and low flow. The fish hang on because of the existence of scattered cold water refugia and because the spawning run occurs late in the year when declining photosynthesis, cooler temperature and cessation of surface and groundwater irrigation typically result in increased river and tributary flow.

49-14

Analysis of USGS Gauge flow data by an water engineer under contracted to the Sierra Club documents the progressive dewatering of the Scott River. Corrected for precipitation variation, the data shows that flows since 1980 are lower than previously when the same amount of precipitation falls. DFG’s own Coho and Chinook spawner survey reports have documented that in dry years Coho migration is now delayed in the lower Scott due to low flow barriers. This is something that was unheard of just a few years ago!

49-15

If we had a stock-by-stock approach, the Scott stock would be listed as “endangered” pursuant to the CESA. We could loose Coho in the Scott at any time – a series of drought years or the co-occurrence of several negative stochastic impacts would likely do it.

49-16

**II. Is the proposed Basin-wide Take Permit ready for review?**

DFG officials have been meeting with the Siskiyou RCD and other agricultural interests in the Scott River Valley about this ITP for over two years. The application was made nearly two years ago. We know a Draft permit has been produced; we know that the Siskiyou RCD has submitted it to private water lawyers for review. But neither the public, nor the tribes and fishermen who have the biggest stake in Coho salmon, nor even non-agricultural landowners in the Scott River Basin – know what is in the proposed ITP (Take Permit).

49-17

Proper application of CEQA requires examination of impacts. If we do not know the critical details; how can we provide meaningful feedback on the issues and the information which should be examined in the DEIS? The “project” – a proposed Take Permit and proposed Master Steambed Alteration Permit – are not ready for the CEQA process until they are available for public study.

**As an American Citizen, I must also ask whether the secret negotiation of the proposed take permit with private interests under the cover of the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District violates the basic social contract of our republic. To date, the process used to develop these proposals has not been worthy of a country that proclaims itself a democracy or of an agency sworn to uphold the American and California Constitutions.**

**III. Will the proposed Take Permit advance the goals of the *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch)* (Recovery Strategy) developed by DFG and adopted by the California Fish & Game Commission?**

The Proposed Project has laudable goals, objectives and potential benefits to Coho salmon, the Department of Fish and Game and local ranchers and alfalfa growers (Initial Study at 3-6):

- ◆ For Coho it reflects a coherent strategy for minimizing direct “Take” at diversions.
- ◆ For the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) the payoff is access to the Scott Valley section of the River –something angry ranchers and alfalfa farmers have denied them at times. While DFG and all citizens have legal access along this navigable river, the irrigators in the valley bottom have denied access even at public rights-of-way.
- ◆ For the Siskiyou RCD there is programmatic take permit coverage for the restoration and other projects they undertake as well as a promise of ongoing funding to “monitor” proposed “subpermittees.” Most permit applicants must pay for DFG to prepare the permit and complete CEQA analysis. In this case, DFG is paying all costs associated with developing, analyzing and apparently implementing the proposed Take Permit.
- ◆ The Initial Study of the unreleased proposed Take Permit lists numerous advantages for agricultural water users in the Scott River Valley. Not only do they not have to pay for the Take Permit, the irrigators stand to gain a virtually complete shield from ESA regulation for all their agricultural operations.

49-18

Whether or not the proposed Take Permit is a good idea for Coho salmon, however, can not be judged in terms of beneficial relations between DFG officials and irrigators, nor by the benefits for agricultural water users. Rather the proposed Take Permit – when it is finally released to the tribes, fishermen and the public – must be judged by whether or not it implements the Coho Recovery Strategy faithfully and adequately.

The Recovery Strategy has six goals which it asserts must be achieved to consider Coho salmon “Recovered” in California and eligible for delisting:

- ◆ GOAL I - Maintain and improve the number of key populations and increase the number of populations and cohorts of Coho salmon.
- ◆ GOAL II - Maintain and increase the number of spawning adults.
- ◆ GOAL III - Maintain the range, and maintain and increase distribution of Coho salmon.
- ◆ GOAL IV - Maintain existing habitat essential for Coho salmon.
- ◆ GOAL V - Enhance and restore habitat within the range of Coho salmon.
- ◆ GOAL VI - Reach and maintain Coho salmon population levels to allow for the resumption of Tribal, recreational, and commercial fisheries for Coho salmon.

49-18  
cont.

Careful analysis of what we can glean about the proposed Take Permit from DFG’s Notice and Initial Study, the performance of the entity applying for the permit (Siskiyou Resource Conservation District, hereafter “the RCD”), and information on the condition and recent history of Coho salmon in the Scott River, it does not appear that what is proposed in the unreleased Proposed Take Permit will further most of the Recovery Goals. At best the current situation – one viable cohort out of three and high juvenile mortality – will be sustained; at worst, Coho in the Scott will lurch toward extinction as negative stochastic events impact the two non-viable and one viable Scott Coho cohorts.

The Proposed Take Permit is unlikely to improve conditions from Coho because it contains two fundamental flaws:

**Fatal Flaw #1:**

The proposed Take Permit will apply to all agricultural activities undertaken by farmers, ranchers and other irrigators who sign up but the only ag water use addressed is surface diversion. Apparently, the proposed Take Permit is silent about groundwater irrigation (except to say that DFG may pay annually to rent well water from the willing irrigators) – a key agricultural activity in Scott Valley. **Well over 50% of the irrigation in the Scott River Valley is from wells that pump water that, in the words of the Scott River Adjudication Decree and associated studies, is “broadly interconnected with surface flow.” Yet the proposed Take Permit is apparently silent even about irrigation wells that are literally on the banks of the Scott River.**

The DFG and RCD can do all the restoration they can think up. They can even pay irrigators to pump groundwater into the River at key times. But the dewatering of the Scott River will continue because the water pumped in will be pumped right back out by someone farther downstream. In recent year the federal government (Klamath EQIP) has paid to put substantial Scott Valley acreage previously irrigated only from early season surface ditches to full season irrigation pumps.

49-19

Most Scott Valley irrigation operations are now integrated; they use surface and groundwater interchangeably. Most groundwater irrigation wells were initially developed as a hedge against erratic surface supplies due to alternating drought and flood damage. For this reason, irrigators could stop surface irrigation during a drought at DFG’s request and keep most land under production by switching

to pumping. This increased pumping will, however, suck water out of the river; the net impact is unknown but must be estimated to evaluate the emergency scenarios given in the Initial Study.

The impact of the Scott’s dewatering is in the DFG’s own records. Coho and Chinook Surveys conducted by DFG biologists and cooperators in recent years makes it clear that in dry years Coho Salmon migration is delayed in the Scott River Canyon as a result of low flow barriers. Department complaint logs and other records in the Yreka Office document that “take” of juvenile Coho also occurs as a result of dewatering.

49-19  
cont.

**If fish did not need water, the result of the apparent failure of the withheld Draft Take Permit to address the documented progressive dewatering of the Scott River as a result of unregulated groundwater irrigation pumping would not be a fatal flaw. But fish DO need water.**

**Fatal Flaw #2:**

The proposed Take Permit relies entirely on the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (RCD) to perform both the mitigation for agricultural take of Coho salmon and for meeting Recovery Plan goals. But even when the dewatering of the Scott is not considered, what has the RCD accomplished to aide Coho? The RCD has been heavily into the business of taking taxpayer funds for salmon restoration since the early 1980s. Over 20 years, the RCD has expended an estimated \$10 million restoration dollars. The vast majority of these funds have been expended on the main stem of the Scott River in Scott Valley.

- ◆ Millions has been spent of fencing but cattle exclusion has not achieved been achieved because landowners are not required to commit to keeping the cattle behind the fences. Furthermore, the fences preclude developing adequate riparian vegetation deep and wide enough to withstand floodwaters.
- ◆ Millions have been spent on bank revegetation. But because of upslope problems these plantings wash out in flood events every few years. The RCD has replanted some areas three times without achieving revegetation.
- ◆ Tens of millions have been spent armoring streambanks with heavy rock. Landowners like this since the river takes land during every flood due to lack of riparian vegetation. But the tens of millions have produced little to no benefit to Coho.
- ◆ Millions have been spent on “alternative stockwater” but those receiving free pumps and plumbing are not required to stop diverting water during the non-irrigation season.

49-20

**A fair reading of the Siskiyou RCDs restoration record indicates that they have done a lot to meet the needs and desires of farmers and ranchers but little to help Coho. With Coho, all they have done is protect themselves from direct “take” at diversions. This is not restoration; it is regulatory compliance.**

As part of DFG’s Initial Study elements of the proposed Take permit are described. On P. 17 the IS states: “SQRCD (Siskiyou RCD) will be responsible for monitoring the sub-permittees (irrigators) compliance with the terms and conditions of their sub-permits...”. In other words, the RCD is in charge of verifying whether irrigators are complying with the terms and conditions under which they are provided a virtual exemption from responsibility for “take” of coho salmon that results from their business operations. The RCD IS the regulator under this proposal.

The problem is that the RCD does not believe in regulation. As a public entity RCD records are public information. Those records – and in particular testimony delivered by the RCD during the federal and



state listing processes - make it abundantly clear that the RCD (and its present perennial board members) do not believe in the ESA and do not support any restrictions on the private use of land and water. In fact, the RCD – a small, group of ranchers and alfalfa farmers appointed by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors – are highly likely to be among the first irrigators to sign-up for sub-permits. The Board of the RCD will thus be in charge of monitoring their own personal compliance with its provisions.

According to the Initial Study, the RCD will also be responsible for turning in any sub-permittees who do not comply with provision of the proposed Take Permit. Will the RCD have the political will to turn in violators? Again, the RCD’s track record gives an indication. RCD employees have been involved on the ground witnessing take and meeting with agency folks to talk about what to do about take. These workers log thousands of hours per year on the ground. Yet not once has the RCD filed a complaint with the DFG alleging take or alleging violation of a 601 permit. Is it reasonable to believe that this will change once a Take permit is granted? The RCD has a track record not only of assisting the responsible irrigators of which there are many in the Scott Valley; but they have also consistently protected the bad actors. The RCD can be reasonably expected to continue this course: those who cheat on their obligations will not be reported. The RCD will simply fail to notice.

The RCD has argued vigorously against regulation. It has said that if it regulates, it will lose cooperation and won’t be able to implement restoration on private lands. It has gone farther and has sought to shield bad actors from prosecution for blatant “take” of coho and other salmon. Is it reasonable to assume that it can now do an about face and play the role of regulator?

**The RCD’s 20-year track record on projects and expenditures demonstrates that the RCD is not really interested in helping Coho salmon. Furthermore its own official statements and testimony, and the self-interests of its board members, make it abundantly clear that it will never turn in a bad actor irrigators for failure to comply with the proposed Take Permit or MSAA. Putting the RCD in charge of verifying compliance is a classic case of putting the fox in charge of the henhouse. It is a fatal flaw in the DFG proposed Take permit and MSAA.**

**Fatal Flaw #3:**

If there were unlimited funding for restoration, the tens of millions of taxpayer dollars that the DFG is proposing to spend in the Scott Valley in order to eliminate the direct take of Coho at diversions and to gain “voluntary” access to the navigable Scott River might be justified. Restoration dollars, however, are not unlimited. Funds spent on regulatory compliance for a small group of farmers and ranchers will not be spent on key restoration tasks. Primarily those tasks are to secure the key watershed that currently provide refuge for Coho as well as the key refugial areas within degraded habitat like the Scott River and its major tributaries.

You can see how DFG is planning to spend the restoration funds it controls at [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/klamath\\_2006\\_psn/Klamath%202006%20PSN%20APPENDIX%20E.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/klamath_2006_psn/Klamath%202006%20PSN%20APPENDIX%20E.pdf). It is clear from these DFG priorities that – if DFG gets its way - the bulk of the funds will be spent addressing “take” at diversions. This is regulatory compliance not restoration! A small amount of the funding is aimed at key refugia areas. But these projects are primarily in the Middle Klamath where the Karuk Tribe is leading restoration. And many of these real restoration projects are not on the DFG’s list. For example, there is a major barrier on Walker Creek near Seiad Valley. Eliminating a culvert barrier there would make miles of Coho habitat accessible. Likewise, attached is a photo from one of hundreds of road failures in key salmon watersheds. This one is in Clear Creek. Fixing these



49-20  
cont.

49-21

impediments to Coho and hundreds of other good projects will be forgone if the DFG continues to prioritize providing regulatory “cover” for irrigators in the Scott Valley.

There is what economists call an “Opportunity Cost” to the DFG’s plans for spending restoration funds on regulatory compliance for Scott Valley irrigators. That “opportunity cost” is lack of funding for the real restoration projects. Protecting and restoring Coho refugial areas is the key to Coho recovery both in the Scott and in the Klamath Basin generally. But DFG proposes abandoning real restoration and diverting the bulk of Klamath River restoration funding to provide regulatory compliance and “Take” coverage for a small group of irrigators in the Scott Valley. For this reason what DFG proposes in the proposed Take Permit threatens Klamath River Coho salmon and will retard or their prevent recovery basin-wide.

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cont.

**IV. Does the proposed Take Permit comply with applicable laws and regulations?**

**1. Fish and Game Code 5937:**

On June 22 2001 a news article by Glen Martin and Tom Stienstra appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle. Headlined “Young Fish Die as water laws go unenforced: Rancher’s cooperation threatened” (<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2001/06/22/MN158255.DTL&hw=Young+fish+die&sn=001&sc=1000>). The article reported that state game wardens had been instructed not to enforce Fish & Game Code 5937 in the Shasta and Scott Valleys. Code 5937 provides that diverters and dam operators must allow sufficient water to pass the facilities to maintain fish habitat below the dam/diversion “in good condition.” Implementing the Fish & Game Code is a sworn duty for DFG wardens and officials.

It is curious that the Initial Study on the unreleased Draft Take permit fails to mention Fish & Game Code 5937. Should this be interpreted as a reiteration of the DFG position as reported by the SF Chronicle in 2001? Is it the intent of DFG officials not to allow wardens to enforce Fish & Game Code 5937?

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49-22

**2. California Endangered Species Act:**

The monitoring and enforcement process envisioned for the proposed Take Permit in the Initial Study cedes implementation monitoring and the reporting of violations to the Siskiyou RCD. Irrespective of the wisdom of this proposal, it is unclear if DFG has the authority to delegate activities that are essential elements of the agency’s responsibilities under the CSEA and its regulations. A legal opinion from the State AG and OAL should be sought immediately.

Likewise the proposal to provide “take” coverage for all agricultural activities is of questionable legality because there are critical agricultural practices that are not investigated or mitigated. For example, over 50% of irrigation in the Scott Valley is by groundwater pumping in areas wherein groundwater is known to be generally interconnected with surface flow.

DFG is proposing to pay not only for the environmental review – usually charged to the entity applying for the permit – but also for the cost of implementing the provisions necessary to minimize take associated with surface diversion for irrigation. Examination of DFG “High Priority” projects for the Klamath River Basin clearly indicates that DFG has prioritized activities that irrigators need to do

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to comply with the proposed Take Permit. See:

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/klamath\\_2006\\_psn/Klamath%202006%20PSN%20APPENDIX%20E.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/klamath_2006_psn/Klamath%202006%20PSN%20APPENDIX%20E.pdf)

f). This is a violation of a core principle of restoration – to be effective restoration must do the extra – the truly voluntary; if all we do is pay for private businesses to become minimally compliant we will never achieve Coho Recovery Plan goals. Paying for regulatory compliance for one group of farmers and not others is also unfair and Un-American. Using restoration funds for regulatory compliance likely violates state obligations to the federal government and the plain language of state and federal legislation through which the restoration funds were appropriated.

49-23  
cont.

**Restoration funds are not meant for regulatory compliance. Treating one small group of agricultural water users as a special group for whom taxpayers bear the cost of compliance and the cost of the permit process (including CEQA) is not only illegal but also unjust and therefore not in keeping with American ideals.**

**3. The Scott Adjudication Decree:**

Because it would provide ESA protection for practices widely understood to be the main cause of the progressive dewatering of the Scott River, and because the minimum flows deemed by the adjudication to be necessary to sustain the Klamath National Forest’s Riparian Right and the public trust fisheries of Scott River are not being met in critical portions of most years, the proposed Take permit may well violate the adjudication decree. Implementation of the proposed Take permit may require amendment of the Scott River Adjudication Decree. DFG should seek a formal opinion from the Siskiyou County Superior Court (which retains jurisdiction over the adjudication and decree) concerning these important topics.

49-24

**4. State trustees and CEQA Review:**

The **Coastal Commission** is conspicuously omitted both as a trustee agency and as a CEQA reviewer. This is an unfortunate oversight and, if not corrected, a violation of administrative procedures law. The Coastal Commission has shown an active interest in the Upper Klamath River Basin, including proposed Klamath Dam Removal. The Scott enters the Klamath below the dams. As a major Klamath tributary, the Scott River has an impact up and down the coast as far away as Monterey and Northern Oregon. The Coastal Commission has a stake, is a trustee for the public and must be actively involved as both trustee and CEQA reviewer.

49-25

**5. CEQA:**

The spirit of CEQA is disclosure. The secret process of negotiation which has resulted in an Initial Study for a project that remains unreleased to the public and unreleased to other interested governments disrespects the spirit of CEQA – and probably the letter too. It would be best if DFG would obtain a legal opinion on this as well rather than expose the state to an expensive failure.

49-26

If the CEQA process moves forward, it will need to include the following critical steps:

- ◆ CEQA requires that significant impacts must be sufficiently mitigated so that they are rendered insignificant. In the case of a Take permit for an endangered species, the mitigations **MUST** mitigate the take that is being authorized. Agricultural operations in the Scott clearly result in significant mortality of Coho juveniles that must spend at least a year in the Basin prior to migration to the ocean. Most of this “take” occurs as a result of dewatering various sections of the Scott Valley creeks which dry up when irrigation ditches are turned on. This strands fish

directly but also confines others to the mainstem Scott where temperature is lethal to salmonids in the summer. The mitigations proposed in the initial study do nothing to address this dewatering which clearly produces the most “take” of Coho. But there are mitigations that can work. Enforcement of Fish & Game Code 5937 would go a long way. But there are also numerous springs on the West side of Scott Valley on agricultural lands that will likely be “covered” by the proposed Take Permit. Proper management of these spring areas and the streams that flow from them could create over-summer refugia for Coho. That would be significant mitigation. Likewise, restoration of side channels and sloughs in the Valley would provide critical over-winter habitat for Coho. Mitigation proposed in the Initial Study for the proposed Take Permit is seriously deficient. This must be corrected to comply with CEQA.

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cont.

- ◆ Bring forward the best available information concerning impacts to Coho in the Scott River including DFG and cooperator spawner and habitat use surveys. Information on low flow barriers in DFG staff reports on Scott River Coho and Chinook salmon should be specifically accessed in this regard and referred to in the DEIS. Based on Yreka DFG logs, where has take occurred in the recent past? Once this is revealed, the DEIS must assess how the proposed ITP will likely impact such events and those specific places.
- ◆ Bring forward the best available information concerning economic and social impacts to all potentially affected downstream users: Klamath River Tribes, commercial and sport salmon fishermen, river and coastal communities and counties.
- ◆ Use the best available scientific information (USGS Report of 1955 and DWR 1975) to evaluate the likely impact of groundwater irrigation pumping extent, practices and amounts on two things:
  1. Flows and Coho habitat in the Scott River.
  2. The feasibility and likely effectiveness of proposed measures, especially “Contingency Plan Measure 1” and “2”. It is highly likely that in reality these are pie-in-the-sky provisions that will not delivered as promised.
- ◆ Consider significant new information, recent and expected developments and cumulative impacts:
  1. The Scott River TMDL and the public record submissions made to the regional and state water boards concerning that TMDL.
  2. The proposed “de minimis” ocean salmon fishing proposal before the PFMC.
  3. Proposal from the SWRCB to add the Scott and other Klamath tributaries to the areas where flows and impacts on flows need to be assessed pursuant to regulations implementing AB 1010.
- ◆ The Initial Study indicates that proposed Take Permit conditions include preparation of several plans in the future. Specifically, under “Obligations” the RCD is required to:
  1. “Develop a Riparian fencing Plan for DFG review and approval”,
  2. “Create a priority list of diversions that impede fish passage”,
  3. Decide whether sub-permittees will be required to prepare “engineering drawings” for mitigation actions to minimize take as a result of agricultural operations.

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**This substantial reliance on unspecified future mitigations by named and unnamed individuals in order to minimize “take” of Coho and other environmental impacts is not in compliance with the CESA regulations nor is it allowable under CEQA law. The real**

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49-28

**protection offered under a CESA take permit must be reciprocated - a clear commitment to do specific things within specific time frames is necessary before the DFG can approve a Take Permit. CEQA does not allow an agency to buy “a pig in a poke” when exercising its trust responsibilities. Legal precedent on this point is clear.**

↑ 49-28  
cont.

- ◆ Investigate, analyze and disclose how the proposed Take Permit will impact agreements between the State of California and the federal government that bear on Scott River Subbasin salmon habitat. In particular, how will agreements with NOAA fisheries regarding all native Scott River anadromous fish species be impacted? Allocation of integrated federal and state funds under these agreements requires a focus on key factors limiting salmon habitat. Would the proposed Take Permit - and its closely linked state funding commitment – alter the restoration funding priorities and limitations committed to in these agreements?
- ◆ How will the proposed Take Permit impact government-to-government relationships with the Quartz Valley Reservation, the Karuk Tribe, the Hoopa Tribe and the Yurok Tribe. How will the proposed Take Permit impact the reserved water rights of the QVR, Hoopa and Yurok Tribes? These questions must be addressed irrespective of the extent to which these rights have been quantified or exercised.
- ◆ How is the proposed Take Permit (ITP) likely to affect counties which are impacted by Scott Sib-basin Coho management. These include but may not be limited to Siskiyou, Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, Mendocino, San Francisco, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties in California, Curry, Coos and other coastal counties in Oregon.

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**Conclusion**

**The proposed Take Permit is not ready for CEQA review because the text of the proposed Take Permit – the CEQA project – has not been released for review by the public, other agencies and governments.**

**The proposed Take Permit appears to have numerous legal, procedural and practical problems. A few of these problems rise to the level of major flaws. Unless these flaws are addressed, the Coho Recovery Goals applicable to the Scott River will not be achieved, Coho will remain at high risk of extinction in the Scott Subbasin and conditions for Coho – most notably flows and flow related habitat conditions including temperature - will likely continue to decline.**

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**Major flaws in the proposed Take Permit include:**

- ◆ **Take permit protection will cover all agricultural activities – including groundwater pumping but this critical activity – which constitutes over 50% of Scott River irrigation – is not addressed in the regulatory or mitigation frameworks.**
- ◆ **The RCD board – responsible under the proposed take permit for monitoring compliance and reporting those who do not follow through with what is needed to minimize take -are likely to be holders of sub-permits. Based on self-interest, past performance and declared philosophy concerning regulation of land, water and wildlife,**

the RCD can not be relied upon to monitor and report non-compliance. As in the past, the RCD policy will likely be “don’t ask; don’t tell.” From a legal standpoint, participation on boards which make regulatory decisions is not permitted for members of the regulated community. Therefore, for the RCD to be in charge of compliance monitoring the Supervisors would have to appoint board members who are not involved in irrigated agriculture.

- ◆ The DFG has ignored the Coastal Commission: a trustee agency with a clear interest in the proposed ITP and a required CEQA reviewer.
- ◆ It is likely that the proposed ITP will result in continued non-enforcement of Fish & Game Code 5937. In addition, as proposed, the Take permit would violate the CESA and its implementing regulations, CEQA regulations and case law, and the Scott River Adjudication Decree.

Not only is the proposed Take permit fatally flawed but the process the Department of Fish & Game has used to develop the Take Permit has been flawed. The implementation of Coho take prohibitions and development of protection and mitigation for incidental take of Coho salmon by irrigators are subjects in which tribal governments, fishermen, coastal and river communities and counties have a vital stake. It is not right and it is a violation of State of California Environmental Justice laws and regulations to exclude these specific interested governments from a process that vitally impacts them.

It is not American for public officials to negotiate over public trust resources in secret; it is not American for a small group of irrigators in a small Valley to get special privileges that amount to an exemption from the laws and regulations which other residents of the Basin must follow.

Fishermen must cut back on fishing or stop entirely; tribes must compromise their culture and wait for future economic development. But Scott Valley irrigators can have a plan under which they can continue the progressive dewatering of the Scott River and the directly related progressive extirpation of Coho and Chinook salmon while receiving exemption from the most important laws Californians have enacted to protect and restore salmon and other native species. There is something very wrong with this picture.

Until it decided to go into the back room with private irrigators and the Siskiyou RCD to negotiate the proposed Take Permit, the Department of Fish and Game had been committed to the collegial and cooperative approach to restoration which has held sway under the Klamath Act since 1986. Now, the Department has gone solo in the Klamath Basin on behalf of a small group of ranchers and alfalfa growers who believe their specialness includes being free from oversight by the Department of Fish and Game or any other government excepting those quasi-government agencies they closely control.

Leaders at the Department of Fish and Game need to refocus on their core responsibilities under the California Constitution and as agents of the State of California. When an agency, acting on behalf of the State of California, proposes a radically new approach to fulfilling its obligations under Fish and Game Codes sections 5937, 1603, 2050- 2068, 2070-2079, 2080-2085 and California Code of Regulations sections 783-783.8 and 786-786.8 and impacting the CSEA and other laws, comity suggests that the agency would consult with and involve all affected governments and interests.



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cont.

December 9, 2008

Bob Williams, Staff Environmental Scientist  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, Ca 96001

The following are my comments related to the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Draft Environmental Impact Report prepared for the Department by ESA.

50-1

Overall, I would like to commend ESA for the thorough review they did of available fisheries and habitat data. I have the following observations related to Section 3. Environmental Setting, Impact, and Mitigation Measures.

**Groundwater**

**Pg 3.2-25.** In this section the authors evaluate data collected by DWR at two wells, and make analysis, but fail to mention the well level monitoring program implemented by the SRWC in 2006. Please acknowledge the Scott River Community Groundwater Monitoring which was begun in the spring of 2006. More than 30 agricultural and domestic wells throughout the valley are part of this monthly monitoring effort. This voluntary program, is a cooperative effort between the SRWC, RCD, NRCS, landowners, and UC Davis.

50-2

**Pg 32.-28 Paragraph 1** discusses the well drilling peak observed after the 1976-77 drought and again in 1992. However, it should be noted that the nature of the reporting on well drilling makes it impossible to determine if a well is truly a new well, or the deepening of an existing well. In addition, the available well data does not show when a well is abandoned. The limitations of this data should be addressed. Life-long residents of Scott Valley report that many domestic wells were deepened following both drought, which accounts for some of the peak in well drilling during this period.

50-3

**Pg 32.-28 Paragraph 3** attributes decreased volume and duration of base flows to stream diversions and groundwater extraction.

50-4

Drake, Dan 2000- Analysis of the Scott River snowpack and precipitation data indicated that decreased snow water content can account for a portion of the decrease in fall baseflows.

**Section 3.2 General Comments-** This section references DWR data regarding the use of groundwater versus surface water. It should be noted that the DWR data is collected at one moment in time, usually during the late summer. In addition, the DWR analysis is completed roughly once every 10 years. Agricultural water use varies from year to year depending on climate conditions, streamflow conditions, and the individual crop rotations for each operator. Many operator use surface flows during the early irrigation season, and then switch to groundwater in the late season when surface flows are low. The DWR data collection does not take into account the seasonality of water use

50-5

Please be sure to note the limitations in DWR data collection..

**Temperature Pg 32.34** “many of the tributaries had temperatures believed by Quigley et al. (2001) to be acceptable for salmonid rearing”

Temperatures documented in Scott River tributaries fall within accepted values for salmonid rearing, based on published data. In addition, coho salmon and steelhead trout have been documented as rearing in all tributaries to the Scott River as well as mainstem locations. (Yokel 2005, Maurer 2006). See comments below under Biological Requirements.

50-6

**Biological Requirements**

**Habitat Requirements Pg 3.3-8-** Summer water temperatures vary geographically throughout the Scott Valley, due to site specific conditions such as riparian cover, aspect, geomorphology , groundwater contribution, geographic shading, etc. Sections of all tributaries to the Scott River have temperatures within the appropriate range for coho salmon. In addition, sections of the upper tributaries (South Fork, Sugar, French, Patterson, Etna, Shackleford-Mill) within anadromous range have water temperatures within the preferred rearing temperature. Benthic Macroinvertebrate data collected in these tributaries indicates that they maintain high water quality throughout the summer low-flow period. (Quigley 2000, RCD 2003, Quigley 2007) Direct observation dives completed by the RCD have observed coho salmon rearing in all of these tributaries. In addition, direct observation dives completed by the RCD, QVIR, USFS and CDFG (Bowman 2005, NCRC 2004) have observed coho rearing in areas of thermal refugia along the mainstem Scott River.

50-7

Pg 3.3-13 Table 3.3-3

*“The observed phenomenon of large numbers of coho salmon leaving the Scott River as young of the year (age 0+) is somewhat unusual for the species. The reasons for this premature exit from the watershed is not fully understood, but appears to be correlated to the yearly loss of rearing habitat associated with decreased streamflows and increased water temperatures (Chesney 2007) Flows during the spring in the mainstem Scott River and tributaries decrease rapidly once the snowpack has melted and the irrigation season begins”*

This paragraph is misleading, the irrigation season in the Scott River begins on or about April 1<sup>st</sup>. Significant reductions in instream flows are not observed until June (see Figure 3.2-5, pf 3.2-26.), which in most years is after the outmigrant trapping operations have ceased for the season. Please clarify this sentence.. In addition, this paragraph has no lead-up and does not reference the table

Thank you for considering these comments.

Danielle Yokel

8937 French Creek Rd

Etna, CA. 96027



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Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings

\* \* \*

Public Hearing

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

7:00 p.m.

City of Fort Jones Library  
Fort Jones, California

Paula M. Friday, CSR 5669

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COLEMAN & ASSOCIATES  
Court Reporters  
P.O. Box 7  
Yreka, Ca 96097  
(530) 842-1455

Comment Letter 51

2

1 Tuesday, November 18, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.  
2 Fort Jones, California  
3 \* \* \*  
4  
5 MR. STOPHER: Good evening. My name is Mark  
6 Stopher. I am with the Department of Fish and Game, and  
7 I will do some introductions with the representatives of  
8 the Fish and Game and our consultants who prepared the  
9 EIR here in a few minutes.  
10 We do have a short PowerPoint presentation  
11 tonight, and it's going to be a little tough to see from  
12 the back of the room. So you might consider moving  
13 forward. It might be also easier to hear the speakers if  
14 you move forward. It's up to you, but probably would be  
15 a little bit easier on the audio-visual part if you did  
16 so.  
17 We are going to use the PowerPoint to introduce  
18 what we are going to be doing tonight, and I believe it  
19 will probably be pretty explanatory for you.  
20 What we are going to do tonight is go through a  
21 few introductions of representatives of the Department of  
22 Fish and Game and ESA, our consulting firm here tonight.  
23 We will talk about the purpose of the watershed-wide  
24 permitting programs. We will give you an overview of  
25 CEQA. That means the California Environmental Quality

Comment Letter 51

3

1 Act.  
2 This hearing tonight is in fulfillment of a  
3 requirement of under the California Environmental Quality  
4 Act that we solicit public comments, suggestions,  
5 criticisms of proposed projects and the analysis that we  
6 have done.  
7 We will give you the overview of the draft EIRs  
8 in terms of just the content. I will tell you where to  
9 find them if you haven't seen them already. We have  
10 copies of them on compact disks at the back table back  
11 there which can be available to you.  
12 And then the bulk of the evening or as long as  
13 we need is public participation.  
14 When you came in tonight, we asked you to sign  
15 in and fill out a speaker card. A speaker card is simply  
16 a three-by-five card with your name on it. And once we  
17 get the public participation, we will figure out how many  
18 we have. It doesn't look like -- sometimes you have so  
19 many people you have to divide up the time into small  
20 increments. I don't think that is going to be a problem  
21 tonight.  
22 And we will be interested in hearing your  
23 comments both verbally; if you have something to give us  
24 in writing, that's fine, too. If you want to fill out  
25 one of the comment sheets that we have back there, we

## Comment Letter 51

4

1 will be glad to receive that tonight as well.

2           So to begin, our representatives of Department  
3 of Fish and Game tonight, my name is Mark Stopher. I am  
4 the program manager out of Redding. I manage the  
5 development of this program.

6           Kaitlin Beene (phonetic), who works on this,  
7 reports to me. She is not going to be able to be here  
8 tonight.

9           Bob Williams is our staff environmental  
10 scientist responsible for CEQA compliance, for managing  
11 the CEQA contract for the EIRs and making sure that we  
12 adhere to the process required by law.

13           Tonight we have representatives from  
14 Environmental Science Associates: Tom Roberts, project  
15 director; Dan Sicular, who is the project manager; and  
16 Mike Podlech, who is an aquatic ecologist. They are all  
17 responsible for major parts of the EIR.

18           So the purpose of the programs: I know that  
19 you can't read this unless your eyesight is far better  
20 than mine. It is to provide an alternative means through  
21 a streamlined, comprehensive permitting framework for  
22 farmers and ranchers to continue routine agricultural  
23 activities while complying with Fish and Game Code  
24 Section 1600 and the California Endangered Species Act as  
25 it relates to the coho salmon, which are listed as

## Comment Letter 51

5

1 threatened in this part of California.

2           When we say Fish and Game Code Section 1600,  
3 you might also have heard the term streambed alteration  
4 agreement. They are essentially synonymous.

5           So what the permitting programs are: A  
6 cooperative joint effort between the Department of Fish  
7 and Game and the Siskiyou RCD and the Shasta Valley RCD  
8 on the other side of the hill here.

9           Individual agricultural operators can  
10 participate by becoming subpermittees under an incidental  
11 take permit. They can get their own incidental take  
12 permit and they rely upon activities performed by the  
13 RCDs as well. And obtaining a stream alteration  
14 agreement.

15           Covered activities related to agricultural  
16 diversions, agricultural activities, and as well as key  
17 coho recovery tasks are permitted under these programs.

18           Now, in your presentation, Dan, you cover the  
19 CEQA document, you don't describe the permits themselves,  
20 do you?

21           MR. SICULAR: Right.

22           MR. STOPHER: Okay. The programs include  
23 avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures that are  
24 effective in addressing potential impacts.

25           Now, Section 1600 has been around for a long

## Comment Letter 51

6

1 time, since 1961. The California Endangered Species Act  
2 has been around for less time in various forms from the  
3 early '80s. But substantial diversions of water are  
4 activities which are regulated by Section 1600, and the  
5 take of coho salmon which occurs because of the  
6 cumulative diversion of water is also regulated by the  
7 Fish and Game Code, in this case the California  
8 Endangered Species Act.

9 This program is intended to give you a  
10 streamlined way to get through both of those regulatory  
11 processes and less cost and less regulatory burden for  
12 agricultural operators.

13 So program implementation, this lays out what  
14 we would expect to see over the next several months.

15 In March 2008 -- well, currently the EIRs are  
16 available for public review and comment. This is part of  
17 that public review and comment process. The public  
18 review comment period, as you will see in another slide  
19 later on, is going to end on December 9th.

20 VOICE FROM AUDIENCE: Mark, that needs to be  
21 marked 2009.

22 MR. STOPHER: So the public comment period ends  
23 on December 9th, 2008. Anything that is in the mail  
24 postmarked by then will be within that period.

25 It's a 60-day review period. It's longer than

## Comment Letter 51

7

1 what is required by law.

2 We will -- from that point until March 2009 we  
3 will be looking at all the comments, considering the  
4 information in those as to whether or not we conducted  
5 our analysis appropriately, whether or not we overlooked  
6 issues that we didn't consider, whether there are impacts  
7 that have not been adequately analyzed but have been  
8 pointed out by reviewing members of the public, and we  
9 intend to produce a final environmental report on or  
10 around the first of March, 2009, at which time we would  
11 then certify that document.

12 That would begin a 60-day enrollment period for  
13 agricultural operators to tell us if they want to  
14 participate in the watershed-wide permitting program.  
15 They would tell us by submitting the notification and  
16 submitting a permit application, which the resource  
17 conservation districts will be prepared to help  
18 individual operators understand, fill out and submit.

19 And implementation begins as well as soon as we  
20 certify the EIR. If we -- we should get some  
21 notifications on the first day, we are not going to wait  
22 until the end of the sixtieth day to begin processing  
23 those. We will begin processing those as they come in  
24 the door. We hope that we get enough of them that there  
25 actually ends up being a backlog but basically have them

Comment Letter 51

8

1 there.

2 Let me go back one slide, please.

3 So I mentioned the 60-day enrollment period.

4 This is the time when we would be doing outreach,  
5 probably doing some workshops at RCD board meetings. We  
6 would be open to any other type of public outreach that  
7 would help people understand what that choice is at that  
8 time. We will maybe be doing press releases to let folks  
9 know the enrollment period is open.

10 At the end of that period, we will be looking  
11 to determine whether or not there are diversions out  
12 there who we believe are subject to 1600 who we haven't  
13 yet heard from. We will probably be making phone calls  
14 to remind them that the enrollment period has been open,  
15 is now closed, but would you still like to please send  
16 us -- notify us.

17 That will probably continue -- we haven't  
18 figured that out exactly yet -- two weeks, three weeks.  
19 If we have not heard at that point in time and we have  
20 not been notified about existing agricultural diversions  
21 or other activities subject to a streambed alteration  
22 agreement, we will be having our enforcement folks make  
23 contacts and ask if you would like to submit paperwork to  
24 notify us. Because at the end of the day, we want  
25 everybody in the watershed-wide permitting program or

Comment Letter 51

9

1 permitted through their own actions and as few as  
2 possible cases where we have to consider enforcement  
3 actions.

4 So Dan is going to take the middle course in  
5 this presentation and then I will finish up and then we  
6 will be in the public participation phase.

7 MR. SICULAR: My name is Dan Sicular, and I am  
8 with ESA, Environmental Science Association, in San  
9 Francisco, and Department of Fish and Game contracted  
10 with ESA to prepare the Environmental Impact Reports for  
11 the watershed-wide permitting programs. So our role in  
12 this whole process is to act as third party outside,  
13 objective analysts to do what the California  
14 Environmental Quality Act would have us do, and that is  
15 to assess the potential for adverse environmental effect  
16 of the action that they are considering.

17 What the California Environmental Quality Act  
18 does is, it provides the public and public agency  
19 decisionmakers with information about a pending project  
20 and particularly about its possible environmental  
21 impacts.

22 To summarize this, analyzing the program,  
23 disclosing both what the program is about and also its  
24 potential for adverse environmental impacts.

25 where we identify those kinds of effects,

## Comment Letter 51

10

1 coming up with ways of mitigating or reducing the  
2 severity of those impacts; and where we identify those,  
3 those become incorporated into the program. And also  
4 responding to public comments on -- at a couple of stages  
5 in the process, including this stage, the Draft  
6 Environmental Impact Report stage.

7 Here in California, the California  
8 Environmental Quality Act, permitting actions of state  
9 agencies are subject to the act, so the State has to  
10 analyze its own permitting actions in terms of potential  
11 environmental impacts, go through the same CEQA process  
12 that a developer would if they are planning a new  
13 subdivision or Caltrans has to when they are planning a  
14 new highway segment. So pretty much any and all state  
15 actions are subject to CEQA. It's not an option. And  
16 when CDFG is considering the approval of a proposed  
17 permitting program, that program must first be analyzed  
18 under CEQA.

19 So our approach to the CEQA analysis for these  
20 programs, first of all, CDFG decided early on to have two  
21 separate EIRs, one for each watershed-wide permitting  
22 program, a separate one for the Scott and Shasta.  
23 Because this is an analysis of a permitting action, not  
24 all the activities that are going to take place under  
25 this program are known in great detail so there are some

## Comment Letter 51

11

1 aspects of the program that are covered at a broader,  
2 sort of a general view, not what we call a programmatic  
3 level of analysis. Others are much more specific.

4 But, for example, when CDFG later on goes on to  
5 issue incidental take permits and streambed alteration  
6 agreements, they may need to do some follow-up work to  
7 look at site significant impacts, for example, impacts to  
8 local site-specific biological resources, rare plants and  
9 animals, and also cultural resources, archaeological and  
10 paleontological resources.

11 The CEQA analysis has to include a clear  
12 statement of the objectives of the permitting program.  
13 Those are included in both of those documents.

14 And also public participation in the process is  
15 required at a couple of stages by law. And for this  
16 particular process for these programs, CDFG has gone  
17 considerably beyond what is required by law.

18 For example, the law does not require a public  
19 hearing at this stage but CDFG, I believe, is interested  
20 in as much public input as possible and therefore decided  
21 to hold this series of public hearings.

22 Just a brief overview of the draft EIRs before  
23 we hear your comments, and that is what we are really  
24 here for tonight.

25 I would like to talk a little bit about the

## Comment Letter 51

12

1 baseline for the document. This is unfortunately a  
2 somewhat confusing aspect of the whole deal.

3           The baseline is just that. It's the baseline.  
4 It's the point of departure from which we begin our  
5 analysis. So we don't go back to the beginning of time  
6 to look at changes in the environmental and physical  
7 environmental that have occurred, say, since European  
8 descendants got to this part of the country. We start at  
9 the beginning of the permitting action. For this  
10 project, that was in 2005 when the RCD submitted their  
11 applications and CDFG accepted those applications as  
12 complete.

13           So that's the time layer. The conditions that  
14 prevailed at that time, those conditions are included in  
15 the baseline. We don't consider those impacts of the  
16 programs.

17           So some of the activities of the program  
18 covers, such as the diversion of water for irrigation, we  
19 consider them historic, ongoing activities that over time  
20 that will cause and will continue to cause environmental  
21 impacts. These activities and their impacts are part of  
22 a baseline and are expected to continue regardless of the  
23 program. And therefore, these ongoing history activities  
24 and their impacts are not considered impacts of the  
25 program but we do discuss them in the environmental

## Comment Letter 51

13

1 setting or the existing conditions discussion in the  
2 EIRs.

3           A little bit more about this. What we do in  
4 the draft EIR is, we analyze the difference between those  
5 baseline conditions and the future conditions that would  
6 occur if the programs are approved and implemented.

7           For those changes in the environment that we  
8 determine to be significant -- and there is a whole  
9 discussion in the EIR about what constitutes a  
10 significant impact -- the draft EIRs identify feasible  
11 mitigation measures to reduce those impacts to less than  
12 significant, if possible.

13           As I said, those mitigations measures then  
14 become incorporated into the program and are implemented  
15 with the program.

16           For these programs, the programs are expected  
17 to reduce some of these environmental impacts caused by  
18 historic, ongoing activities by requiring agricultural  
19 operators to incorporate measures that will protect fish  
20 and wildlife resources and to avoid, minimize and fully  
21 mitigate any intake of coho salmon that might occur  
22 incidentally to these activities.

23           So while we are not required to identify these  
24 ongoing historic activities as impacts of the programs,  
25 or mitigate them, as a consequence of the activities

## Comment Letter 51

14

1 authorized and conditions under the programs, there will  
2 be a net benefit to the environment by changing the way  
3 that some of these historic and ongoing activities occur.

4         Some of the major conclusions of the draft  
5 EIR -- and you can find these in the executive summary.  
6 It's a fairly trim 15- or 20-page long executive summary.  
7 So if you don't want to look through the whole three  
8 inches of the document, you can just look at that.

9         Each of the two program EIRs for the Shasta and  
10 Scott watersheds identifies ten significant impacts and  
11 11 less than significant impacts.

12         We also found that all the significant impacts  
13 can be mitigated through a combination of measures that  
14 were already built into the programs and also additional  
15 measures that we came up with while we were writing the  
16 EIRs. So that means that the programs will not result in  
17 any significant unavoidable impacts, as we call them.

18         The programs will not result in significant  
19 growth-inducing impacts. They won't encourage growth in  
20 the Shasta or Scott valleys or result in promote  
21 irreversible environmental changes to the landscape.

22         And through the alternatives analysis -- each  
23 EIR includes an analysis not only of the program as  
24 proposed by CDFG and the RCDs but also alternatives -- we  
25 also found that the programs themselves are

## Comment Letter 51

15

1 environmentally superior or preferable to the  
2 alternatives that we analyzed, even though we tried to  
3 come up with something better.

4         The introduction to the EIR reviews the  
5 structure of the programs, the scope and organization of  
6 the draft EIRs and also addresses generally some of the  
7 major issues that were brought up in scoping comments  
8 from the scoping sessions and comment letters we received  
9 two years ago.

10         Chapter two, project description, is really the  
11 detailed description of what these programs will look  
12 like. There is an overview. There is a clear statement  
13 of the objectives from the perspective of the Department  
14 of Fish and Game, the RCDs, and also agricultural  
15 operators. We go into quite a bit of detail about the  
16 program permitting structure. We recite the covered  
17 activities and what both the streambed alteration  
18 agreements and the incidental take permits will look  
19 like. We do that in quite a bit of detail.

20         We also include in the backs of both of the  
21 EIRs the actual draft ITP and streambed alteration  
22 agreement master list of terms and conditions. That's a  
23 long list, about 110, I think, conditions that will be --  
24 the relevant ones will be applied to each individual  
25 streambed alteration agreement. Those are included as



## Comment Letter 51

16

1 appendices in the EIRs.

2 Chapter three is sort of a nuts and bolts of  
3 the environmental impact analysis, and these are the  
4 various areas that we look at, land use and agriculture,  
5 so we look at whether the programs are likely to have a  
6 negative effect on the continuation of agriculture or  
7 will encourage land use particularly away from  
8 agricultural land uses in the Shasta and Scott valleys,  
9 look at hydrology and water quality and stream  
10 geomorphological, biological resources both from a  
11 fisheries and aquatic resources perspective, and also  
12 terrestrial resources and wetlands.

13 We have chapter on cultural resources. That is  
14 historical, archaeological, and paleontological  
15 resources.

16 Hazards and hazardous materials, and also  
17 public utilities service systems and energy, including an  
18 analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change  
19 effects of the program.

20 Chapter four is the cumulative analysis. And  
21 here we look at the possibilities of the effects of these  
22 programs to combine with adverse effects of other  
23 programs and projects and whether that could possibly  
24 result in a cumulative affect. So individually the  
25 programs may not -- or the programs themselves may not

## Comment Letter 51

17

1 result in a negative effect, but combined with other  
2 regulatory programs, for example, the TMDL process or  
3 processes on both the Shasta and Scott Rivers have the  
4 option of the regulatory regime. We looked at these  
5 programs in combination with all of those.

6 And we also looked at the whole suite of  
7 restoration activities that have been occurring in these  
8 two valleys in and near streams and whether some of the  
9 very site-specific effects that we have identified for  
10 this program, particularly around restoration activities,  
11 could combine with others to cause a significant effect,  
12 and we didn't find any.

13 Chapter five is the alternatives analysis.  
14 CEQA requires that we examine the range of reasonable  
15 alternatives to the project or program which would  
16 feasibly obtain most of the basic objectives of the  
17 project program that would avoid or substantially lessen  
18 any of the significant effects of the project or  
19 program.

20 So we need to go through a whole exercise of  
21 trying to think up alternatives, alternative ways of  
22 achieving the same objectives that were laid out by the  
23 Department of Fish and Game or the RCDs but that may have  
24 lesser environmental effects.

25 So we looked at several alternatives that we

## Comment Letter 51

18

1 found not to be feasible or to meet the requirements of  
2 CEQA and we rejected those. We have a brief description  
3 of them. And then for each of the two EIRs, we  
4 identified a no-program alternative that is required by  
5 CEQA, and that is essentially what would happen if these  
6 programs were not adopted and implemented, what would  
7 happen in the absence of these programs, no program.

8 Also, what we call an instream flow alternative  
9 where, in addition to the elements of the program itself,  
10 CDFG and the RCDs would also work to develop more  
11 offshore storage or other sort of alternative water  
12 sources to -- primarily to augment stream flows for the  
13 benefit of coho salmon and other species.

14 The Shasta EIR includes a third alternative,  
15 and that is looking at the possibility of a fish bypass  
16 structure between Clarks Creek and the upper Shasta River  
17 above Dwinnell dam to allow fish passage to the upper  
18 part of the Shasta River.

19 The public participation aspects of the  
20 process, at the scoping stage which was two long years  
21 ago -- I know we have been working on this for a long  
22 time -- the notice of preparation was issued October  
23 19th. That began a comment period -- a 30-day period of  
24 comment on the scope of the environmental review. And we  
25 received quite a number of letters.

## Comment Letter 51

19

1 We also held scoping meetings here in this room  
2 and also up in Yreka on the 24th and 25th of October,  
3 2006. And comments received included comments on key  
4 issues and concerns, possible constraints to the  
5 successful implementation of the programs. We got  
6 several ideas for alternatives and other opportunities  
7 for restoring fish or coho salmon, protecting coho salmon  
8 and managing watershed.

9 And to the extent that we could, we  
10 incorporated these comments into the preparation of the  
11 two draft Environmental Impact Reports.

12 Here at this stage of the Environmental Impact  
13 Report itself, the two documents released that were  
14 released in the beginning of October of this year, there  
15 is a 60-day comment period, so you have 60 days to  
16 comment on the scope of the analysis as well as the  
17 accuracy and completeness of the analysis. CDFG is  
18 receiving written and oral comments at these public  
19 hearings and is also receiving letters, e-mails and faxes  
20 to their offices.

21 CDFG will accept comments on the draft EIRs up  
22 to -- and they need to be postmarked by five p.m. on  
23 December 9th, 2008. And we will then begin the process  
24 of responding to comments.

25 By law, we are required to respond to every

## Comment Letter 51

20

1 comment received, whether it's received in writing or  
2 orally at a public hearing. So we will respond to all  
3 comments.  
4 And I am going to turn it back to Mark now.  
5 MR. STOPHER: I have already suggested that if  
6 you didn't fill out a speaker card, one of those  
7 three-by-five cards, if you came in and didn't know you  
8 wanted to speak but now you do, Bob Williams will give  
9 you a speaker card.  
10 Do you know how many we have now, Dan?  
11 MR. SICULAR: I think nine.  
12 MR. STOPHER: Let's -- as you have noticed, we  
13 have a court reporter so we have a transcript of  
14 tonight's hearing to make sure that we have got  
15 everything correctly. And it helps to have the speaker  
16 card so we have your name and match it up against the  
17 transcript and the list of attendees tonight.  
18 Time limit -- for those people that filled out  
19 a speaker card, how many of you think you need more than  
20 five minutes?  
21 VOICE FROM AUDIENCE: Five minutes and 20  
22 seconds.  
23 MR. STOPHER: I don't think we are going to  
24 need a time limit. Many of us have been at public  
25 hearings that you have only three minutes but it might go

## Comment Letter 51

21

1 until 2:00 in the morning.  
2 We will accept comments on either written -- on  
3 either document, so if you live in the Shasta Valley and  
4 came tonight because you can't be in Yreka tomorrow  
5 night, we will accept comments on the Shasta EIR tonight  
6 either verbally or in writing.  
7 We are going to ask that you please limit your  
8 comments to the approach that we used in the EIRs, the  
9 accuracy and completeness of the environmental analysis.  
10 And we are -- our responsibility here and  
11 obligation is to make sure that we listen to you  
12 dutifully. We will give you an opportunity to review the  
13 document. So we are interested in hearing about what you  
14 think of the environmental analysis, what you think of  
15 the alternatives. And if you believe some of the -- our  
16 interpretations of the analysis are wrong, that's fair  
17 game as well.  
18 We are not here tonight to respond to you, in  
19 the sense of saying, "No, you didn't understand that" or  
20 help you give a little more information or interpret it  
21 for you. The document speaks for itself, and we want to  
22 make sure that we don't make any confusion with respect  
23 -- we don't want to confuse what the document says. So  
24 you are responding to what is in the EIR. We might be  
25 able to respond to questions about the process. For

## Comment Letter 51

22

1 example, we have already laid out how things are going to  
2 lay out in time, but we are not here to reiterate the  
3 alternatives or reassess those alternatives or mitigation  
4 measures.

5           So, again, we will not be responding to  
6 comments tonight. All responses to comments will be in  
7 writing and will become part of the final EIR. SO when  
8 you see the final EIR in March, there will be an appendix  
9 and every comment letter we got, every e-mail we got, the  
10 testimony from people, testimony tonight and tomorrow  
11 tonight, and it will be -- we will break it up into  
12 issues presented in every one of those and we will  
13 respond to every one of them.

14           We also would expect that the final EIR will be  
15 somewhat different than the EIR. I have never worked on  
16 an Environmental Impact Report that wasn't influenced and  
17 changed as a result of public input. So I do not want to  
18 leave you with the impression that we take the draft EIR  
19 and change the cover and staple the comments on the  
20 back. That isn't what happens. There is likely to be  
21 substantive revisions in the EIR before it becomes final  
22 based upon the public input we get.

23           And then we also have comment cards if you need  
24 a piece of paper, and Bob Williams has those back there.

25           So availability of the EIRs, we have a limited

## Comment Letter 51

23

1 number of EIRs. It will turn out it costs about \$100  
2 each to produce. So we obviously are limited in terms of  
3 the number we can produce. We have handed some of them  
4 out to organizations. We have the EIR on compact disk  
5 here tonight. You can also find it on the Fish and Game  
6 website at this location. The libraries in Montague,  
7 Fort Jones, Yreka and Redding also have the document.  
8 It's available at Fish and Game offices at the Yreka  
9 screen shop, the Shasta Valley Wildlife Area, the Redding  
10 Fish and Game office and the Eureka Fish and Game  
11 office on Second Street in Eureka. It's also available  
12 at the RCD offices in Etna and Yreka.

13           So it is readily available.

14           Again, please submit written comments to Bob  
15 Williams, Department of Fish and Game. If you send it by  
16 regular mail, please mail it on the 9th. We will accept  
17 them by e-mail as well or fax.

18           So I just want to reiterate again a little bit  
19 about the process. We have been up here many times  
20 talking to people. I am sure that some of you have never  
21 seen me before, this is a new face for you.

22           This program was developed as an alternative to  
23 the regular permitting process under 1600 and the  
24 California Endangered Species Act, both of which are  
25 fairly lengthy, costly processes. But this process, it

1 provides an umbrella, an Environmental Impact Report,  
 2 that covers permitting under the watershed-wide  
 3 permitting program as it's constructed.  
 4 Usually, there is a fee associated with a 1600  
 5 agreement, anywhere from a couple of hundred dollars to  
 6 several thousand dollars. That fee has already been paid  
 7 for the watershed-wide permitting program. If you enroll  
 8 in the watershed-wide permitting program, there is no fee  
 9 for a 1600 permit for you.  
 10 The California Endangered Species Act, there is  
 11 no fee for that permit process under state law. However,  
 12 as Dan Sicular was saying earlier on, that is a  
 13 discretionary decision made by the department initiating  
 14 those permits. It has environmental effects, so we have  
 15 to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.  
 16 In this case, the CEQA preparation has already  
 17 been done. The Department of Fish and Game found the  
 18 funds to pay for ESA to provide professional help for us  
 19 to complete this project. So if you enroll in the  
 20 watershed permitting project, there is no CEQA cost.  
 21 If you decide that "I understand that I have to  
 22 meet those obligations under Section 1600 CESA but I  
 23 don't want to be part of that program," for whatever  
 24 reason, you don't have to be. You can get your own 1600  
 25 agreement, get your own incidental take permit but you

1 are also responsible to CEQA, which is likely to be quite  
 2 expensive. I don't know if it's 5,000 or \$30,000, but it  
 3 is expensive. It's the choice you have.  
 4 The third choice that you have, if you are  
 5 conducting activities that are regulated by CESA and 1600  
 6 is to find a legal recourse, either assert that we don't  
 7 have that jurisdiction, hire attorneys if we conduct an  
 8 enforcement action. That's an option to you as well,  
 9 probably not any cheaper than the second course.  
 10 By far, in terms of economic cost and in terms  
 11 of time frames, the watershed-wide permitting program is  
 12 cheaper and faster and easier, in my opinion, for an  
 13 individual landowner to implement than the other  
 14 alternatives.  
 15 So I just want to make sure that you understand  
 16 that those are the processes that are going to go forward  
 17 as we get into spring and summer of this year.  
 18 And with that, we are going to move into the  
 19 public participation phase.  
 20 If you want to stretch, we will move things  
 21 around and start calling names off the list.  
 22 (Pause in proceedings.)  
 23 MR. STOPHER: Let's get started, please. Dan  
 24 is going to read off the names, and please come up. If  
 25 you have something you can give us in writing, you can do

1 that before or after you begin to speak, whichever you  
2 wish. And just let us know when you are finished.

3 MR. SICULAR: We have a microphone here if  
4 people need it, whatever your preference.

5 The first speaker is Marcia Armstrong.

6 MS. ARMSTRONG: Do you want me up there?

7 Marcia Armstrong, Siskiyou County Fifth  
8 District Supervisor.

9 We have an ordinance that requires  
10 coordination, early presentation to the Board of  
11 Supervisors in Siskiyou County. We also have a  
12 resolution that cites all of the citations. It mentions  
13 our jurisdiction. And nothing has been presented to the  
14 Board of Supervisors. No effort has been made. I am  
15 told that we simply just don't have time. It's required  
16 by our ordinance and by your own statute, so I would  
17 check that out.

51.1-1

18 It's the holiday season, a really lousy time to  
19 release something like this. We would request an  
20 extension of the deadline.

51.1-2

21 Did you do an economic impact analysis on the  
22 cumulative effects on agriculture regulations? You don't  
23 have to answer that, but that is one of my comments.

51.1-3

24 And you mention that after you have gone  
25 through and seen whether people have signed up for the

51.1-4

1 1603 for the incidental take permit, you would make  
 2 visitations to everybody, hoping to get everyone in the  
 3 valley. There are probably agriculturists who don't  
 4 believe that they are required to have -- that they are  
 5 not impacting endangered species. SO I hope you will  
 6 keep that in mind.

↑  
 51.1-4  
 cont.

7 This does not preclude our written presentation  
 8 and comments that we will be making to you.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. SICULAR: Thank you.

11 The next speaker is Mark Baird, and he will be  
 12 followed by Jeff Fowle.

13 MR. BAIRD: I have a few questions.

14 First of all, we were led to believe when this  
 15 process all started that the big permit was going to be  
 16 the only we were required to sign. So this is news to me  
 17 that now all of a sudden there are going to be subpermits  
 18 for this and subpermits for that.

↑  
 51.2-1

19 And a permit implies possible denial and also  
 20 implies possible future permits to come.

21 First of all, my first comment is, when is  
 22 enough enough? Are you guys finished this time with this  
 23 CEQA and environmental impact and all this other stuff?  
 24 Or next year is it going to be TMDL and or the year after  
 25 that it's going to be A, B, C, D, E, F, G. That's one's

↑  
 51.2-2  
 ↓

1 comment I have to make.

2 I don't think you are finished. I think you  
3 are going to keep going until we don't have the water and  
4 the people who fill swimming pools in Los Angeles do  
5 have the water. That's what I think. I think all this  
6 is just a load of eyewash for the public.

51.2-2  
cont.

7 Second of all, did you do any research to find  
8 out whether coho salmon are actually native to this  
9 watershed, because we have been led to believe that they  
10 are not, because the water in the Scott River has always  
11 been too warm for coho salmon. We were led to believe  
12 that coho salmon were originally planted here in the  
13 early '50s or possibly the '40s and a few of them lived  
14 and now it's our responsibility to pay and pay and pay  
15 and give up our rights and give up our water and make  
16 sure the ten fish left live.

51.2-3

17 I am a pilot and I fly over the ocean all the  
18 time. When I come into the coast of the United States, I  
19 will see thousands and thousands of ships within a couple  
20 of hundred miles of this coast line, they look like small  
21 towns and they are drift-netting hundreds and thousands  
22 of square miles of ocean and cleaning all of the fish  
23 out.

51.2-4

24 And I submit to you that it's not the depth of  
25 the water in French Creek that causes these salmon not to



1 come back; it's the Japanese and the Korean fishing  
2 fleets. So one of my comments is, and did you take a  
3 look at that or we are just going to pay for their  
4 activities as well?

↑  
51.2-4  
cont.

5 The next thing I have to say is, I also submit  
6 that this entire process is coercion because you say we  
7 have three choices, submit or pay. We can either pay for  
8 lawyers if we don't think we mitigate. You guys have  
9 lots of lawyers and their time is free. But we would  
10 have to pay for our own lawyers. Or we can get our own  
11 permits and pay. And our Environmental Impact Report is  
12 going to be tens of thousands of dollars, just like this  
13 Environmental Impact Report cost all of us through our  
14 tax dollars.

51.2-5

15 So to me, yeah, I might sign up for the permit,  
16 but I do it under duress because it is coercion and  
17 nothing more.

18 The next comment: You are looking at ways to  
19 mitigate the effects on these fish and the salmon, but do  
20 you also consider that the Department of Fish and Game  
21 also includes other types of species?

51.2-6

22 For example, have you looked at the impact of  
23 wetland pasture or the lack of wetland pasture on  
24 migratory birds, ducks, geese, all the other animals that  
25 enjoy flood irrigated pastures during the season which

↓

1 will not enjoy that benefit as they did not -- when they  
2 dried up the Tul elake basin a couple of years ago. I  
3 can't even imagine how many thousands of birds died over  
4 that. And that was all about salmon and fish and water.



51.2-6  
cont.

5 Also, we have a deer wintering area, a couple  
6 of three quarters of a section of deer wintering area.  
7 Those deer come down to the pasture at night and they eat  
8 and they drink. If we stop irrigating that pasture,  
9 there won't be any grass and they won't have anything to  
10 drink. And the bear and everything else.

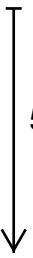
11 And I think you kind of get the idea.

12 The baseline of the EIR, irrigation causes  
13 ongoing environmental impact. Now, we are not going to  
14 stop that historic practice, as you say in your own  
15 words, well, unless you don't play ball. Because if you  
16 don't play ball by signing up for all this stuff, then  
17 enforcement action is to follow. So that seemed like  
18 quite a bit of doubletalk to me. You are not going to  
19 stop us from irrigating but you sure as heck will stop us  
20 from irrigating if we don't play ball.



51.2-7

21 I have been irrigating my pasture for 15 years  
22 through a pipe with diversion. I have never in 15 years  
23 pulled a dead fish out of that pipe. I have pulled crows  
24 and all kinds of things, possums, all kinds of things.  
25 But what the fish used to do is they would stream



51.2-8

1 upstream until the water got warm and they didn't like it  
2 and then they would turn around and swim back.

3 Now that you have built the fish screen at the  
4 head of our ditch, now for the first time in 15 years  
5 they are finding dead fish. They are finding the fish  
6 because they can't get out of your fish screens that you  
7 had built, where they could swim back out of the ditch.

8 So I submit that your science is flawed, your  
9 engineering is flawed, your methods are flawed, and on  
10 and on and on. I think you get the picture.

11 That's pretty much it for me.

12 MR. SICULAR: Jeff Fowle, followed by -- I  
13 believe Doug Jenner is next.

14 MR. FOWLE: I am here tonight representing  
15 Siskiyou County Farm Bureau, and I will start off by  
16 clarifying that all the comments I make tonight pertain  
17 to the Scott, and all but points four and eight, those  
18 two do not pertain to -- they are exclusive to the Scott  
19 and do not pertain to the Shasta.

20 First of all, we recognize the potential  
21 positive outcome this program could have resulted in for  
22 the entire Scott River watershed, the people, the  
23 economy, the fish and the wildlife environment.

24 However, as it has been presented in this  
25 document that I spent the last three weeks digesting, I



51.2-8  
cont.

51.2-9

51.3-1

1 found inconsistencies, implications, assumptions and  
2 voids in data. And it causes great concern regarding the  
3 future of the entire watershed.

↑  
51.3-1  
cont.

4 I will highlight a few of the areas of concern  
5 at this time, and a full dissertation of our positions  
6 and suggested changes and modifications supported by  
7 scientific and legal documentation will be submitted by  
8 the December 9th deadline.

51.3-2

9 Here is a concern that put our members in  
10 potential risk and jeopardy as it currently reads or as  
11 follows:

12 Number one, the program assumes that  
13 agriculture is the major, and I quote major, cause of the  
14 decline in salmonid numbers without sufficient scientific  
15 support. There is a strong emphasize on flow. However,  
16 the focus has been limited to 15 percent of the watershed  
17 that is privately owned agricultural land.

51.3-3

18 Change, the EIR needs to address the  
19 evapotranspiration of the uplands and present the  
20 potential increase of flows that could be attained  
21 through an increase in proper harvesting and thinning.

22 Point two: The program encroaches on private  
23 property and water rights. First, the DFG's description  
24 to access private property as it reads in the document is  
25 unacceptable. Access to private property shall be at the

51.3-4  
↓

1 discretion of the subpermittee in terms of notification  
2 and timing. Access may be restricted to DFG employees  
3 only, no third parties, and also at the will of the  
4 subpermittee in the presence of said subpermittee.

51.3-4  
cont.

5 Second, the program is inconsistent at best in  
6 explanation of its restrictions on grazing. It's  
7 mentioned four times in the report. Two are similar, the  
8 other two are different. It should be noted that grazing  
9 is an important and essential tool for managing riparian  
10 habitat. The Department of Fish and Game, and this is a  
11 point, shall accept R-Mak (phonetic) grazing plans as  
12 necessary tools to allow grazing. Further, the  
13 department shall not control nor restrict grazing outside  
14 of the riparian fenced corridors as was stated once  
15 within the document.

51.3-5

16 Third, the program is beyond its authority  
17 placing restrictions on ground disturbing activities  
18 adjacent to the channel. It was ambiguous.

19 The point is that activities that occur outside  
20 of the channel in the normal process of agricultural  
21 business shall not be restricted nor managed by the  
22 Department of Fish and Game.

51.3-6

23 Four: The program expects participants to  
24 reduce diversion use, and they, quote/unquote, may be  
25 paid for the reduction. This is unacceptable.

51.3-7

1 All reductions in diversion use shall be  
 2 voluntarily and subpermittees shall be compensated for  
 3 the reduction at a fair market value. If compensation  
 4 cannot be made, the reduction in diversion is at the  
 5 discretion of the subpermittee.

↑  
 51.3-7  
 cont.  
 ↓

6 Third main point: We believe there is an  
 7 incorrect assessment that the program's impact on  
 8 agricultural is less than significant. If the true  
 9 objective is to recover salmon, existing open space must  
 10 be maintained, and that open space is provided through  
 11 agriculture. For agriculture to remain as well as the  
 12 open space, it must be profitable as well as  
 13 sustainable. Without profitability, agriculture is not  
 14 sustainable.

↓  
 51.3-8  
 ↓

15 One accurate statistic that was noted in the  
 16 EIR is that the average net annual income of agricultural  
 17 operations is only \$7,000 above poverty level. Any  
 18 increase of operation or decrease in yield should be  
 19 noted as a significant negative impact.

↓  
 51.3-9  
 ↓

20 The EIR does not contain a cost benefit  
 21 analysis.

22 Further, the EIR does not take into account the  
 23 cumulative economic impacts as is required by NEPA, the  
 24 National Environmental Policy Act. This program, as it's  
 25 written, will cause a net crease in cost to DWR, who will

↓  
 51.3-10  
 ↓

1 undoubtedly be passing that increase on to the  
2 participant.

↑ 51.3-10  
| cont.

3 It should be noted that any additional costs  
4 that arise from the implementation of the program for  
5 services performed by DWR shall be paid by the Department  
6 of Fish and Game.

| 51.3-11  
|

7 Also, the program will potentially reduce  
8 diversion of water with no guarantee of compensation,  
9 thus resulting in a loss of production. It should be  
10 noted that all reductions of diversions shall be  
11 voluntarily and be compensated at fair market value.

| 51.3-12  
|

12 Third, the program will hold the participant  
13 accountable for cost of avoidance, minimization and  
14 potentially, if the funding is not available, mitigation  
15 measures that would, as specified in the document, be  
16 picked up under normal circumstances by the RCD.

| 51.3-13  
|

17 It needs to be noted that any cost associated  
18 through the implementation of projects required by the  
19 department through the program should be paid for in full  
20 or at least in share from outside sources. At no time  
21 should the subpermittee be held accountable for the full  
22 cost of the project or mitigation measure.

23 Fourth point: Mitigations pertain to livestock  
24 and vehicle crossings are unrealistic. It's stated in  
25 the EIR that the maximum allowable width of crossing is

| 51.3-14  
↓

1 25 feet. That is not reasonable as the average width is  
2 over 50 feet. Ultimately, this will prohibit all  
3 crossing of the river by livestock and vehicles, thus  
4 increasing GHG emissions.

↑  
51.3-14  
cont.  
↓

5 As a side note, there is no discussion of the  
6 impact to the elk herd. On our place currently are 12  
7 head that crosses the river daily in three prime spawning  
8 reasons from September to May. And that's coho spawning  
9 time.

↑  
51.3-15  
↓

10 Fifth, conclusions and statements in the EIR  
11 regarding commodities grown in trends and crop value are  
12 inaccurate. I like Caltrans, but I really question using  
13 them as a cite and a source of predicting crop values.  
14 It's absurd at best.

↑  
51.3-16  
↓

15 Second, the statement regarding the trend of  
16 decreasing drain acreage does not take into account the  
17 drain issue is rotationally, every six to seven years, as  
18 the table from which the statement refers is on a ten-, a  
19 three- and a nine-year data gap respectfully.

20 Third, the statement regarding trends of crop  
21 acreage does not take into account the marketability of  
22 the crops in the cited years.

23 Sixth, the EIR briefly discusses the option of  
24 landowners withdrawing from Williamson contracts as a  
25 result of the program. However, your consultant

↑  
51.3-17  
↓



1 dismissed this as a viable option, believing that  
 2 existing county regulations and stipulations served as a  
 3 significant barrier and fails to address the second  
 4 option of landowners enrolling in a reserve program.  
 5 Withdrawals from Williamson contracts in whole or in part  
 6 are very realistic, especially today with land values  
 7 falling. It's going to allow landowners the option to  
 8 cancel contracts with less of an economic burden.

51.3-17  
cont.

9 In fact, several applications to withdraw have  
 10 been approved within the last two years.

11 Furthermore, enrolling agricultural land into  
 12 reserves is the other option, which is an allowable use  
 13 under the Williamson Act and could have potentially  
 14 devastating impacts on the county. This was not  
 15 addressed in the EIR.

16 Seventh, the EIR fails to address potential  
 17 impacts of the program on a holistic level. Reduction of  
 18 diversions and complete dedications within some reaches  
 19 back to stream river flow combined with proposed  
 20 efficiency measures could have a very significant  
 21 negative impact on residential wells, wetlands, birds and  
 22 other wildlife that depend on that diverted water for  
 23 life processes and groundwater recharge.

51.3-18

24 Subpermittees, this needs to be added, shall  
 25 not be held accountable or responsible for any negative

51.3-19

1 impacts resulting from implemented projects as dictated  
2 by the program.

↑ 51.3-19  
| cont.

3 Eight, as noted in the EIR, the Scott River is  
4 not a stable system. The natural rain and snow events  
5 will never allow the Scott River system as it currently  
6 exists to recover, at least in its current  
7 geomorphological condition. And subpermittees should not  
8 be held financially responsible for the continued repair  
9 and reconstruction of the projects that are damaged and  
10 destroyed due to natural events.

51.3-20

11 Finally, the program sadly eliminates the  
12 option of arbitration for the subpermittee. All  
13 subpermittees should be able to maintain the right to  
14 arbitrate.

51.3-21

15 In closing, if the true objective of the DFG is  
16 to restore the salmonid populations, they need to act, as  
17 an example, with other state and federal agencies, and  
18 take a sincere and objective look at all of the limiting  
19 factors for salmonid populations and start addressing  
20 issues on a holistic level.

51.3-22

21 The focus for the past 16 years has been on  
22 agriculture and implementing public policy on private  
23 lands. This ITP implies that 15 percent of the watershed  
24 is responsible and will somehow miraculously solve the  
25 problems for the remaining 85 percent.



1 I ask you, is this reasonable and is this  
 2 practical? We believe that with the proper changes and  
 3 modifications, this program does have the potential to be  
 4 a valuable tool. It is our sincere hope that the  
 5 department makes the necessary adjustment to yield a  
 6 product of value.

↑  
 51.3-22  
 cont.  
 ↓

7 Thank you.

8 MR. STOPHER: Jeff, are we going to get  
 9 comments in writing?

10 MR. FOWLE: About 63 pages worth right now.

11 MR. SICULAR: The next speaker, I believe it is  
 12 Doug Jenner; is that correct? Followed by Caroline Luiz.

13 MR. DOUG JENNER: I haven't read the full thing  
 14 yet, but I feel like I am being railroaded and the RCD --  
 15 I don't know the mitigation level, I don't know what we  
 16 are signing on to if we sign up with them, exactly, and  
 17 what the mitigation levels are. And then you say if we  
 18 want to go it on our own, it is going to cost us all of  
 19 this money and the economic picture doesn't look too good  
 20 going on our own. And I feel like we are being  
 21 railroaded down the track and I don't like that.

↓  
 51.4-1  
 ↓

22 MR. SICULAR: Caroline Luiz followed by Erica  
 23 Terence.

24 MS. LUIZ: I think everybody has kind of said  
 25 it, to cover what I want to talk about, but I agree with

↓  
 51.5-1  
 ↓

1 Doug that I think we are being railroaded on that.

2 I would like to say that it seems -- the whole  
3 report seems subjective. There is no one really sure  
4 what is going on or what is going to happen or how much  
5 money it's going to cost or what the permit will involve.

6 And I have been to the Department of Fish and  
7 Game two or three years ago when the incidental take  
8 first came out and nobody could give me a straight  
9 answer. They all told me I didn't need the permit, it  
10 wasn't necessary. They didn't have any paperwork for it.  
11 And I talked to, like, three or four different people in  
12 the office. So it seems strange to not be able to lay  
13 everything down in concrete and deal with it.

14 MR. SICULAR: Thank you.

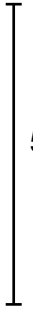
15 Erica Terence, followed by Nick Jenner.

16 MS. TERENCE: My name is Erica Terence. I am  
17 with Klamath River keeper, and I was -- I grew up in the  
18 salmon watershed a couple of watersheds over and in  
19 communities where livelihoods and cultures depend on  
20 healthy fish runs. You will find me coming back to that  
21 point.

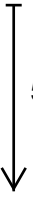
22 When you guys talk about reduce -- streamlining  
23 the process and reducing regulatory burdens and cost  
24 burdens, that all sounds great, but I didn't find a lot  
25 in the document that really answers specifically how



51.5-1  
cont.



51.6-1



51.6-2

1 these programs might reduce those burdens.

2 We have some concerns about financially how  
3 these programs are going to work, who is going to pay for  
4 them. It seems to us that when you create this kind of  
5 overlap in authority and overlap in oversight between the  
6 Department of Fish and Game and the RCDs locally here  
7 that we are setting ourselves up for introducing problems  
8 in terms of oversight enforcement, and really costs. Who  
9 is going to pay for the mitigation measures? Is it going  
10 to end up being the landowners and the Scott Valley  
11 farmers or the taxpayers?

51.6-2  
cont.

12 We didn't find a lot of answers in this  
13 document specifically to those questions and we are  
14 concerned about that. Particularly, it seems like a  
15 potential flaw in the program. We would like to see  
16 further addressed since, as we understand it, RCDs are  
17 not able to fund legally required mitigation projects,  
18 and again it seems like that burden, that cost burden, is  
19 going to be passed right over onto landowners and  
20 potentially taxpayers and we are concerned about that.

51.6-3

21 But, you know, overall the biggest problem that  
22 we see with this document is that it might be doing a  
23 restoration project here or a restoration project there  
24 and those are great. We applaud landowners and agencies  
25 working together and trying to get more coho back in the

51.6-4

1 stream, more water back in the channel, the flood plane  
2 reconnected to the Scott River channel, but until we fix  
3 problems like groundwater pumping, until we fix people  
4 who are outside the diversion limits or not having  
5 permits enforced in terms of diversion limitation, we are  
6 not going to see the abundance of fish that we need to  
7 see for our cultures and economies downstream. We aren't  
8 going to see the abundance of fish that is going to  
9 satisfy ESA requirements.

10 And we really would urge the Department of Fish  
11 and Game to go back and reconsider. In our current  
12 climate, we have just seen some political changes. We  
13 are likely to see a different kind of interpretation of  
14 the Endangered Species Act and different appointments.

15 And in our community locally around here, what  
16 we really need to do is address the fundamental problems  
17 of dewatering, groundwater pumping, and instream flows  
18 and water quantity and quality that is going to  
19 ultimately lead us to the kind of abundance where we can  
20 talk about how many coho we can take and be okay and be  
21 within our ESA requirements.

22 I heard somebody talk earlier about harvesting  
23 fish in other parts of the world, and that is certainly a  
24 problem. We try to really watch how many fish we take  
25 downstream because, again, until we have that abundance



51.6-4  
cont.

51.6-5

1 of fish, none of us are going to be in the clear for ESA  
2 requirements and permitting and costs to cover the  
3 permitting and agencies are going to be running around  
4 trying to cover all this new ground.

↑  
51.6-5  
cont.

5 It seems to me, again, that it opens up a lot  
6 of new questions for whose authority is it to regulate  
7 when you have an RCD sharing part of the responsibility  
8 with Fish and Game, whose responsibility is it to oversee  
9 the Endangered Species Act.

↑  
51.6-6

10 So I hope those are clear. We will also submit  
11 written comments. We will be submitting detailed legal  
12 and biological analyses, and we thank you guys for being  
13 here tonight to hear the comments of the people in the  
14 community.

↑  
51.6-7

15 MR. SICULAR: Nick Jenner followed by John  
16 Jenner.

17 MR. NICK JENNER: I just have a few things. I  
18 haven't read this massive book cover to cover yet  
19 either.

20 I will just start, baseline, I don't know  
21 exactly how you guys came up with your baseline figure.  
22 I don't know how many things you took into account. But  
23 as far as a lot of these diversions, they have been going  
24 on for 150 years, 100 years plus, and we haven't been  
25 doing anything different that whole length of time. We

↑  
51.7-1  
↓

1 opened our headgates now, of course, there is fish  
2 screens on them. We haven't been changing our practices.  
3 They have been doing the same thing for 150 years.

↑  
51.7-1  
cont.

4 As far as your impact levels, I think you had  
5 two different kinds of levels, potentially impact and  
6 serious impact, and you kind of said that we won't know  
7 if any of these impacts apply to our site specifically  
8 until you actually go to our site and continue this EIR  
9 that's been done.

51.7-2

10 First of all, I don't know how you can come up  
11 with an EIR without setting foot on anybody's headgate or  
12 diversion. If I wanted to put a hazardous waste material  
13 site in and just told the government, "Oh, it's okay, I  
14 will put it in but I will get that EIR to you after I put  
15 it up," I don't think they would go for that. And I  
16 don't see how this EIR can be valid without even setting  
17 foot on any of these diversions yet to check them out.

51.7-3

18 As far as incidental take, what difference does  
19 it matter if you have an incidental take permit or you  
20 don't and you accidentally kill a fish? Either way, the  
21 fish is dead, and what good is a piece of paper just to  
22 say you are okay if you do accidentally kill a fish?

51.7-4

23 Why make it such a burden on us to have that  
24 piece of paper in our hand where the outcome is going to  
25 be a dead fish one way or another if you happen to

↓



1 possibly kill a fish?

↑ 51.7-4  
|  
cont.

2 I don't know why the Fish and Game doesn't do  
3 more mitigation. If you got out and actually walked  
4 these channels, some of the streambeds the gravel is so  
5 full they are up over field levels outside the banks. If  
6 we landowners could get some help by the Fish and Game or  
7 other departments to help clear the debris and excess  
8 gravel out of these streams, I think you would find that  
9 the water would run longer through the channel, it would  
10 be cleaner, smaller material, not huge boulders, more apt  
11 for spawning conditions.

51.7-5

12 And I know the fish -- we are all working  
13 towards the same thing. We want to help, too, but there  
14 is only so much we can do. And when it gets to the  
15 burdensome part where we have to spend our money to keep  
16 our job, that just doesn't seem right to me.

17 That's it.

18 MR. SICULAR: John Jenner followed by Jim  
19 Harris.

20 MR. JOHN JENNER: I am a little disappointed in  
21 this meeting because the landowners that I have talked  
22 to, we are all unsure of where we stand.

51.8-1

23 I have read a little bit in this book and I am  
24 opposed to quite a few articles. I am opposed to  
25 fencing. I am opposed to a take of water. I am opposed



1 to the cost analysis that this could cost us. It might  
 2 not cost us right at the moment, but historically when  
 3 you get involved with the government, it is going to cost  
 4 you down the road and the State of California is not in  
 5 very good financial thing right now.

↑  
 51.8-1  
 cont.

6 I also would wonder about this EIR, how you  
 7 came up with this EIR and you never set foot on a lot of  
 8 this land here, so how can you come up with an EIR  
 9 without going out and looking at this and telling the  
 10 landowner what they are looking at?

51.8-2

11 We possibly may be able to work with you but we  
 12 won't know that until we go out there and look, until we  
 13 say, okay, you should do this and you should do that.

14 And then also I wonder about the recourse that  
 15 the farmer has, you know, and it goes along with what I  
 16 am talking about right now and what everybody else is  
 17 talking about. We are giving comments. Who is going to  
 18 go through these comments and -- where are these comments  
 19 going to stack up? Are they going to be just throwed  
 20 (sic) to the side and say, "Well, here are the comments"?  
 21 Who is to say? They are thrown to the side and this is  
 22 the document we have and that is the way it is.

51.8-3

23 What recourse do we have as landowners to be  
 24 able to work through this thing? And right now I think  
 25 everybody is unsure about what is going on and I don't

↓

1 think this thing should even come to a head here the 9th  
2 of December. You need to have more information meetings  
3 and let people know what to expect. And I don't think  
4 you guys have told us one thing tonight about what to  
5 expect.

↑  
51.8-3  
cont.  
↓

6 MR. SICULAR: Thank you.

7 I have a card for Jim Harris.

8 MR. HARRIS: I will be submitting some comments  
9 in writing but I do have some questions about it.

10 My main concern is how the program encroaches  
11 on landowner use -- landowners' rights.

12 I am a French Creek diversion user. And from  
13 experience already, Fish and Game comes onto our place  
14 without any notice. I have not received one call in the  
15 three years that I have been running the ranch on French  
16 Creek to notify me that Fish and Game would be on our  
17 property. They have left gates open which, in turn,  
18 left cows on the highway, on Highway 3, so at 9:00 at  
19 night I have had to run out and get 100 head of cows off  
20 the highway.

↓  
51.9-1  
↓

21 Secondly, they come in, they bring equipment  
22 in, no notification of that, working cows, all of a  
23 sudden, trucks, trailers, fish tanks show up, opening  
24 gates.

25 My main concern about this is the encroachment

1 on our private land and what effect that will have. And  
2 my other comments will come in writing.

↑ 51.9-1  
| cont.

3 MR. SICULAR: Thank you.

4 Does anybody else whose name I did not call or  
5 who would like to speak.

6 Sir?

7 MR. HAMMOND: Carl Hammond.

8 And one of the things -- I have got a couple of  
9 things, but knowing that they put a fish screen in the  
10 Youngs dam, spent about \$600,000 or something, the fish  
11 don't go up it. Now they are looking to have to take  
12 that out and put in probably another million bucks.

13 When you do these projects, it seems like some  
14 accountability ought to be going in. It shouldn't be  
15 trial and error and the property owners -- and that's  
16 what a lot of this is going to be -- is kind of footing  
17 the bill, because, you know, we are paying taxes on that  
18 land.

51.10-1

19 Basically you are saying, well, the fish are  
20 everybody's property, the same way with elk. Those  
21 things are the same thing. Like elk going into the  
22 river, what difference is between a cow and an elk  
23 walking and killing a fish? Yet you are saying that cow  
24 ought to be nailed, actually the owner, because he didn't  
25 keep the cow out. And those elk live in the river.

51.10-2

1 Hell, they go right in there and waller.

2 I think you have got things that need to really  
3 be addressed before we get stuck with the bill. I have  
4 been watching a lot of this government stuff right now  
5 and it's just like, well, the Ford bailout, didn't you  
6 guys know this was coming? We told you what you better  
7 be doing. And actually, that's almost the same thing  
8 that is happening on this. And all we have been doing is  
9 buying time, trying to get through it, and it's just more  
10 encroachment, more encroachment.

11 And I will tell you what, I have watched all  
12 the predators that get in there and eat those fish.  
13 Somebody ought to be held accountable for something like  
14 that. If you guys are going to be the law enforcement on  
15 it and things like that happen, you ought to be -- if you  
16 have got to rid of them to have fish, then you should do  
17 that.

18 A lot of this you are just saying this is all  
19 nature. And I mean, there is too much things that is  
20 left up to nature and there doesn't seem to be  
21 accountability. Personally, I would like to see it. I  
22 am getting to the point I don't really care about it, but  
23 somebody has to put the food on the table and I am not  
24 sure that you guys are doing the job to get that done.

25 MR. STOPHER: Is there anybody else that would



51.10-2  
cont.

1 I like to speak tonight?

2 MR. BAIRD: I would like to add just one more  
3 comment. Mark Baird.

4 Our ranch was established somewhere in the  
5 early 1860's. The ditch to our ranch from Mill Creek was  
6 dug somewhere in the late 1850's, and it basically has  
7 been in continuous use, as somebody else pointed out, for  
8 darn near 150 years.

51.11-1

9 I am sure during that period of time there was  
10 salmon running all over this watershed. We are not the  
11 only ones that are causing the loss of habitat. You  
12 should look at outside makers.

13 And as far as greenhouse glasses, hell, look  
14 around you, it's a bunch of grass and trees. Every acre  
15 of grass supplies enough oxygen for 50 people in some  
16 city somewhere. Take the water, the grass will be gone.  
17 Take the water, the farmers will be gone. And on my  
18 place there will be a thousand one-acre parcels and a  
19 thousand septic tanks and a thousand wells to replace  
20 that ranch, because if I can't farm it, I will use the  
21 land for something else. I don't have any choice. So  
22 think about that when you are talking about taking this  
23 water.

51.11-2

24 MR. STOPHER: Anybody else?

25 MR. NICK JENNER: One more comment. Nick

51.12-1

1 Jenner.

2 I know also late in the summer when the streams  
3 begin to dry up, we could go around and in these last  
4 existing puddles, you can see hundreds and thousands of  
5 fingerlings in there. And we have called the Fish and  
6 Game before and told them exactly what is going on, there  
7 is some pools down here, come down here with traps and  
8 get these fish, take them upstream, downstream, do  
9 whatever you're going to do. And they flat said, "Well,  
10 no, we cannot do anymore. We can't trap these to move  
11 them."

12 And these are fish you can actually see, you  
13 can actually do something about to save them, and you  
14 guys are coming up with this whole list of stuff to do  
15 for possibly injuring -- I don't even know the numbers.  
16 Nobody knows the numbers we could be possibly injuring.  
17 But here are fish that you can actually help, that you  
18 can actually save, and nothing is being done about it  
19 anymore, it seems.

20 MR. STOPHER: Anybody else like to provide  
21 testimony for the record?

22 I thank you for joining us tonight. And again,  
23 I understand that this public hearing stage and the CEQA  
24 process is frustrating from the public respect, because  
25 we are here to take testimony and not to have a dialogue.



51.12-1  
cont.

1 You have been here many times, people from the RCD have  
2 been here a number of times, including last week with  
3 SOSS. I am sorry that we haven't had a chance to have a  
4 dialogue on every issue here previously. I expect that  
5 we will have additional opportunities in the future.

6 We will be accepting more testimony on both  
7 EIRs tomorrow tonight in Yreka, and that's at the county  
8 courthouse at 7:00 p.m. If you have something to add to  
9 your comments, I would invite you to join us there.

10 And again, we will be looking forward to  
11 getting any written, e-mail or faxed comments in the next  
12 couple three weeks.

13 (Whereupon the public portion of the  
14 hearing was concluded and the hearing  
15 was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
                                  ) SS.  
COUNTY OF SISKIYOU )

I, PAULA FRIDAY, CSR 5669, Court Reporter,  
do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript,  
consisting of pages 1 through 52, is a true, complete,  
and correct transcription of my shorthand notes taken on  
October 10 and 11, 2006, in the aforementioned matter.

DATED: December 2, 2008, at Yreka,  
California.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PAULA FRIDAY, CSR 5669

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Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings

\* \* \*

Public Hearing

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Siskiyou County Courthouse  
Yreka, California

Ronald W. Coleman, CSR 1596

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COLEMAN & ASSOCIATES  
Court Reporters  
P.O. Box 7  
Yreka, Ca 96097  
(530) 842-1455

Comment Letter 52

3

1 Wednesday, November 19, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.

2 Yreka, California

3 \* \* \*

4  
5 MR. STOPHER: Welcome. My name is Mark  
6 Stopher. I am with the Department of Fish and Game. I  
7 have had the pleasure of meeting some of you before.

8 We have a public hearing tonight on the Draft  
9 Environmental Impact Report for the Shasta Valley  
10 watershed-wide permitting program. We did a similar  
11 hearing last night over in Scott Valley in Fort Jones.

12 This public hearing -- I will probably explain  
13 this in a couple of ways tonight. This is a public  
14 hearing.

15 The Draft Environmental Impact Report is  
16 currently available for your review and comments. We  
17 released it in early October to the public and to other  
18 agencies and organizations. And this is a formal period  
19 for folks to tell us if we adequately evaluated the  
20 potential effects of the project that's described in the  
21 EIR, an opportunity to provide information about the  
22 alternatives that we evaluated and any other alternatives  
23 people believe ought to be part of the mix, an  
24 opportunity for people to do the same with respect to the  
25 mitigation measures as to whether or not they are

Comment Letter 52

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1 implementable, whether there are others that might be  
2 effective as well, or whether or not some that we  
3 proposed are not going to be effective as we portray them  
4 to be in the document in a public hearing.

5 In a public hearing, this is a formal  
6 opportunity for us to receive your comments either  
7 verbally or in writing. If you are not able to do that  
8 tonight, the period extends through the first part of  
9 December. We are looking for any written comments to be  
10 postmarked no later than the evening of December 9th.

11 It is a 60-day comment period. The law  
12 requires that we can provide a 45-day period so we have  
13 extended that an extra two weeks at the outset. We do  
14 not plan to extend that. I anticipate we will get some  
15 requests for extension. I can't imagine us extending  
16 that comment period. And I will explain the reason a  
17 little bit later this evening for that.

18 So unlike some of the other meetings that I  
19 have had an opportunity to meet with some of you where  
20 you can ask questions and I can respond to them and have  
21 a dialogue and answer your questions, both about the  
22 immediate topic or any other topic, tonight is about  
23 receiving your testimony.

24 And Bob Williams, who is here, has asked you to  
25 fill out a speaker card simply with your name on it. We

## Comment Letter 52

5

1 will take those cards and provide everybody an  
2 opportunity to address the department and provide us with  
3 any verbal testimony you want to give us.

4 we are recording with a court record tonight  
5 the entire proceedings. So we will make a transcript  
6 from that so that we have an accurate representation of  
7 what you told us.

8 Once you speak, we will simply thank you for  
9 your testimony and ask for the next speaker.

10 we've had some -- again, we have had  
11 opportunities previously for more informal dialogue, and  
12 we will have some more after the public hearing phase is  
13 over. But we are not in a position during the public  
14 review period to go afield with discussing the  
15 alternatives and mitigation measures with you and  
16 discussing the project in detail.

17 And the reason for that is that we want to make  
18 sure that we don't put any alternative view of the  
19 project or description of the project or the impacts or  
20 mitigation in the record during this time period,  
21 because sometimes if you have a -- if you do that, you  
22 know, what I say might not match up perfectly because I  
23 don't remember exactly how the document describes it.  
24 And it's very important that we not have two different  
25 versions of that on the record at this point in time.

## Comment Letter 52

6

1 So as you'll hear a little bit and we'll go  
2 over it again more briefly later, the public review  
3 period will end on December 9th. After that point in  
4 time we will take nearly three months to take all of  
5 those comments and evaluate them, read 'em.

6 What we will do is take the written comments  
7 and break them up into discrete comments. One letter  
8 might have five, ten, 12, 15 different points it makes.  
9 We will respond in the Final Environmental Impact Report  
10 to every one of 'em.

11 And in addition, the Final Environmental Impact  
12 Report may be different than the draft. The project  
13 description may be different based on the public input we  
14 got. Our assessment of mitigation measures may be  
15 different. Our assessment of the impacts may be  
16 different.

17 I have been involved with quite a few EIRs in  
18 the past. And every one of them has changed from the  
19 draft to the final stage based upon the contributions and  
20 the comments from the public.

21 We expect to be providing the document -- the  
22 Final EIR to the public in March, early March of 2009.  
23 And that will then begin -- assuming we proceed with the  
24 watershed-wide permitting program, which is described as  
25 the project in here, we will be proceeding with the

## Comment Letter 52

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1 enrollment period for that project. We project that  
2 enrollment period to extend for 60 days.  
3 We will be asking people to submit  
4 notifications for streambed alteration agreements and  
5 applications for incidental take permits into the program  
6 to us during that time period.

7 Shasta Valley RCD will be available to help you  
8 with preparing those materials, provide some guidance  
9 through that process.

10 And we will begin implementing immediately  
11 based on what we receive. We will start scheduling site  
12 visits and meeting with landowners and moving forward  
13 with the project. We are not going to wait until the end  
14 of the 60 days to actually start implementing.

15 At the end of the 60 days, we will look at the  
16 past letters of intent we have had or information we have  
17 about other people who might have been diverting water  
18 who we have not received an application from. We will  
19 contact them, provide them with the enrollment period  
20 that has now expired, would they still like to send us a  
21 notice of application. So we want to give people, again,  
22 plenty of time to do that. We will follow up again so  
23 that we will take ownership to remind them.

24 It is our intent to do public outreach during  
25 that period of time in the communities, meeting with the

## Comment Letter 52

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1 RCDs and other organizations, irrigation districts, if  
2 we need to, private parties if we need to to help explain  
3 what is needed.

4 At the end of that enrollment period and the  
5 follow-up contacts with people, if there are people who  
6 are conducting agricultural diversions who we have not  
7 yet heard from, we will follow up again. And that  
8 follow-up will be by one of our enforcement people, law  
9 and protection warden, and that person will then invite  
10 those individuals to submit applications for those  
11 permits.

12 If at some point in time, and I don't know  
13 exactly when that will be, there is reason to believe  
14 there is diversion going on without having applied for  
15 either one of those, we will ask our enforcement people  
16 to do an investigation and take from it there, wherever  
17 that would be.

18 In the spring, as this program unfolds, as  
19 we've said at other meetings, individuals diverting water  
20 will have several choices in front of them. One of them  
21 will be to obtain a 1600 agreement and incidental  
22 agreement take permit through this watershed-wide  
23 permitting program. Let's call that door A.

24 Under that option, there is no fee for the 1600  
25 agreement. There are no costs associated with the CEQA

## Comment Letter 52

9

1 document that would be required for otherwise issuing you  
2 a permit, because that has been already handled. It is  
3 in the EIR that we prepared for this project.

4 Door B is you have got an owner who said,  
5 "well, I want to get a 1600, an incidental take permit,  
6 but I don't want to be part of that watershed-wide  
7 permitting program." That is a choice that is available  
8 to anybody as well. They may notify the department for a  
9 streambed alteration agreement. There is a fee  
10 associated with that. Depending upon the activity, it  
11 can range from \$200 to a few thousand dollars, depending  
12 upon the size of the operation.

13 They would also need to apply for an incidental  
14 take permit. There is no fee for that. Before we could  
15 issue a permit, however, we would have to comply with the  
16 California Environment Quality Act. And typically, that  
17 would be done with either an initial study or  
18 Environmental Impact Report and be prepared at the cost  
19 of the applicant. That could be very spendy. It could  
20 be ten -- \$10,000, perhaps triple that. That would be  
21 the obligation of the landowner. That's door B.

22 Door C would be, "I don't want to be in the  
23 watershed-wide permitting program and I am not interested  
24 in applying for any other permits either." That's the --  
25 that's the option that would end up requiring quite a bit

## Comment Letter 52

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1 of attorneys' time, because we would be pursuing an  
2 investigation and then probably filing a case for failure  
3 to notify for a streambed alteration agreement with the  
4 district attorney.

5 One of the things that we heard last night  
6 repeatedly was that people who provided testimony made a  
7 recommendation that none of those things, door A, B, and  
8 C, are not the choices but basically we continue status  
9 quo as we have been for the past several decades.

10 That is not an alternative that is analyzed in  
11 the EIR and is not an alternative that we are prepared to  
12 go forward with, so the EIR lays out in considerable  
13 detail what the watershed-wide permitting programs are  
14 as Dan Sicular will present the particulars of that  
15 document. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the  
16 environmental setting, the effects of the project and  
17 the mitigation measures for the project.

18 And I would advise you to read it. We will  
19 give you some locations and access to where you might get  
20 a copy of that. If you don't have time to read the whole  
21 document -- it is substantive -- I would suggest that you  
22 read the executive summary very closely. It's about 20  
23 pages. You pay close attention to chapter two and read  
24 the others as you find time.

25 So at one point or another tonight we will

## Comment Letter 52

11

1 probably reiterate most of that.

2           So the agenda for tonight is, first of all, we  
3 will introduce the representatives of the Department of  
4 Fish and Game and our consultants who are here, talk  
5 about the purpose of the programs. I have already  
6 covered some of that. This will be somewhat redundant.

7           Dan Sicular will give an overview of the  
8 Environmental Quality Act as it applies to these  
9 particular projects. He will give you an overview of the  
10 contents of this specific Draft EIR, where you find  
11 different parts of the EIR, give you different  
12 information within the EIR, and talk about the public  
13 participation process, what there has been and what is  
14 happening now.

15           Representing the Department of Fish and Game,  
16 myself, Mark Stopher, I am the conservation program  
17 manager out of our Redding office. I have overall  
18 responsibility for streambed alteration agreements, the  
19 California Endangered Species Act, our participation in  
20 the California Environmental Quality Act, and overall  
21 responsibility for this program.

22           The project leader for this is Kaitlin Beene.  
23 She is not able to join us tonight.

24           But I am joined by Bob Williams, who is over  
25 here managing the paperwork here tonight. He is the

## Comment Letter 52

12

1 contract manager for the EIR and responsible for managing  
2 that process and working with our consultants, who are  
3 also here tonight.

4           Tom Roberts, who is the project director. Dan  
5 Sicular is the project manager. Dan will be giving the  
6 overview of CEQA and the EIR itself.

7           Mike Podlech is here. He is the aquatic  
8 ecologist who participated substantially in developing  
9 these documents, both this side and the Scott side, too.

10           So the purpose of this program -- and we have  
11 been working on it for several years now -- is to an  
12 provide alternative means through a streamlined,  
13 comprehensive permitting framework for farmers and  
14 ranchers to continue routine agricultural activities  
15 while complying with Fish and Game Code 1600 and the  
16 California Endangered Species Act as it relates to coho  
17 salmon.

18           One of the keys here is the watershed-wide  
19 permitting program is an alternative to the usual process  
20 where every individual is totally responsible for  
21 submitting their notifications and applications and then  
22 responsible for the CEQA, the California Environmental  
23 Quality Act -- pardon my jargon here -- compliance and  
24 the costs associated with that.

25           By streamline, we mainly mean simpler and

## Comment Letter 52

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1 faster, but we have been working on it for three or four  
2 years.

3 But the permitting programs are -- they are a  
4 cooperative effort between the Department of Fish and  
5 Game and the resource conservation districts, the Shasta  
6 Valley RCD, Lake Siskiyou RCD.

7 Individual agricultural operators participate  
8 by becoming subpermittees for -- they get a permit,  
9 incidental take permit. What we are referring here to is  
10 a subpermit because it is related to another permit that  
11 the RCD will have itself, SAA -- in this case that means  
12 streambed alteration agreements.

13 Covered activities related to agricultural  
14 diversions. Covered activities under these programs are  
15 agricultural diversions, other agricultural activities  
16 and coho recovery tasks.

17 And the programs include avoidance,  
18 minimization and mitigation measures that we believe to  
19 be effective in addressing potential impacts.

20 You might recall the coho salmon recovery plan  
21 developed by the department and approved by the Fish and  
22 Game Commission in 2004 included a specific complement  
23 for the Scott and Shasta Valleys. There was a statewide  
24 recovery plan and there was a Scott-Shasta recovery team  
25 that contributed an element which laid out a recovery

## Comment Letter 52

14

1 strategy for coho salmon in these two valleys.

2 A specific recommendation of that team was that  
3 we develop -- that the department develop a  
4 watershed-wide permitting program. So this is the  
5 product of that direction several years later. The  
6 permits are entirely consistent with what the  
7 Shasta-Scott recovery team recommended in that document.

8 Next, please.

9 This is the schedule that we are looking at  
10 through the rest of the spring. March 2009, we will  
11 certify the Final EIR. We expect that to happen early in  
12 the month. And that will be the -- the gate that allows  
13 us to go forward with these programs. We can't issue  
14 these permits until we have complied with the California  
15 Environmental Quality Act. We expect to complete that  
16 and certify in March of 2009. That will commence a  
17 60-day enrollment period, and it begins also the  
18 implementation period.

19 We will receive notifications and applications,  
20 meet with landowners, do site inspections, begin writing  
21 incidental take permits, subpermits, and streambed  
22 alteration agreements.

23 And I am going to turn it over to Dan here to  
24 handle the CEQA part, and I will come back for the last  
25 part.



## Comment Letter 52

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1 MR. SICULAR: My name is Dan Sicular. I am  
2 with ESA, Environment Science Associates, a consulting  
3 firm based in San Francisco. And we were contracted by  
4 the Department of Fish and Game to prepare these two  
5 Environmental Impact Reports. Those are the two programs  
6 for the Shasta and Scott River watershed-wide permitting  
7 programs. So we have been working on that for about the  
8 last two plus years.

9 what I will be talking about this evening just  
10 briefly is to give you a little bit of overview of what  
11 the California Environmental Quality Act is and what it  
12 does and what it requires and then talk a little bit  
13 about the contents of these particular environmental  
14 reports we completed a draft of which are out for your  
15 review.

16 So, the California Environmental Quality Act is  
17 state law that provides the public and public agency  
18 decisionmakers with information on projects and programs  
19 before they are adopted.

20 And particularly, it spells out -- it requires  
21 documents that spell out what these projects are and what  
22 their potential is for causing Environmental Impact  
23 Reports. That way the public is informed of potential  
24 impacts of a decision before it is made and the  
25 decisionmakers are informed of the consequences of the

## Comment Letter 52

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1 decision they are about to make.

2 So what an Environmental Impact Report does is  
3 to analyze a project, describe it, analyze it, disclose  
4 the potential for impacts, to develop mitigation measures  
5 to reduce or eliminate significant environmental impacts  
6 where they may occur, and also to take public comment on  
7 the documents and on the projects and to respond to those  
8 comments.

9 For a permitting action of this kind -- and  
10 this is a new permitting or regulatory program that is  
11 being proposed by a California state agency. State  
12 agencies are subject to state law, so in California any  
13 state action with environmental effects must be analyzed  
14 under CEQA. So the Department of Fish and Game has to  
15 prepare environmental documentation under CEQA prior to  
16 taking actions on regulatory programs of this kind.

17 Our approach for this particular set of  
18 programs, the Shasta and Scott programs, is to complete  
19 two separate Environmental Impact Reports on parallel  
20 tracks so the documents are quite similar, except that  
21 they differ in that the environmental setting, the  
22 geographic setting in which they occur, is described in  
23 the reports. There is some difference in the way that we  
24 look at impacts because of the difference in setting,  
25 though programs are great or similar between the two

## Comment Letter 52

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1 watersheds, we maintain this idea of two separate EIRs  
2 throughout the whole program.

3         There are both what we call programmatic and  
4 also project levels of analysis. The programmatic level  
5 of analysis looks at the general picture because we can't  
6 predict at this point all of the particular actions that  
7 may occur that these programs are adopted and  
8 implemented.

9         Some of the -- some of the aspects we looked at  
10 as sort of a broad programmatic level, while others we  
11 have much more specific idea of what's going to occur and  
12 we can look at in more detail.

13         The documents include a clear statement of the  
14 objectives of the permitting programs from the  
15 perspective of the Department of Fish and Game, the RCDs,  
16 and also the participating agricultural operators. And  
17 throughout the process the Department of Fish and Game  
18 has ensured that participation not only complies with  
19 the requirements of state law but that there are  
20 additional opportunities, including this one. This  
21 hearing is not required under state law, but the  
22 department is interested in taking as much input and  
23 providing as many opportunities to the public for input  
24 as possible.

25         So to give you a quick overview of the Draft

## Comment Letter 52

18

1 EIRs -- and they have had been out now since early  
2 October. I don't know if you have gotten a chance to  
3 take a look at them. We will tell you where you can  
4 obtain them if you haven't. We do have CD copies here on  
5 the table, which you are welcome to take. There are also  
6 paper copies in several locations. We are pretty much  
7 out -- there are a few paper copies left that you can  
8 request, but we're pretty close to being out of those and  
9 they are rather expensive to print.

10         There are some in the libraries and Fish and  
11 Game offices.

12         But to give you a quick overview of the draft  
13 EIRs, I want to take a minute and discuss the baseline  
14 that we use for the analysis.

15         Now, with an Environmental Impact Report, we  
16 don't -- we start with the existing environmental  
17 setting, so what is here now is taken to be a part of  
18 existing environment. And we don't analyze the impacts  
19 of what is currently occurring. So we begin our analysis  
20 at the time that the RCDs submitted their applications  
21 for incidental take permits back in 2005 and that those  
22 were accepted as complete by the Department of Fish and  
23 Game.

24         So what this means is that some of the  
25 activities that the program covers, such as the diversion

## Comment Letter 52

19

1 of water for irrigation or historic ongoing activities,  
2 some of these activities at least in some places and  
3 times have likely caused and will likely continue to  
4 cause environmental impacts. However, these activities  
5 and their impacts are considered part of the baseline.  
6 And they are expected to continue regardless of whether  
7 the program is offered.

8           These ongoing historic activities and their  
9 impacts are discussed as part of the environmental  
10 setting and not considered new environmental impacts,  
11 impacts that will be a consequence of the program.

12           What we do in the Draft EIRs is to analyze the  
13 likely physical changes in the environment that will  
14 occur from the baseline if the programs are implemented.  
15 For those changes that are determined to have the  
16 potential to cause a significant environmental effect --  
17 and we have in these documents to describe when an  
18 effect becomes significant. There is an important  
19 distinction under CEQA. But when we find a significant  
20 effect, CEQA requires us to come up with feasible  
21 mitigation measures to reduce or avoid those impacts and  
22 then to conclude whether we think that those mitigation  
23 measures will in fact be effective in reducing the  
24 impacts to less than significant.

25           Now, while it is not required, the programs are

## Comment Letter 52

20

1 also expected to reduce environmental impacts caused by  
2 some of these historic ongoing activities by requiring  
3 agricultural operators to incorporate new measures to  
4 protect fish and wildlife resources and to avoid,  
5 minimize and fully mitigate any take of coho salmon that  
6 might occur incidental to those activities.

7           So from the perspective of our CEQA analysis  
8 and also from the department's perspective, these  
9 programs do more than just mitigate the effects of  
10 continuing but they also address some of the past  
11 effects.

12           Some of the major conclusions of the Draft EIR  
13 is each of these two areas, the Scott and Shasta  
14 watersheds, identifies ten significant impacts and 11  
15 less-than-significant impacts. We found that all the  
16 significant impacts can be mitigated to a  
17 less-than-significant level. So we are left with no  
18 unavoidable impacts.

19           We also found that the programs will not result  
20 in significant growth impacts; that is, we don't expect  
21 them to introduce new growth in these watersheds. And we  
22 don't expect to see any irreversible environmental  
23 changes in the landscape.

24           And part of the environmental impact  
25 requirement is to look at alternatives to this program.

## Comment Letter 52

21

1 we found that the programs themselves are environmentally  
2 preferable to the alternatives analyzed.

3 I will just briefly go over the contents of the  
4 EIR. Most of those major conclusions that I just went  
5 over, you can find all of those in the executive  
6 summaries. Mark said that is about a 20-page-long  
7 chapter and is relatively easy to get to.

8 I would also suggest, actually, that  
9 particularly if you are considering becoming a  
10 participant in this program, that you read the actual  
11 text of the incidental take permit and the massive stream  
12 agreement, the massive list of terms and conditions,  
13 because those are what you would actually be dealing  
14 with.

15 Those are reproduced in full in the appendices  
16 to the documents. You can take a look at those. They  
17 are written in fairly plain English. And if you don't  
18 quite understand what these programs are actually going  
19 to accomplish or try to accomplish or what effect they  
20 are going to have on you and your operations, I think  
21 that is a good place to start.

22 So, the introduction to the EIR reviews the  
23 structure of the programs, the scope and organization of  
24 the document itself, and also addresses issues raised in  
25 the scoping comments.

## Comment Letter 52

22

1 Some of you may have been at one or other of  
2 the scoping meetings that we held back in October of  
3 2006, or you may have submitted comments -- scoping  
4 comments prior to our beginning work on the EIRs.

5 Some of the major issues or general issues  
6 raised in these comments are addressed in chapter one of  
7 the document.

8 Chapter two is the project description. This  
9 summarizes the context of the incidental take permit and  
10 the streambed alteration agreement. It provides an  
11 overview of the programs, the structure, the objectives  
12 of the program participants; that's Fish and Game, the  
13 RCD and agricultural operators who will be  
14 participating. And it reviews in some detail the  
15 contents of the incidental take permit, draft incidental  
16 take permit and the streambed alteration agreement  
17 massive list of terms and conditions. That is a list of  
18 about a hundred and ten conditions.

19 If you become a participant in this program,  
20 what Fish and Game will do is, when they are issuing a  
21 streambed alteration agreement, they will pick and choose  
22 off this master list of a hundred and ten conditions  
23 those that apply to your operation.

24 Chapter three is the heart of the environmental  
25 impact analysis, and these are the topic areas that we

1 cover; land use and agriculture, including a review of  
 2 potential economic effects of the programs, their  
 3 implementation, hydrology and water quality and stream  
 4 geomorphology, biological resources, both in the  
 5 prospective of aquatic fisheries resources and also  
 6 terrestrial wetland resources.

7 We have a chapter on cultural resources and  
 8 potential cultural resources impacts, historical,  
 9 archaeological and paleontological resources, hazards and  
 10 hazardous materials, and finally, public utilities  
 11 service systems and energy. That includes what is now  
 12 required by law; that is, an analysis of potential for  
 13 climate change effects, so looking at greenhouse gas  
 14 emissions associated with the programs.

15 Chapter four is the cumulative analysis. Here  
 16 we look at the combined effects of the program with other  
 17 similar overlapping of regulatory programs and  
 18 activities. So we look not only at what would occur if  
 19 these programs are implemented, but also the effects of  
 20 these programs in conjunction with, for example, the  
 21 TMDLs that are pending here in the Shasta and also in the  
 22 Scott.

23 For example, if you look at the option nine,  
 24 regulatory regime; we also look it all of the restoration  
 25 activities that have been occurring on the Shasta River

1 and the Shasta River watershed over the last several  
 2 years. We look at stream specific effects because the  
 3 intent of restoration work is to restore. There are  
 4 effects, short-term effects, that are negative in nature.

5 Chapter five is the alternatives analysis.  
 6 CEQA requires that we look at a range of reasonable  
 7 alternatives to the project that would feasibly attain  
 8 most of the basic objectives of the project or program  
 9 but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the  
 10 significant environment effects.

11 So we look at a range of possible alternatives  
 12 to the program. Some of these were suggested by people  
 13 in their scoping comments. Others are ones that we  
 14 thought of ourselves or worked out in conjunction with  
 15 Fish and Game. Some of them we found don't meet the  
 16 requirements for determining what a feasible alternative  
 17 is under CEQA, so we reject them and say why.

18 So in the Shasta, I think we have got a half  
 19 dozen or so, so we consider them and then reject. Then  
 20 we have three alternatives that we do examine and compare  
 21 the environmental effects of those alternatives with the  
 22 program itself, and those alternatives of no program  
 23 alternative; required by law that we look at an  
 24 alternative of what if the program doesn't happen, what  
 25 would the effects of that be.

## Comment Letter 52

25

1 Another one we call the instream flow  
2 alternative. That is where, in addition to the elements  
3 of the program, Fish and Game were to work with other  
4 agencies and develop additional sources of water for  
5 agricultural use. That would include offstream storage  
6 facilities and possibly bringing in water from outside  
7 the basin, particularly from the upper Klamath.  
8 And we also look at an alternative that would  
9 involve picking a new bypass channel from Parks Creek to  
10 the upper Shasta above Lake Shastina to enable fish to  
11 bypass Dwinnell dam and reach spawning areas in the upper  
12 Shasta River.  
13 Public participation, I mentioned at the  
14 scoping stage that we had a round of public participation  
15 at that point. We -- the department issues what is  
16 called a notice of preparation for the EIR that is going  
17 to be prepared. That was October 19th, 2006, just over  
18 two years ago. That began a 30-day period for the public  
19 and agencies to comment on the scope of the environmental  
20 review.  
21 We held two scoping meetings here in Yreka and  
22 Fort Jones on the 24th and 25th of October, and we  
23 received quite a number of scoping comments. These  
24 included several issues regarding -- about the fisheries  
25 and agricultural operations, concerns of people about the

## Comment Letter 52

26

1 effectiveness of the program or the effects on their  
2 operations, of constraints to successful operation of the  
3 program and, as I mentioned, potential alternatives.  
4 And to the extent that we could, we  
5 incorporated these comments into -- into the preparation  
6 of the Draft EIR.  
7 I think I am going to turn it back to Mark.  
8 Thank you.  
9 MR. STOPHER: So the Draft EIRs were released  
10 to the public in -- was it early October, mid October?  
11 The 10th of October. So they have been available for a  
12 week -- five weeks, and you have another three weeks or  
13 so to get public comments in. It's a 60-day period. We  
14 are accepting written and oral comments tonight.  
15 Everything you say will be recorded by the  
16 court reporter and put in the record. We have some  
17 comment forms if you would like to write something down  
18 as a comment tonight and leave that with us. If you have  
19 already prepared a letter, that's fine. We will take  
20 that tonight.  
21 You can also provide verbal testimony tonight  
22 and follow up with a letter during the comment period as  
23 well. We will accept both letters and electronic mail.  
24 If you are going to send a document by mail, though,  
25 please try to have it postmarked by December 9th at five

Comment Letter 52

27

1 p.m.  
2 Is that a Monday, Bob?  
3 MR. WILLIAMS: It is a Tuesday.  
4 MR. STOPHER: That will conclude the 60-day  
5 comment period. And we will take those comments, we will  
6 assimilate them and prepare responses again to every  
7 comment. There will be an appendix in the back of the  
8 EIR, and it could become quite lengthy.  
9 I once worked on an EIR where we had 18,000  
10 comments and responded to every one. We will certainly  
11 respond to every one here. And we will incorporate  
12 suggestions that cause us to make modifications into the  
13 Final Environmental Impact Report that we release to the  
14 public next winter. Our projection is around the first  
15 part of March.  
16 So, for tonight's hearing, we have some speaker  
17 cards up here already. If you want to speak, please fill  
18 out a three-by-five card. All we need is your name.  
19 Just to let us know how many people we have for  
20 that, of the people what have already indicated they wish  
21 to speak, does anybody think they will take more than  
22 five minutes for their testimony? Just so I have an  
23 idea. Unless we get a lot more cards, there's no reason  
24 to put time limits on people. We have seven cards up  
25 here already. We won't have any time limit.

Comment Letter 52

28

1 We will accept comments on either document,  
2 meaning if you were unable to attend the Scott Valley  
3 meeting last evening and you have comments on that, we  
4 will accept those tonight. Comments on anything on the  
5 Shasta EIR will be accepted as well.  
6 The comments -- the ones that will be most  
7 useful to us will be those that are comments to the  
8 approach that we used to describe the environmental  
9 setting, the accuracy and completeness of our  
10 environmental analysis; recommendations on mitigation  
11 measures, those are perfectly appropriate.  
12 We are not able to respond to the comments  
13 tonight. For example, if you say, "Why did you develop  
14 that mitigation measure," that would be your comment.  
15 "Please explain why you developed that mitigation  
16 measure." There is not going to be a back-and-forth  
17 dialogue about that tonight.  
18 All responses to comments will be in writing  
19 and available in the public record to everybody, whether  
20 they attended this meeting or not, and will become part  
21 of the Final EIRs.  
22 I might add that the Final EIR is a decision  
23 document under the California Environmental Quality Act.  
24 There is not an additional review period for that. It is  
25 an information document at that point in time. You can

## Comment Letter 52

29

1 provide us comments if you want, but we have already made  
2 the decision and it isn't going to -- the process is then  
3 complete with respect to -- with respect to CEQA.

4 It does start a 30-day clock for anybody who  
5 believes that we failed to proceed in the manner required  
6 by law to file their lawsuit if they wish to. However,  
7 we can begin implementation as soon as we certify the  
8 document and provide notice to the state clearinghouse.

9 I believe I already said we have comment cards  
10 or sheets of paper for you to fill out. You can get  
11 those from Bob tonight if you wish.

12 We have compact disks of the EIR available here  
13 tonight. You can go to the Department of Fish and Game  
14 website at this location and download it. It might take  
15 you a while on the computer to do that but it's readily  
16 accessible there.

17 It's also available for inspection at the  
18 libraries in Etna, Fort Jones, Montague, Mt. Shasta,  
19 Weed, Yreka, and Redding. It is available at the  
20 California Department of Fish and Game offices, the Yreka  
21 screen shop, the Shasta Valley wildlife area at the  
22 office in Redding, and also at our office in Eureka. And  
23 it's available at the Resource Conservation District  
24 offices in Etna and Yreka.

25 we do not have a large number of the hardbound

## Comment Letter 52

30

1 copies. We have distributed pretty much all that we  
2 have. There were a limited number, quite expensive.

3 Written comments again go to Bob Williams,  
4 Department of Fish and Game, 601 Locust Street. You can  
5 send by regular mail, fax them to him, or you can e-mail  
6 them to either one of these e-mail addresses.

7 Is that the last one?

8 So does anybody else wish to speak tonight that  
9 hasn't already submitted a speaker card.

10 There are 28 or 29 of you here. We only have  
11 seven cards. I have not known people in Shasta Valley to  
12 be shy.

13 Again, there is no specific time limit. The  
14 critical thing in providing testimony, if you come up  
15 front, that would be nice. But if you can speak from the  
16 back and speak loudly and clearly enough for our court  
17 reporter to hear you, that will probably work, too. If  
18 it doesn't, we will stop you and ask you to come forward.

19 The first thing you need to do, though, for the  
20 record is to state your name clearly so that we can get  
21 that in the record.

22 So Dan is going to go through the cards and ask  
23 people to come up. I put them in order.

24 MR. SICULAR: The first speaker is Jim Cook,  
25 followed by Blair Smith.



1 MR. COOK: Actually, because I am representing  
2 the County or the county supervisors, I would prefer to  
3 last so I can support the speakers in front of me.

4 MR. STOPHER: Mr. Smith?

5 MR. SMITH: I am Blair Smith from Little  
6 Shasta. And I do want it recorded as a matter of record.

7 I would like to talk to the adjudicated water  
8 rights. I got the book and I read the last half it on  
9 the water rights. I haven't finished the first half.  
10 That is quite a challenge, really. But I will go ahead  
11 with it. However, tonight a neighbor has it and he is  
12 reading it. So the more people who get ahold of that,  
13 the better.

52.1-1

14 And I would like to read a couple of articles  
15 out of the ITP. And this is on page 839, and it is the  
16 top of the first item, water diversions.

17 Water diversions covered under this category  
18 include only the diversions of surface water through a  
19 conduit or opening from streams, channels or sloughs in  
20 the Shasta River watershed by an agricultural operator  
21 for agricultural purposes in accordance with valid water  
22 rights, including one specified in the following court  
23 decree. That's the Shasta River adjudication proceedings  
24 of 1932.

52.1-2

25 And we were pleased to see that included in



1       there.

2                   And then it contradicts itself in a way  
3 because, coming back to page 30 and at the bottom of the  
4 page, the paragraph says, for the purpose of the permit,  
5 strained stranding is defined as a situation in which  
6 coho salmon are in a location with poor adequate habitat  
7 conditions due to reduction in flow from which they  
8 cannot escape.

9                   The department shall instruct DWR -- and I  
10 question that point -- to reduce or cease the diversion  
11 and/or change the timing or manner of the diversion and  
12 take any other measures within DWR's control that the  
13 department determines unnecessary to correct or avoid  
14 stranding.

15                   And DWR shall implement these measures  
16 immediately. However, before DWR instructing DWR as  
17 described above, the department will avoid such take by  
18 some means other than by reducing or ceasing the  
19 diversion or changing the timing or manner of the  
20 diversion, all in accordance with Section 18.

21                   What bothers us about that, that indicates that  
22 the Department of Fish and Game, if they feel that  
23 downstream that the fish aren't getting enough water,  
24 they can take our adjudicated water to increase the water  
25 flow in the stream.

52.1-2  
cont.



1                   And the water they are taking is a private  
 2                   property right that we use in our living. We have to  
 3                   irrigate our irrigation lands. In other words, you are  
 4                   taking money out of our pockets, you might say.

5                   I have talked with some of the Fish and Game  
 6                   people and hoped that they could find another source of  
 7                   water to implement that stream rather than take our  
 8                   adjudicated water rights. So far, they haven't come up  
 9                   with an answer on that particular aspect. This  
 10                  particular taking is a serious matter as far as our  
 11                  adjudicated water rights are concerned.

12                  And we certainly don't favor that action at  
 13                  all.

14                  MR. STOPHER: Thank you.

15                  MR. SICULAR: Richard Kuck, followed by Jack  
 16                  Rogenbuck.

17                  MR. KUCK: I am Richard Kuck, chairman of  
 18                  Shasta Valley RCD at this present time.

19                  And we have put together some of our  
 20                  concerns that we feel we are going to have problems in  
 21                  implementing this program.

22                  And I would like to start off by saying the  
 23                  Shasta Valley Resource District has taken this  
 24                  opportunity to formally comment upon the Shasta River  
 25                  watershed-wide permitting program. While the district



52.1-2  
cont.



52.2-1

1 supports a watershed approach to permitting for  
2 incidental take, ITP, and 1600 permit coverage, we have  
3 some concerns regarding the program as it is written  
4 now. The following is a list of our concerns:

52.2-1  
cont.

5 Funding of mitigation projects: As the master  
6 permit holder, RCD has taken on the responsibility of  
7 implementing the mitigation measures for the permit. It  
8 has always been our concern that current funding relied  
9 upon for implementation of projects may not be available  
10 to fund projects once they are considered as mitigation  
11 for the permit.

12 The Shasta Valley RCD has initiated contact  
13 with funders to request a formal determination by each  
14 respective agency as to whether they could continue  
15 funding the projects listed as mitigation measures for  
16 this permit. To date, NRCS and Fish and Wildlife Service  
17 determined that they still will be able to fund  
18 mitigation under this permit.

52.2-2

19 Shasta Valley RCD has not, however, received  
20 any official word of other funding sources such as NOAA,  
21 BOR, California State Resource Control Board, the US  
22 Forest Service and private entities.

23 So that brings up another concern, future  
24 funding allocations: In light of the current economic  
25 situation, both federal and statewide, we would like to



1 formally express concerns about significant budget cuts  
2 that may affect the RCDs' and the landowners' ability to  
3 implement activities identified in this permit.

4 The Shasta Valley RCD would like to recommend  
5 that efforts begin both at state and federal levels to  
6 secure funding to support ongoing activities identified  
7 in this permit, budget shortfalls.

8 Success rate of riparian planting: This has  
9 been a big issue with us. During the development of the  
10 permitting program, staff and board, Shasta Valley RCD,  
11 has continually expressed concerns over the requirements  
12 of the master list of terms and conditions requiring 80  
13 percent success rate of riparian planting after five  
14 years, page B-24.

15 In over 20 years of conducting riparian  
16 planting projects in the Shasta River watershed, we have  
17 never been able to achieve this level of success in  
18 plantings and feel that this requirement is unreasonable,  
19 unrealistic, and virtually sets the RCD and the  
20 landowners implementing projects up for failure.

21 The RCD is a member of the Shasta River  
22 Riparian Working Group, one of whose goals is to begin  
23 understanding why past planting efforts have not been  
24 successful to develop and recommend methods to ensure  
25 that future planting efforts will be successful.

52.2-2  
cont.

52.2-3



1           The Shasta RCD strongly recommends that success  
 2           criteria identified in the MLTC rely on the  
 3           recommendations and findings determined by the  
 4           multi-agency working group of which the California  
 5           Department of Fish and Game is a member.

6           Furthermore, requiring an unrealistic success  
 7           rate of riparian planting in five years is inconsistent  
 8           with the time lines associated with many grant funds,  
 9           including funds through the California Department of Fish  
 10          and Game Fishery Restoration Grant Program.

11          And therefore, burdens to achieve this  
 12          unrealistic success rate at the end of five years will  
 13          fall unfunded, therefore unsupported, and on the  
 14          shoulders of the RCD and the landowners.

15          Limitations of grazing management for riparian  
 16          areas: The incidental take permit, page A-24 E5, states  
 17          that approved grazing management plans must show how  
 18          grazing will result in improved riparian function and  
 19          enhance aquatic habitat.

20          However, the Draft EIR, the ITP, does not  
 21          specifically mention how improved riparian functions or  
 22          enhanced aquatic habitat is measured or determined and  
 23          leaves this determination to interpretation and is very  
 24          subjective.

25          Additional clarification is needed in how this

52.2-3  
cont.

52.2-4

1 will be measured.

2 Secondly, grazing management has been shown in  
3 numerous studies to benefit riparian areas if done  
4 correctly. Requiring that riparian function and enhanced  
5 aquatic habitat occurs before obtaining permission to  
6 graze could limit grazing's ability to manage for  
7 invasives or to improve overall success of riparian  
8 growth along waterways.

52.2-4  
cont.

9 This is our last big issue. I think everyone  
10 is having a problem with that.

11 It's compliance monitoring: Attachment three  
12 of the incidental take permit's monitoring and adaptive  
13 management plan's Compliance monitoring section, A-45,  
14 lists RCD as being responsible for determining if a  
15 subpermittee is fulfilling the terms and conditions of  
16 their subpermit.

52.2-5

17 It also states that RCD shall immediately  
18 notify the department of subpermittees who the RCD  
19 believes are not fulfilling or implementing a term or  
20 condition of the subpermit.

21 The RCD has strong concerns with a Shasta  
22 Valley RCD functioning in a regulatory capacity in the  
23 form of compliance monitoring.

24 Division nine, chapter 13, article nine, of the  
25 general powers of the district gives no regulatory



1 enforcement ability to the district.

2 Further, RCD is concerned about the perception  
3 by the community of the RCD in any regulatory role and  
4 does not want this permitting program to jeopardize the  
5 trust gained by the community and the RCD's ability to  
6 continue assisting landowners with meeting permit  
7 obligations.

↑  
52.2-5  
cont.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. STOPHER: Thank you. Richard, are you  
10 going to be providing that in writing?

11 MR. KUCK: Yep.

12 MR. STOPHER: The next speaker is Jack  
13 Rogebuck, followed by Brian Favero.

14 MR. ROGENBUCK: My name is Jack Rogebuck. I  
15 am a landowner on the Shasta River.

16 I would like to say that I find the document  
17 very thorough, so much so that you included monitoring  
18 endangered bird species as part of the coho salmon  
19 habitat rehabilitation effort. And as a consequence of  
20 that, you have working periods to which you can work on  
21 your diversion that are in conflict and it actually  
22 shortens your working period.

↓  
52.3-1

23 And that led me to think about the addition of  
24 a flow chart in the document that will help a landowner  
25 understand what the time frames are when they have to



1 proceed to notify the RCD or DFG to work in the streambed  
2 doing maintenance on the diversion or whatever it is they  
3 have to do.

52.3-1  
cont.

4 Secondly, as Richard said, I found no  
5 discussion in the document on measured outcomes. I had a  
6 hard time understanding why we are going to go through  
7 this effort for ten years without knowing what are we  
8 trying to get to at the end of the line and making all  
9 this expense by either public entities or regulatory  
10 agencies or private landowners, without knowing what we  
11 are going to try and achieve. Are we going to get one  
12 more fish up the river? Are we going to get a hundred  
13 fish or what? What is the objective? How are we going  
14 to measure it?

52.3-2

15 So I had to agree with what Richard said  
16 wholeheartedly, and I hope that that is addressed  
17 further.

18 Lastly, I am going to submit all of this in  
19 writing with a whole bunch of other comments, but the big  
20 thing that I really came here to say was, if everybody  
21 here agrees that the watershed approach is in the  
22 complete public interest, not just landowners, not just  
23 the regulatory entities impacting the river itself, but  
24 everybody in the State of California, it is a public  
25 interest effort, then I liken what we are doing here to

52.3-3

1 what Caltrans does when they go out and build a freeway.  
2 They work with the landowner and they pay the landowner  
3 for the right to cross their land and take it from their  
4 private ownership.

5 That's not the case in what I read here, in  
6 that you are going to require the landowners to pay to  
7 develop, repair and maintain the facility. Caltrans  
8 doesn't require the private property owner which they  
9 brought the highway for to develop it, maintain it and  
10 repair it. They bear that cost.

11 As such, I think that should be the  
12 responsibility of the regulatory agency. If I came to  
13 you and said, "Hey, I am going to build a project," I  
14 should bear the cost for that. But if you come to me,  
15 RCD is going to come -- DFG is going to come and say, "We  
16 think you need to do this, this, and this," then I think  
17 those are the entities that are on the hook for that. I  
18 am giving up portions of my private property already,  
19 and as Mr. Blair said there, that my water right is an  
20 adjudicated right.

21 You start taking that away -- and it says here  
22 does not affect existing water rights. If I don't have a  
23 1602 or 1605 permit, you have taken away my right,  
24 because I can't draw water out of the river then and I  
25 might still have an impact, so on, so forth, so I am



52.3-3  
cont.

1 being forced to comply and sign on for this program.

2 In a sense, you are taking my private property  
3 out there when you come and look and say, "Well, we need  
4 you to do this, this and this," you have to fence so many  
5 feet away as it said in this document from the center of  
6 stream.

7 You take 35 feet of pastureland away on either  
8 side, in some cases in my property I can't get to other  
9 portions of the ranch then because it is already in what  
10 I call your jurisdiction.

11 So, I think that there has to be some other  
12 effort and analysis done on requiring landowners to pay  
13 or not. And I am not too keen on the idea about coming  
14 in and saying, "Well, you have to do this and you have to  
15 do that," if your baseline was, "Here is what you have  
16 been doing and nobody has had a problem with it."

17 I had a 1602 permit for maintenance on our  
18 diversion seven years ago. I did the initial study  
19 following all of Fish and Game's requirements. I have  
20 done all of the work. We did a renewal of that.

21 And it's my understanding when this starts,  
22 that permit is gone, null and void. It seems  
23 counterproductive to me. And the way this is written and  
24 how I read it, the incentive to participate is going by  
25 quicker every day.

52.3-3  
cont.

52.3-4

1 I will submit the rest of my comments in  
2 writing before the deadline. Thank you for this  
3 opportunity.

↑  
52.3-4  
cont.

4 MR. SICULAR: Thank you.  
5 Brian Favero followed by Malina Marvin.

6 MR. SICULAR: Yes. My name is Brian Favero.  
7 And I do believe I am going to rescind my privilege to  
8 speak in favor of written comments that I will submit  
9 prior to December 9th. Thank you.

↑  
52.4-1

10 MR. SICULAR: Malina Marvin followed by Tom  
11 Wetter (phonetic).

12 MS. MARVIN: I am Malina Marvin. I am with  
13 Klamath River Keeper. We are preparing substantive  
14 technical comments which we will submit by December 9th  
15 in writing.

16 There are a few issues we just want to go over,  
17 since you have guys came all the way here.

18 And one thing we did want to communicate is you  
19 guys have put a lot of hard work into this. The RCDs  
20 have put a lot of hard work into this as well. And we  
21 appreciate everyone's time and energy.

52.5-1

22 I think everyone has more or less the same  
23 goals in mind. And that said, I want to offer our take,  
24 no pun intended, in as constructive of a way as I can.

25 Our primary issue right now -- and again, we're

↓  
52.5-2

1 still just going through this document, but our primary  
2 issue is that it has got a dangerous emphasis on what I  
3 call bandaid solutions and dangerous avoidance of the big  
4 picture of what a restoration has to look like on the  
5 Scott and Shasta Rivers.

6 We can't keep looking at symptoms and dealing  
7 with symptoms without addressing the root cause of those  
8 symptoms. While in some ways this particular document is  
9 not intended to address root causes, it might end up  
10 perpetuating them by only addressing symptoms.

11 I think that in this day and age, you know, if  
12 we can put a man on the moon, we can figure out how to  
13 fully restore the Scott and Shasta Rivers so everyone can  
14 be satisfied.

15 And to that end, I think the Klamath River  
16 Keeper feels like there is only one way we are going to  
17 keep the ESA, the Endangered Species Act, burden off the  
18 backs of the landowners in the Scott and Shasta Valley.  
19 The only way to do that is to fully restore these  
20 watersheds. And while landowners and RCDs have made huge  
21 strides for restoration, people have worked very hard and  
22 poured a ton of money and time and energy into it, a lot  
23 of that work is going to be in vain if we ignore the  
24 elephant in the room.

25 As far as we are concerned, those are the

52.5-2  
cont.

52.5-3

1 Dwinnell dam on the Shasta River and the groundwater  
2 pumping on the Scott. We feel the Shasta Draft  
3 Environmental Impact Report rejects Dwinnell dam removal  
4 on indefensible grounds, and we will go into that in our  
5 written comments, and the same with groundwater pumping  
6 on the Scott River.

52.5-3  
cont.

7 There is a point at which, you know, all of the  
8 riprap and boulder weirs and large debris aren't going to  
9 get us anywhere if fish can't get upstream and if there  
10 is no water for them to let them swim through.

11 Aside from all of that, we have also concern  
12 about financial assures for mitigation of the projects.  
13 We are sure that concerns a lot of people. We don't want  
14 to see financial burdens put on the landowners. It just  
15 kind of shoots the program in the foot and creates a lot  
16 of -- a lot more problems than it solves.

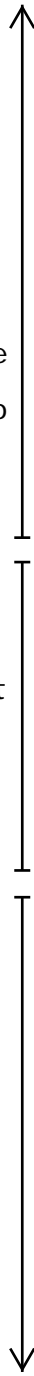
52.5-4

17 And then another big concern for us is that  
18 programmatic ITPs are intended to extend coverage for  
19 take to activities or restoration projects that would  
20 otherwise be considered legal.

21 So you have got to know that this blanket ITP  
22 is covering diversions, water rights that are legal and  
23 that the public can see that.

52.5-5

24 Siskiyou County is moving towards private  
25 watermaster service, and Klamath River Keeper has



1 significant concern that we are going to lose public  
2 access to the water data. And we don't see any  
3 provisions within the DEIRs that are going to point out  
4 who is following the letter of the law and who is not.

52.5-5  
cont.

5 And so as an organization that defends  
6 environmental laws, we have to raise the question when we  
7 can't see how environmental laws are going to be complied  
8 with through this EIR.

9 That's the bulk of my concerns at the moment.  
10 We are still reading through this and are interested in  
11 hearing what other community members think.

52.5-6

12 Ultimately, our organization functions to  
13 represent the public interest in water quality and  
14 fisheries on the Klamath and its tributaries. And we  
15 thank you for your time.

16 MR. SICULAR: Thank you.

17 Next speaker, Tom Wetter. And there are no  
18 other speakers, and the last would be Jim Cook.

52.6-1

19 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Tom may not have made  
20 it. He has another meeting.

21 MR. SICULAR: We will go ahead and move to  
22 Jim.

23 Anybody else wish to speak? I think Jim wanted  
24 to go last. Anybody else wish to add to their prior  
25 comments?

1 MR. COOK: I am disappointed. I wanted to  
2 hear somebody else talk for a while.

3 I am representing solely myself as a Board of  
4 Supervisors member. I am not representing the Board of  
5 Supervisors at this time. We will be preparing  
6 additional comments as the board.

7 I am also representing Michael Kobseff, who is  
8 another member of the Board of Supervisors. His district  
9 also includes the Shasta River.

10 My review is not complete, nor is the County's  
11 review complete. We will be completing that review and  
12 submitting comments as a board and probably as  
13 individuals.

52.7-1

14 I do believe that this watershed-wide permit  
15 idea is the correct way of doing this permit rather than  
16 individuals.

17 I want to start right off saying the idea to  
18 start off was a good one and still is a good one. And I  
19 believe, as a board and as individuals, we will  
20 eventually agree with the major conclusions as I  
21 understand them now and as you presented them, the major  
22 conclusions being that this permit will make all of the  
23 impacts less than significant.

24 However, I believe that some of the mitigation  
25 measures are excessive, some them may not be necessary,

52.7-2



1 and some of them will be unclear. We will be working  
 2 with the RCD. You have already heard some of their  
 3 concerns. And we will be submitting those comments,  
 4 also.

↑  
 52.7-2  
 cont.

5 I understand that you were given comments by  
 6 another supervisor, Marcia Armstrong, on the Scott  
 7 River. I was not at that meeting and, as I understand  
 8 her comments, I would like her comments translated to the  
 9 -- from the Scott to Shasta, also. I believe some of  
 10 those were in procedure.

11 We're not sure that your procedure has been  
 12 entirely correct. And just as some of our friends from  
 13 the environmental community who just love to sue  
 14 everybody over procedure, I think that you could have  
 15 done a different procedure or modified the procedure to  
 16 be a little more effective.

52.7-3

17 For instance, this is a hearing and you are not  
 18 answering questions. I think you could have had a  
 19 meeting to begin with and answered those "why" type of  
 20 questions that she suggested.

21 But I would like to thank the audience for  
 22 being here. I hope they do submit substantive comments  
 23 on this document about how it is going to affect their  
 24 properties and their livelihoods because they are the  
 25 actual people who made the dinner that you guys all ate

52.7-4  
 ↓

1 tonight, and I would hope that they would make comments  
2 about how this affects them and we will be making  
3 comments.

↑  
52.7-4  
cont.

4 And thank you for coming.

5 MR. STOPHER: Has anybody reconsidered and  
6 wish to speak tonight?

7 Well, that concludes the public hearing.

8 Again, there is a couple of more weeks to help  
9 provide additional testimony.

10 Following the close of the comment period, as I  
11 have already said, we will be going through those  
12 comments and considering any information that you provide  
13 that might cause us to reevaluate, reconsider, and make  
14 different choices. And we will be working with the RCDs  
15 and local individuals and local entities to do some  
16 outreach where we have further informal dialogue that we  
17 were unable to have tonight.

18 I do thank you for coming. We appreciate your  
19 comments on this topic.

20 (Whereupon the public hearing was concluded  
21 at 8:10 p.m.)

22 \* \* \*

23

24

25

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
2 COUNTY OF SISKIYOU ) ss

3

4 I, RONALD W. COLEMAN, CSR 1596, Court Reporter,  
5 County of Siskiyou, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
6 transcript, consisting of pages 1 through 48, is a true,  
7 complete, and correct transcription of my shorthand notes  
8 taken on November 19, 2008, in the aforementioned matter.

9 Executed this 4th day of December, 2008, at Yreka,  
10 California.

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RONALD W. COLEMAN, CSR

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# CHAPTER 4

## Text Changes to the Draft EIR

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The following edits have been made to the Draft EIR and incorporated as part of the Final EIR. Where edits have been made, the changes are underlined and deletions of the text are shown as ~~strikeout~~.

Draft EIR Page S-4

- **Monitoring Program**

The ITP will require SQRCD to establish a monitoring program to track the implementation of the mitigation measures for which it is responsible, and to determine the effectiveness of those measures in improving conditions for coho salmon. ~~determine whether or not Agricultural Operators are fulfilling the terms and conditions required by their sub-permits, and to determine the effectiveness of the conditions in the ITP and sub-permits to avoid, minimize, and fully mitigate the incidental take of coho salmon in the Program Area.~~ Sub-permittees are responsible for monitoring the terms and condition of their sub-permit. SQRCD will be available to assist sub-permittees in fulfilling monitoring responsibilities related to the diversion of water and livestock or vehicle crossings. CDFG is responsible for any and all compliance monitoring.

Draft EIR Page S-6

The Program already contains several provisions to increase instream flows, including SQRCD's ITP Flow Enhancement Mitigation Obligation (Article XIII.E.2.(a)), Additional SQRCD and Sub-Permittee Avoidance and Minimization Obligation A: Water Management (Article XV), Additional SQRCD and Sub-Permittee Avoidance and Minimization Obligation J: Maintain Connectivity of Tributaries in the Mainstem (Article XV), and MLTC Condition 26 ~~25~~ (bypass flows at diversions).

**TABLE S-1  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM**

Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Significance after Mitigation
<p><b>3.2 Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality</b></p>		
<p><b>3.2-1:</b> Certain construction activities performed under the Program could result in increased erosion and sedimentation and/or pollutant (e.g., fuels and lubricants) loading to surface waterways, which could increase turbidity, suspended solids, settleable solids, or otherwise decrease water quality in surface waterways (Significant).</p>	<p><b>3.2-1c:</b> The MLTC includes the following conditions which will reduce the potential for construction-related impacts to water quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Water Diversions: Conditions <del>33, 36, and 41</del> <u>31, 34, and 39</u>;</li> <li>C. Instream Structures: Conditions <del>62, 64-66</del> <u>58-60</u>;</li> <li>E. Use of Vehicles in Wetted Portions of Streams: Conditions <del>73-75</del> <u>65-67</u>;</li> <li>F. Pollution Control: Conditions <del>76-84</del> <u>68-75</u>;</li> <li>G. Erosion and Sediment Control: Conditions <del>85-93</del> <u>76-84</u>;</li> <li>I. Dewatering: Conditions 98-101, 103, 105-107 <del>89-92, 94, 96-98</del>;</li> <li>J. Ground-Disturbing Activities: Condition <del>122</del> <u>408</u>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.2-3:</b> Installation and operation of instream structures permitted under the Program could alter channel stability and degrade water quality by increasing turbidity downstream (Significant).</p>	<p><b>3.2-3b:</b> MLTC Conditions <del>37, 43, 47, and 55</del> <u>35, 41, 45, and 53</u> would ensure that boulder weirs are sized to resist wash-out and do not create lifts in the stream channel that exceed twelve (12) inches, and that instream structures shall be designed and implemented in accordance with CDFG's Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual.</p>	
<p><b>3.3 Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat</b></p>		
<p><b>3.3-1:</b> Construction, maintenance, and other instream activities associated with various Covered Activities may result in impacts to fisheries resources and their habitat (Significant).</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures Identified in this Draft EIR</b></p> <p><b>3.3-1c:</b> ITP General Conditions (g) and (h) (Article XIII.E.1) limit the season for instream equipment operations and work related to structural restoration projects to the period of July 1 through October <del>15</del> <u>31</u>. Similarly, ITP Additional Avoidance and Minimization Measure D (Livestock and Vehicle Crossings) and conditions in the MLTC limit the use of stream crossings to the same period. <del>However, based on adult coho salmon observations in the Scott River (Quigley, 2006a), as well as documented migration timing in the adjacent Shasta River watershed (Hampton, 2006), coho salmon may enter the Scott River prior to October 31. Furthermore, the Chinook salmon spawning season occurs even earlier in the season, depending on streamflows. Therefore, as specified under Mitigation Measure 3.2-1d (Chapter 3.2 Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality), the season for instream construction activities, equipment operations, and stream crossing utilization shall be limited to the period of July 1 through October 15. If weather conditions permit and the stream is dry or at its lowest flow, instream construction activities and equipment operations may continue after October 15, provided a written request is made to CDFG at least five days before the proposed work period variance. Written approval from CDFG for the proposed work period variance must be received by SQRCD or</del></p>	

**TABLE S-1 (Continued)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM**

Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Significance after Mitigation
<p>3.3 Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat (cont.)</p> <p>3.3-1 (cont.)</p>	<p>Agricultural Operator prior to the start or continuation of work after October 15.</p> <p>If work is performed after October 15 as provided above, SQRCD or Agricultural Operator will do all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the 72 hour forecast from the National Weather Service. When there is a forecast of more than 30 percent chance of rain, or at the onset of any precipitation, the work shall cease.</li> <li>• Stage erosion and sediment control materials at the work site. When there is a forecast of more than 30 percent chance of rain, or at the onset of any precipitation, implement erosion and sediment control measures.</li> </ul>	
<p>3.4 Biological Resources: Botany, Wildlife, and Wetlands</p> <p>3.4-1: The Program could result in impacts to special-status plant or animal species (Significant).</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures Proposed as Part of the Program</b></p> <p><b>3.4-1a:</b> ITP General Conditions (g) and (h) (Article XIII.E.1) stipulate that instream work on structural restoration projects and instream equipment operations shall occur from July 1 to October <del>15</del> <del>31</del>. This restricts noise and other sources of disturbance during most of the nesting season for special status riparian birds.</p> <p><b>3.4-1c:</b> Master List of Terms and Conditions (MLTC) Condition <del>109</del> <del>400</del> stipulates that, prior to ground-disturbing activities, work sites shall be surveyed for special-status plant species by a qualified botanist. Special-status plant surveys shall be conducted following the <i>Guidelines for Assessing Effects of Proposed Projects on Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities</i> (CDFG, 2000). The survey report, including the methodology and survey findings, shall be provided to CDFG for review and approval prior to any ground-disturbing activities. MLTC condition <del>110</del> <del>404</del> further states that if any special-status plant species are identified at a work site, CDFG shall identify one or more of the following protective measures, but not limited to these measures, to be implemented at the project site before work may proceed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fencing to prevent accidental disturbance of special-status plants during construction;</li> <li>• On-site monitoring by a qualified botanist during construction to assure that special-status plants are not disturbed; and/or</li> <li>• Redesign of proposed work to avoid disturbance of special-status plant species</li> </ul>	

**TABLE S-1 (Continued)  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM**

Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Significance after Mitigation
<p>3.3 Biological Resources: Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat (cont.)</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures Proposed as Part of the Program</b></p> <p><b>3.4-3a:</b> ITP Additional SQRCD and Sub-Permittee Avoidance and Minimization Obligation E.5 (Article XV) stipulates that livestock grazing be done in accordance with a grazing management plan prepared by the sub-permittee and approved by CDFG. The grazing management plan shall address the timing, duration, and intensity (<u>number of livestock allowable per unit area [i.e., stocking rate]</u>) of livestock grazing within the riparian zone and shall explain how the proposed management plan will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat. <u>Grazing plans completed in accordance with the ITP shall include, in addition to other specified requirements, a means to prohibit livestock in live streams.</u></p>	<p>Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.4-3a and 3.4-3b will reduce the impact to less than significant.</p>
<p><b>3.4-3:</b> ITP Covered Activity 10, the grazing of livestock within the <u>riparian exclusion zone bed, bank, or channel of a stream</u> different from current operations (i.e., not part of baseline conditions), could impact sensitive habitat and special-status species (Significant).</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures Identified in this Draft EIR</b></p> <p><b>3.4-3b:</b> <del>The ITP stipulation noted in Mitigation Measure 3.4-3a does not constitute complete mitigation because the actual restriction is not sufficiently specific. Mitigation Measure 3.4-3b clarifies “intensity” to stipulate the number of livestock allowable per unit area (i.e., stocking rate) per unit of time. Grazing plans completed in accordance with the ITP shall include, in addition to other specified requirements, a means to prohibit livestock in live streams.</del></p>	
<p>3.5 Cultural Resources</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures Proposed as Part of the Program</b></p> <p><b>3.5-1a:</b> Master List of Terms and Conditions (MLTC) Condition <del>111c</del> <b>402</b> states that prior to any ground-disturbing activities, the responsible party shall contract with at least one qualified archaeologist and paleontologist to complete cultural and paleontological resource surveys, to identify any previously recorded and unknown historical resources, unique archeological resources, or unique paleontological resources, using standard survey protocols. The survey report must be provided to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for review and approval prior to any ground-disturbing activities.</p> <p><b>3.5-1b:</b> MLTC Condition <del>112</del> <b>403</b> notes that if any potentially significant historical resources, unique archaeological resources and/or paleontological resources are identified at the work site, CDFG shall consult with the consulting archaeologist or paleontologist to identify one or more of the following protective measures, or site specific measures, to be implemented at the project site before work may proceed:</p>	<p>Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.5-1a through 3.5-1b would reduce the potential impacts to known and unknown cultural resources to a less-than-significant level.</p>
<p><b>3.5-1:</b> Impacts to known and unknown cultural resources may result either directly or indirectly during the implementation and operational phases of a Covered Activity under the Program (Significant).</p>		

**TABLE S-1 (Continued)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM**

Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Significance after Mitigation
<p>3.5 Cultural Resources (cont.)</p> <p>3.5-1 (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign of proposed work to avoid disturbance of cultural or paleontological resources;</li> <li>• Fencing to prevent accidental disturbance of cultural or paleontological resources during construction; and/or</li> </ul> <p>On-site monitoring by a cultural and/or paleontological resource professional during construction to assure that resources are not disturbed.</p> <p><b>3.5-1c:</b> MLTC Condition <del>116</del> 404 states that the responsible party shall report any previously unknown historical resources, unique archaeological resources, and paleontological remains discovered at the site to CDFG and other appropriate agencies.</p> <p><b>3.5-1d:</b> MLTC Condition <del>117</del> 405 states that if cultural resources such as lithic debitage, groundstone, historic debris, building foundations, or bone are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work shall cease within 20 meters (66 feet) of the discovery. Furthermore, work near archaeological finds shall not resume until a professional archaeologist has evaluated the materials and offered recommendations for further action.</p> <p><b>3.5-1e:</b> MLTC Condition <del>122</del> 408 states that the responsible party shall instruct all persons who will be completing any ground-disturbing activity at a worksite to comply with conditions set forth in the SAA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and to inspect each work site before, during and after completion of ground-disturbing activity at the work site.</p> <p><b><i>Mitigation Measures Identified in this Draft EIR</i></b></p> <p><b>3.5-1f:</b> Prior to carrying out MLTC Condition <del>111c</del> 402, <u>the archaeologist/paleontologist shall; a.) contact the Native American Heritage Commission for a Sacred Lands File check and a list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site and, if necessary, to assist with the development of mitigation measures; and b.) make a determination shall first be made</u> as to whether the area has had an adequate archaeological survey by a professional archaeologist and whether any historic or prehistoric sites have been recorded within a ¼-mile radius of the project area. This records review may be conducted at NE/CHRIS on a case-by-case basis for each project. Alternatively, a professional archaeologist will be contracted to conduct a watershed-wide records search at NE/CHRIS and prepare a map showing the previous surveys and recorded sites. An update of this information would then be prepared at least every two years. This map, which will show the locations of archaeological sites, would be considered confidential and made available only to individuals on an as-needed basis.</p>	



**TABLE S-1 (Continued)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM**

Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Significance after Mitigation
<p>3.5 Cultural Resources (cont.)</p> <p>3.5-1 (cont.)</p>	<p><b>3.5-1g:</b> If none of the protective measures described in MLTC Condition <u>112 403</u> can be implemented, then an archaeological data recovery program (ADRP) shall be implemented, unless the professional archaeologist determines that the archaeological resource is of greater interpretive use than research significance and that interpretive use of the resource is feasible. The project archaeologist and CDFG shall meet and consult to determine the scope of the ADRP, and the project archaeologist shall prepare a research design for the project which shall be submitted to CDFG for review and approval. This document shall identify how the proposed data recovery program would preserve the significant information the archaeological resource is expected to contain. The document will specifically identify the scientific/historical research questions being asked, the archaeological resources' expected data classes, and how the expected data classes would address the applicable research questions. Following approval of the plan by CDFG, the ADRP shall be implemented and a report prepared.</p> <p>Data recovery, in general, should be limited to the portions of the historical property that could be adversely affected by the proposed project. Destructive data recovery methods shall not be applied to portions of the archaeological resources if nondestructive methods are practical. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be, as necessary, subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and a report shall be prepared by a qualified archaeologist according to current professional standards. <u>If the recovered artifacts are from a prehistoric site, the local Native American groups will be consulted relative to the disposition of these materials.</u></p> <p><b>3.5-1h:</b> If built historical resources (e.g. structures, buildings, or similar) that qualify for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources (CEQA <i>Guidelines</i>, § 15064.5) are identified through the implementation of measure MLTC Condition <u>111c 402</u> and cannot be avoided through implementation of measure MLTC Condition <u>112 403</u>, SQRCD or the Agricultural Operator will comply with the <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> (Standards) which would, in accordance with CEQA <i>Guidelines</i>, § 15064.5(b)(3), reduce potential impacts associated with the alteration or modification of a historical resource (including historic districts and individually eligible resources) to a less-than-significant level.</p> <p>If both avoidance and compliance with the Standards are infeasible, the Covered Activity in question shall be changed or not pursued, such that the historical resource is not destroyed or altered. Activities that would result in such disturbance are not authorized under the Program because SQRCD or the Agricultural Operator would be unable to mitigate the impact to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur.</p>	

**TABLE S-1 (Continued)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM**

Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Significance after Mitigation
<p>3.5 Cultural Resources (cont.)</p> <p><b>3.5-2:</b> Covered Activities could adversely affect known or unknown paleontological resources (Significant).</p>	<p><b><i>Mitigation Measures Proposed as Part of the Program</i></b></p> <p><b>3.5-2a:</b> Implement <b>Mitigation Measures 3.5-1a – 3.5-1e</b> (MLTC Conditions <u>111, 112, 116, 117, and 122</u> <del>402, 403, 404, 405, and 408</del>), as described above.</p> <p><b><i>Mitigation Measures Identified in this Draft EIR</i></b></p> <p><b>3.5-2b:</b> MLTC Condition <u>117</u> <del>495</del> (see Mitigation Measure 3.5-1d) states that if cultural resources such as lithic debitage, groundstone, historic debris, building foundations, or bone are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work shall cease within 20 meters (66 feet) of the discovery. Work near the archaeological finds shall not resume until a professional archaeologist has evaluated the materials and offered recommendations for further action. This measure does not, however, specify the criteria for protecting paleontological resources. Therefore, in the event of an unanticipated paleontological discovery during ground-disturbing activities, the following measure shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporarily halt or divert work within 20 meters (66 feet) of the find until the discovery is examined by a qualified paleontologist (per Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards (SVP, 1995 and SVP, 1996).</li> <li>• Document the discovery as needed, evaluate the potential resource, and assess the significance of the find under the criteria set forth in CEQA <i>Guidelines</i>, § 15064.5.</li> <li>• Notify the appropriate agencies to determine procedures that would be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find.</li> <li>• If CDFG determines that avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall prepare an excavation plan for mitigating the effect of the project on the qualities that make the resource important, and such plan shall be implemented. The plan shall be submitted to the CDFG for review and approval.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of Mitigation Measures 3.5a and 3.5-2b would reduce the potential impacts to paleontological resources to a less-than-significant level.</p>
<p>3.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials</p> <p><b>3.6-1:</b> Construction activities could result in discovery and release of previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment (Significant).</p>	<p><b><i>Mitigation Measures Proposed as Part of the Program</i></b></p> <p><b>3.6-1a:</b> The Program's incidental take permit (ITP) General condition (b) (Article XIII.E.1) states the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (SQRCD) "and any sub-permittee shall immediately stop, contain, and clean-up any fuel, lubricants, or other hazardous materials that leak or spill while engaged in a Covered Activity. SQRCD or the sub-permittee shall notify the</p>	<p>Mitigation Measures 3.6-1a and 3.6-1b would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.</p>

**TABLE S-1 (Continued)**  
**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM**

Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Significance after Mitigation
<p>3.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials (cont.)</p> <p>    <b>3.6-1</b> (cont.)</p>	<p>Department immediately of any leak or spill of hazardous materials into a stream or in a place where it can pass into a stream. While engaged in a covered activity, SQRCD and all sub-permittees shall store and handle hazardous materials at least 150 feet away from the edge of mean high water elevation of any stream and properly dispose any unused or leftover hazardous materials offsite. Exceptions to this provision may be provided in individual sub-permits for pre-existing structures with adequate containment facilities." Conditions <del>76 through 84</del> <del>68 through 75</del> of the Program's streambed alteration agreement Memorandum of Understanding Attachment 1 Master List of Terms and Conditions (MLTC), contain similar provisions.</p>	

Draft EIR Page 1-2

### **Monitoring Program**

The ITP will require SQRCD to establish a monitoring program to track the implementation of the mitigation measures for which it is responsible, and to determine the effectiveness of those measures in improving conditions for coho salmon. ~~determine whether or not Agricultural Operators are fulfilling the terms and conditions required by their sub-permits, and to determine the effectiveness of the conditions in the ITP and sub-permits to avoid, minimize, and fully mitigate the incidental take of coho salmon in the Program Area.~~ Sub-permittees are responsible for monitoring the terms and condition of their sub-permit. SQRCD will be available to assist sub-permittees in fulfilling monitoring responsibilities related to the diversion of water and livestock or vehicle crossings. CDFG is responsible for any and all compliance monitoring.

Draft EIR Page 2-8

Also under the Program, in order for a SAA notification to be complete the applicant must include a copy of an executed ITP or sub-permit (described below) issued by CDFG under the Program. Agricultural Operators must also include an agreement signed by the Agricultural Operator that will allow non-enforcement CDFG personnel and SQRCD personnel access to the sub-permittee's property ~~where Covered Activity will occur for purposes of monitoring~~ to determine whether the terms and conditions of the SQRCD's ITP and SAAs or the Agricultural Operator's SAA and sub-permit are fulfilled and are effective. If the Covered Activity will occur on property not owned by the Agricultural Operator, the access agreement must be signed by the owner of the property.

Draft EIR Page 2-9

SQRCD will also be required to conduct monitoring activities to determine whether or not the terms and conditions of their ITP ~~each sub-permit~~ are being fulfilled and are effective. In order to ensure that SQRCD will be able to meet this obligation, the sub-permits will include provisions that allow SQRCD and CDFG to enter a sub-permittee's property and other private property Covered Activities might affect and/or where Covered Activities occur. Sub-permittees will be responsible for monitoring the terms and conditions of their sub-permits by completing the appropriate implementation and effectiveness monitoring checklists for their Covered Activities and submitting them to CDFG. CDFG is responsible for any and all compliance monitoring.

Draft EIR Pages 2-10 and 2-11

***ITP and MLTC Covered Activity 2: Water Diversion Structures.*** This category includes only the following activities relating to water diversion structures:

- c) Installing, operating, maintaining, and removing push-up dams. "Push-up dam" is defined as a temporary diversion structure created by using motorized equipment (for example loaders, backhoes, or excavators) to move bedload within the stream channel to form a flow barrier that seasonally diverts the flow of the stream;

- d) Installing, operating, maintaining, and removing other temporary diversion structures that are not push-up dams. “Other temporary diversion structure” is defined as any temporary structure (other than a push-up dam) used to divert water seasonally from a stream and is typically made with materials such as hay bales, hand-stacked rocks and cobble, tarps, wood, and/or a combination of these materials placed in the channel with or without the use of motorized heavy equipment;
  
- f) Installing headgates and measuring devices, sized appropriately for the authorized diversion, that meet CDFG’s and/or DWR’s standards on or in a diversion channel, which usually is done by excavating the site to proper elevation using large machinery, positioning the headgate and measuring device at the appropriate elevation, and installing rock or other “armoring” around the headgate to protect the structure. During installation, the streambank could be affected by the construction of concrete forms and other necessary construction activities. Where diversions are under the control of the State Watermaster Service, the headgate or valve and measuring device design shall also be approved by DWR.

Draft EIR Page 2-11

***ITP and MLTC Covered Activity 4: Stream Access and Crossings.*** This category includes only the moving of livestock and vehicles across flowing streams or intermittent channels and/or the construction, maintenance, and use of stream crossings at designated locations where potential spawning gravels, incubating eggs, and fry are not present based on repeated site specific surveys.

Draft EIR Page 2-13

***ITP Covered Activity 10: Grazing Livestock.*** This activity includes the grazing of livestock within the riparian exclusion zone adjacent to the channel or within the bed, bank, or channel of the Scott River or its tributaries in accordance with a grazing management plan approved by CDFG. The grazing plan will address the timing, duration, and intensity (number of livestock allowable per unit area [i.e., stocking rate]) of livestock grazing within the riparian zone and will explain how the proposed management plan will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat. In addition, the grazing plan will describe the means by which the livestock will be prohibited from entering live streams.

Draft EIR Page 2-13

***ITP Covered Activity 11: Water Management.*** This activity includes water management, water monitoring, and watermastering (either state or Special District private) activities, including the operation of headgates in conjunction with measuring devices to assure that each diversion is operated in compliance with its associated water right or adjudicated volume.

Draft EIR Page 2-13

***ITP Covered Activity 12: Permit Implementation.*** This includes other activities associated with the implementation of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures required by the ITP, a sub-permit, or a SAA.

Draft EIR Page 2-13

***ITP Covered Activity 13: Monitoring.*** This includes activities associated with the determination of whether or not the required terms and conditions of the ITP, a each sub-permit, or a SAA are being fulfilled and are effective.

Draft EIR Page 2-13, Footnote 9

Also, as stated above, under ITP Covered Activity 10, any grazing of livestock within the riparian exclusion zone adjacent to the channel or within the bed, bank, or channel of the Scott River or its tributaries may only occur in accordance with a grazing management plan that will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat. In addition, a grazing management plan will describe the means by which livestock will be prohibited from entering live streams.

Draft EIR Page 2-14

## 2.2 Conditions in the Proposed MLTC

The MLTC contains 130 ~~44~~ separate conditions (see Appendix B for full language). These are divided into general and specific conditions.

### 2.2.1 General Conditions in the MLTC

The proposed MLTC contains 20 ~~49~~ general conditions, primarily administrative, that will be included in all SAAs issued under the Program. General conditions are organized in the MLTC under the following sections: A. ~~4)~~ “Administrative”; B. ~~2)~~ “Amendments”; C. ~~3)~~ “Suspension and Revocation”; D. ~~4)~~ “Liability”; E. ~~5)~~ “Access”; and F. ~~6)~~ “Other Laws.” The “Other Laws” section in the MLTC requires the holder of a SAA issued by CDFG under the Program to comply with all local, state, and federal laws before commencing a Covered Activity, which includes CESA.

### 2.2.2 Specific Conditions in the MLTC

The specific conditions are organized in the MLTC under the following sections: a. 1) “Water Diversions”; b. 2) “Riparian Restoration and Revegetation”; c. 3) “Instream Structures”; d. 4) “Habitat and Species Protection”; e. 5) “Use of Vehicles in Wetted Portions of Streams”; f. 6) “Pollution Control”; g. 7) “Erosion and Sediment Control”; h. 8) “Bank Stabilization”; i. 9) “Dewatering”; j. 10) “Ground-Disturbing Activities”; and k. 11) “Monitoring.”

Draft EIR Page 2-15

***ITP General Condition c:*** This condition requires sub-permittees to provide non-enforcement CDFG representatives written consent to access the sub-permittee's property for the specific purpose of verifying compliance with, or the effectiveness of, required avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures and/or for the purpose of fish population monitoring, provided CDFG notifies the sub-permittee at least 48 hours in advance. The sub-permittee is entitled to be present or have a representative present. Sworn peace officers may enter private lands if necessary for law enforcement purposes pursuant to Fish and Game Section 857 or as otherwise authorized by law.

Draft EIR Page 2-16

***ITP General Condition g:*** This condition allows instream work on structural restoration projects by SQRCD or a sub-permittee to occur only from July 1 to October ~~15~~ ~~31~~ when coho salmon are least likely to be present and/or when water temperatures exceed the tolerance levels of coho salmon. If the work needs to be completed before July 1 or after October ~~15~~ ~~31~~, SQRCD or the sub-permittee may request a variance from CDFG in writing. If CDFG grants the request, the work must be completed in accordance with the avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures CDFG might specify in granting the variance.

Draft EIR Page 2-16

***ITP General Condition h:*** Under this condition, instream equipment operations by SQRCD or a sub-permittee will occur when coho salmon are least likely to be present and/or when water temperatures exceed the tolerance levels of coho salmon, which is generally from July 1 to October ~~15~~ ~~31~~, except as otherwise provided in the Best Management Practices (BMPs) adopted pursuant to the ITP. SQRCD must contact CDFG to verify when such operations may begin each year prior to their commencement. If work needs to be completed before July 1 or after October 15, SQRCD is required to request, in writing, a variance from CDFG. If CDFG grants the variance, the work will be completed in accordance with the avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures CDFG specifies in granting the variance.

Draft EIR Page 2-16

In addition to general conditions described above, the proposed ITP includes the specific obligations described below that SQRCD and/or each sub-permittee, except DWR, must implement in order to avoid and minimize the incidental take of all life stages of coho salmon in the Program Area when engaged in a Covered Activity (see **Figure 2-2**).

Draft EIR Page 2-19

In addition to the above requirements, each sub-permittee will be required to provide permanent volitional fish passage for both adult and juvenile coho salmon, both upstream and downstream, at each of their diversions within five years of the effective date of their sub-permit. Where such passage is determined by CDFG to be inadequate, the sub-permittee will be required to submit to CDFG plans to improve passage ~~to~~ for CDFG's review and approval.

Draft EIR Page 2-19

***ITP Additional Avoidance and Minimization Obligation D: Livestock and Vehicle Crossings.*** The ITP contains provisions to reduce the potential for take of coho salmon from livestock and vehicles crossing streams. Those obligations include: a prohibition on livestock and vehicles crossing flowing streams between October ~~15~~ <sup>31</sup> and July 1, except in designated, CDFG-approved crossing lanes, and criteria for site selection and crossing design, construction, periodic inspection, and maintenance.

Draft EIR Page 2-19

***ITP Additional Avoidance and Minimization Obligation E: Riparian Fencing/Grazing of Livestock in Riparian Areas.*** The ITP includes several provisions for riparian fencing and restriction of livestock from riparian areas intended to improve the condition of the riparian vegetation for the benefit of coho salmon. These include a requirement that, within one year of the effective date of the ITP, SQRCD develop a Riparian Fencing Plan for CDFG review and approval that prioritizes areas for riparian protection; a requirement for sub-permittees to install, maintain, and repair livestock exclusion fencing in accordance with the Riparian Fencing Plan; a requirement for sub-permittees to allow the planting of riparian revegetation and installation of exclusion fencing along designated stream reaches located on their property, and restrictions on sub-permittees' grazing of livestock within a fenced riparian area. High priority areas identified in the priority plan will be addresses as soon as practical.

Draft EIR Pages 2-19 and 2-20

***ITP Additional Avoidance and Minimization Obligation F: Push-Up Dams.*** The ITP requires SQRCD, within six months of the effective date of the ITP, to consult with CDFG to prepare and adopt a set of BMPs that govern the construction, operation, and removal of push-up dams. The BMPs will specify the conditions under which such dams may be constructed, including work windows and the type of equipment that may be used for construction and removal; provisions to allow fish passage; and measures to minimize stream sedimentation and other water quality impacts. Once they are approved by CDFG, sub-permittees who use push-up dams will implement the BMPs to minimize dam-related impacts. Within five years of the effective date of their sub-permit, sub-permittees will



replace their push-up dams with boulder vortex weirs or some other CDFG approved diversion method, unless CDFG determines that an alternative method is not feasible.

Draft EIR Page 2-20

***ITP Additional Avoidance and Minimization Obligation G: Other Temporary Diversion Structures.*** The ITP requires SQRCD to consult with CDFG to prepare and adopt a set of BMPs that govern the construction, operation, and removal of temporary diversion structures other than push-up dams. The BMPs will specify the conditions under which these other temporary diversion structures may be used, including work windows and a description of the construction methods which may be used to construct and remove them with or without the use of motorized heavy equipment; provisions to allow fish passage; and measures to minimize stream sedimentation and address other water quality issues.

Within two years of the effective date of the ITP, any sub-permittee who uses an “Other Temporary Diversion Structure” will request in writing that SQRCD and CDFG assess the structure. If CDFG determines the structure will not comply with the Fish and Game Code, even after implementation of the BMPs, the sub-permittee will replace the structures within five years of the determination with a boulder vortex weir or some other structure approved by CDFG.

Draft EIR Page 2-20

***ITP Additional Avoidance and Minimization Obligation H: Bioengineered Bank Stabilization.*** In areas where the slopes of streambanks on a sub-permittee’s property have become unstable due to actions by the sub-permittee and re-stabilization measures are necessary to re-establish vegetation, the sub-permittee shall implement bioengineered bank stabilization techniques<sup>1</sup> to prevent additional erosion from occurring. The techniques to be implemented must be consistent with methods identified in the most recent version of CDFG’s *Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*, and must be approved by CDFG on a site-by-site basis. Any bank stabilization required pursuant to a sub-permit will be implemented within three years of the effective date of the sub-permit.

Draft EIR Page 2-20

***ITP Additional Avoidance and Minimization Obligation I: Irrigation Tailwater Reduction and/or Capture.*** Under the ITP, SQRCD will assist sub-permittees in the design and implementation of tailwater reduction and capture systems. SQRCD will inventory and prioritize tailwater sources for remediation and submit the priority list of sites to CDFG for its review and approval within two years of the effective date of the ITP. High priority areas identified in the priority plan will be addressed as soon as practical. Tailwater capture systems will be consistent with the standards contained in U.S. Department of Agriculture’s

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<sup>1</sup> Bioengineered bank stabilization structures use a combination of living plants, such as willow or other riparian trees, shrubs, and inert materials such as gravel and rip-rap. Bioengineered structures tend to provide more aquatic and riparian habitat attributes than conventional bank stabilization structures.

Natural Resources Conservation Service guidelines. Any sub-permittee whose property is on the priority list must have tailwater reduction and capture systems in place by the expiration of their sub-permit.

Draft EIR Page 2-21

ITP Article XVII.C requires DWR to meet with CDFG on a weekly basis during the diversion season and inform CDFG of any points of diversion in the watermastered areas where stranding is probable. CDFG will then work with SQRCD and sub-permittees to correct or avoid such stranding by some means other than reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion in accordance with ITP Article XVIII (see below). Under ITP Article XVII.E., ~~As a last resort, CDFG will inform the sub-permittee of the required measures to be implemented to reduce stranding. CDFG will instruct work with DWR to implement such~~ to reduce or cease the diversion and/or change the timing or manner of the diversion and take any other ~~measures within DWR's control that CDFG determines are necessary to correct or avoid stranding, which DWR will implement immediately.~~

Draft EIR Page 2-21

- d) If reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion will avoid or minimize stranding, and that is determined by CDFG to be the only available measure to avoid or minimize stranding, CDFG will work with SQRCD and the sub-permittee and, if applicable, DWR, to take such action.

Draft EIR Page 2-23

One component of the Contingency Plan shall be the Diversion Ramp-Up Management Plan (Management Plan). During the irrigation season, significant changes in stream flow occur when agricultural water users cease or begin diverting water at the same time. A rapid decrease in flow can result in the stranding of fish in shallow pools and side channels below diversions, as well as a loss of critical rearing habitat. To address this problem, SQRCD, in consultation with CDFG and DWR, will be required to develop and implement a Management Plan to coordinate and monitor irrigation so as to minimize rapid reductions in instream flows and the possible stranding of coho salmon. SQRCD will submit the Management Plan to CDFG for its review and approval within three ~~one~~ years from the effective date of the ITP. SQRCD and the sub-permittees would begin implementing the Management Plan immediately upon CDFG's approval.

Draft EIR Page 2-25

**Barrier Removal and Fish Passage Mitigation Obligation 2: Installation of two or more Boulder Weirs and Improved Head Works at Farmers Ditch.** Farmers Ditch is the second largest diversion in the Scott River watershed. A gravel dam is currently used to divert water from the upper portion of the Scott River into the ditch. The annual construction of the dam disturbs the channel, creates turbidity, and presents a fish passage

barrier. SQRCD will replace the gravel push-up dam with two or more boulder ~~vortex~~ weirs. The diversion take-out will be relocated upstream and the initial section of the diversion will be piped to reduce ditch loss. The weir will provide for fish passage whenever flow is present. SQRCD will be responsible for installing the boulder weirs within one year of the effective date of the ITP.

Draft EIR Pages 2-25 and 2-26

### 2.3.4 Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program

The proposed ITP requires SQRCD to establish a monitoring program to track the implementation of the mitigation measures for which it is responsible, and to determine the effectiveness of those measures in improving conditions for coho salmon (Monitoring Program). ~~In addition, SQRCD is available to assist the sub-permittees in fulfilling monitoring responsibilities related to the diversion of water and livestock or vehicle crossings. SQRCD will fund all monitoring activities it is responsible for performing. The Monitoring Program is summarized below and is more fully described in ITP Attachment 3. the to determine whether the sub-permittees are fulfilling all sub-permit terms and conditions, the implementation of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures identified in the ITP and any sub-permit, and the effectiveness of those measures in improving conditions for coho salmon.~~

~~Under the terms of the ITP, SQRCD will be responsible for instituting a comprehensive monitoring program. Under this Program, SQRCD will be responsible for confirming and monitoring the implementation of the mitigation measures for which they are responsible. They will also be responsible for monitoring to determine whether the sub-permittee is fulfilling the terms and conditions of their sub-permits. The monitoring program will include a means to: 1) confirm and monitor the implementation of the minimization and avoidance measures for which the sub-permittees are responsible; and 2) identify sub-permittees who are not fulfilling the terms and conditions of their sub-permits. SQRCD will be required to notify CDFG immediately of sub-permittees who are not fulfilling a term or condition of their sub-permit.~~

~~SQRCD's monitoring program will also be used to determine the effectiveness of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures identified in the ITP and sub-permits, and the extent to which the objectives of those measures are being or have been met. The results of the effectiveness monitoring will be used as a basis for an adaptive management program to refine future avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.~~

1. SQRCD shall be responsible for determining if it is fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Permit by instituting a comprehensive monitoring program. The program shall include a means to confirm and monitor the implementation of the mitigation measures for which it is responsible.
2. The sub-permittee shall be responsible for monitoring the terms and condition of their sub-permit by completing the appropriate implementation and effectiveness

monitoring checklists for their Covered Activities and submitting them to the Department. SQRCD is available to assist the sub-permittee in completing the water diversion and livestock and vehicle crossings checklists.

3. The SQRCD shall inspect the screen, headgate, measuring device, diversion structure and livestock and vehicle crossings annually and is available to assist the sub-permittee in filling out the qualitative effectiveness monitoring checklists for those Covered Activities.
4. If during any field review of a sub-permittees water diversion facilities and/or livestock or vehicle crossing, the SQRCD identifies a sub-permittee who may not or has not implemented the terms and conditions of their sub-permits the SQRCD shall inform the sub-permittee and work with the sub-permittee to develop a strategy for implementing the terms and conditions of the sub-permit.
5. At the discretion of either the SQRCD or the sub-permittee, the Department will be notified in order to assist in the development of an implementation strategy.
6. If the SQRCD and the sub-permittee cannot agree upon an acceptable strategy for implementation of the terms and conditions of the sub-permit, or the implementation of a term or condition of this Permit which requires the SQRCD to implement certain mitigation measures on the property of sub-permittees, the Department shall be notified.
7. SQRCD shall summarize the results of its monitoring activities in each of its Annual Reports (described below). Analysis of the past year's monitoring activities and the monitoring data shall be provided to the Department at that time.
8. After revocation, relinquishment, expiration, or termination of the Permit, SQRCD shall deliver a Final Report (described below) to the Department analyzing all of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures implemented pursuant to this Permit, including an evaluation of their effectiveness.
9. SQRCD's obligations under this Permit shall not end until the Final Report has been deemed complete by the Department (Section XVI.C), regardless of when the Permit expires, or is revoked, relinquished, or terminated.
10. SQRCD shall conduct photo monitoring to document the installation, operation, maintenance, and effectiveness of all avoidance, minimization, and mitigation activities (individually, "project") for which it is responsible under this Permit.

Photo monitoring shall be used to document current conditions, implementation and effectiveness by:

- documenting pre- and post-site conditions;
- identifying key steps taken during and after the completion of a project;
- determining whether a project was correctly implemented pursuant to SQRCD and Department guidelines; and
- document ongoing maintenance of the project.

Sequential photographs shall be taken over time in order to show changes in site conditions. At a minimum, photographs shall be taken at three different times: before project implementation, directly after project implementation, and again at a later date appropriate to the particular project.

11. SQRCD shall conduct monitoring activities prior to and immediately after project implementation for those projects for which it is responsible. Data collection shall include pre-project implementation checklists, implementation checklists and photo monitoring.
12. SQRCD and Department project evaluators shall have access to photographs and project files to take with them on site visits.
13. SQRCD shall conduct qualitative effectiveness monitoring after project implementation, and annually thereafter, for all mitigation measures for which it is responsible pursuant to this Permit by filling out the qualitative effectiveness monitoring checklist and conducting photo monitoring for those particular project types.
14. SQRCD shall identify at least one specific objective for each project installed pursuant to this Permit. The objective shall be documented in project files by SQRCD and shall be reported to the Department in the Annual Report.
15. SQRCD shall conduct quantitative effectiveness monitoring of 10% of all instream measures implemented. For purposes of quantitative effectiveness monitoring instream measures shall include: spawning gravel enhancement (if determined necessary), instream habitat structures, livestock and vehicle crossings, fish passage improvements, and instream flow.

Draft EIR Page 2-26

No later than six months after the ITP expires (or is relinquished, revoked, or terminated), SQRCD will be required to submit a Final Report to CDFG. The Final Report will include: 1) a copy of the implementation database with notes showing when each avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measure was implemented; 2) all available information about the incidental take of coho salmon the ITP covers; 3) information about the impacts the Covered Activities have had on coho salmon, notwithstanding the implementation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures; 4) the beginning and ending dates of all construction activities the ITP ~~or any sub-permit~~ covers; 5) an assessment of the effectiveness of the ITP's ~~and sub-permits'~~ terms and conditions to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on coho salmon; 6) recommendations on how those terms and conditions might be changed to more effectively avoid, minimize, and mitigate such impacts in the future; and 7) any other pertinent information.

Draft EIR Page 2-27

3. DWR will meet with CDFG in person or by telephone on a weekly basis during the diversion season in order to inform CDFG of any points of diversion in the watermastered areas where stranding is probable. CDFG will make a determination regarding whether or not any diversion is causing or will cause the stranding of coho

salmon. For the purpose of this ITP, “stranding” is defined as a situation in which coho salmon are in a location with poor aquatic habitat conditions, due to a reduction in flow, from which they cannot escape. ~~CDFG will instruct DWR to reduce or cease the diversion and/or change the timing or manner of the diversion and take any other measures within DWR’s control that CDFG determines are necessary to correct or avoid stranding and DWR will implement those measures immediately. However, before instructing DWR as described above, CDFG will make every effort to work with SQRCD and the sub-permittee to correct or avoid such take by some means other than reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion.~~

4. CDFG will make every effort to work with SQRCD and sub-permittee to correct or avoid such take by some means other than reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion.
5. If CDFG determines that reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion will avoid or minimize stranding, and that is the only available measure to avoid or minimize stranding, CDFG will inform the sub-permittee of the required measures to be implemented to reduce stranding. CDFG will work with DWR to implement such measures within DWR’s control.

Draft EIR Page 3.2-19

**Grazing.** Grazing in the riparian corridor has been acknowledged as contributing to the degradation of aquatic habitat in the Scott River upstream of the Canyon (NRC, 2004). Livestock grazing is a Covered Activity under the Program and, similar to some other Covered Activities, it is not new; rather, it has been occurring in the Program Area for decades. Hence, authorizing livestock grazing as part of the Program will not cause the level of grazing to increase or result in any impacts in addition to those that are already part of baseline conditions in the Program Area. In fact, the Program will likely reduce the impacts of grazing by excluding livestock from some riparian areas by installing and maintaining fencing (see ITP and MLTC Covered Activity 5). Also, where riparian fencing is constructed as part of the Program, any grazing of livestock within the riparian exclusion zone adjacent to the channel or within the bed, bank, or channel of the Scott River or its tributaries may only occur in accordance with a grazing management plan that will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat.

Draft EIR Page 3.2-40

Agricultural activity in the French Creek and Miners Creek drainages includes summer grazing, irrigated crop, and pasture production, the latter being most prevalent. The principal method of stream diversion is to use bolder ~~vortex~~ weirs and most of the irrigated pasture is flood irrigated.

Draft EIR Page 3.2-42

Allocated diversion volumes for the westside tributaries are shown in Table 3.2-2; refer to Chapter 3.1 for estimates of existing diversion volumes. Stream diversion is accomplished

using bolder ~~vortex~~ weirs, gravel push-up dams, and hand stacked rock and cobble diversion structures.

#### Draft EIR Page 3.2-43

Agricultural activity in the Shackleford Creek watershed includes livestock production, dry-land grazing, and irrigated crop and pasture production (SQRCD, 2005). Pasture production is the main activity and flood irrigation is the principal method of irrigating. Stream diversion is accomplished using both bolder ~~vortex~~ weirs and hand stacked rock and cobble diversion structures. Allocated diversion volumes for Shackleford Creek and Mill Creek are shown in Table 3.2-4; refer to Chapter 3.1 for estimates of existing diversion volumes.

#### Draft EIR Pages 3.2-55 and 3.2-56

Of particular concern regarding potential erosion and pollutant impacts is the time of year when construction activities would be allowed. The risk of erosion, sediment delivery, and pollutant loading would be of most concern during the winter and spring, when significant rainfall and runoff occurs. To minimize this risk, the season for instream equipment operations and work related to structural restoration projects is limited to the period from July 1 to October 15 ~~31~~, according to ITP General Conditions (g) and (h) (Article XIII.E.1). Much of this season typically experiences little rainfall and runoff. However, summer thunderstorm events and early winter storms could still occur during the period from July 1 to October 15 ~~31~~, and the potential for early storms increases substantially in the second half of October (**Figure 3.2-12**). Therefore, though the Program measures and regulatory requirements would be adequate to control potential construction-related water quality impacts through the early fall, allowing the construction period to continue ~~through the end of~~ after October 15 poses a potentially significant impact to water quality. If work needs to be completed before July 1 or after October 15, SVRCD is required to request, in writing, a variance from CDFG. If CDFG grants the variance, the work will be completed in accordance with the avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures CDFG specifies in granting the variance.

#### Draft EIR Pages 3.2-56 and 3.2-57

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-1c:** The MLTC includes the following conditions which will reduce the potential for construction-related impacts to water quality:

- A. Water Diversions: Conditions 33, 36, and 41 ~~31, 34, and 39~~;
- C. Instream Structures: Conditions 62, 64-66 ~~58-60~~;
- E. Use of Vehicles in Wetted Portions of Streams: Conditions 73-75 ~~65-67~~;
- F. Pollution Control: Conditions 76-84 ~~68-75~~;
- G. Erosion and Sediment Control: Conditions 85-93 ~~76-84~~;
- I. Dewatering: Conditions 98-101, 103, 105-107 ~~89-92, 94, 96-98~~; and
- J. Ground-Disturbing Activities: Condition 122 ~~108~~.

## Draft EIR Page 3.2-59

**Mitigation Measure 3.2-3b:** MLTC Conditions 37, 43, 47, and 55 ~~35, 41, 45, and 53~~ would ensure that boulder weirs are sized to resist wash-out and do not create lifts in the stream channel that exceed twelve (12) inches, and that instream structures shall be designed and implemented in accordance with CDFG's Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual.

## Draft EIR Page 3.3-10

In addition to spawner surveys and juvenile monitoring in French Creek, CDFG began conducting annual rotary screw trap surveys on the Scott River to monitor outmigrant salmonid juveniles, including coho salmon, in 2003 (Chesney et al., 2007; Chesney, 2008). Population estimates were derived using a mark and recapture method but the low numbers of recaptures during some years (2003 and 2004) and the intentional avoidance of the recapture method to protect the anticipated low numbers of juveniles (2007) did not allow for population estimates. The results of the surveys are summarized in **Table 3.3-3**.

In addition to coho salmon smolts (age 1+ fish) migrating out of the watershed, CDFG has also observed distinct emigrations of age 0+ juveniles from the watershed (Chesney and Yokel, 2003; Chesney et al., 2007) (Table 3.3-3). The observed phenomenon of large numbers of coho salmon leaving the Scott River as young-of-the-year (age 0+) is somewhat unusual for the species. The reasons for this premature exit from the watershed is not fully understood, but appears to be correlated to the yearly loss of rearing habitat associated with decreased streamflows and increased water temperatures (Chesney, 2007). Flows during the spring in the Scott River mainstem and tributaries decrease rapidly once the snow pack has melted and the irrigation season begins.

Based on the results of the outmigrant trapping surveys, the 2001-2004 brood lineage appears to be the strongest, as evidenced by the high number of age 1+ fish in 2003 (2001 brood), age 0+ fish in 2005 (2004 brood) and age 1+ fish in 2006 (2004 brood). Although the outmigrant trapping surveys have not been conducted for a long enough period to discern any definitive population trends, the results appear to be consistent with those observed during the surveys for rearing juveniles on French Creek described above.

## Draft EIR Page 3.3-10

Figure 3.3-3 has been revised (see Volume 1: FEIR: Revisions to the Text of the Draft EIR).

## Draft EIR Page 3.3-13

~~The observed phenomenon of large numbers of coho salmon leaving the Scott River as young of the year (age 0+) is somewhat unusual for the species. The reasons for this premature exit from the watershed is not fully understood, but appears to be correlated to the yearly loss of rearing habitat associated with decreased streamflows and increased~~



water temperatures (Chesney, 2007). Flows during the spring in the Scott River mainstem and tributaries decrease rapidly once the snow pack has melted and the irrigation season begins.

Draft EIR Page 3.3-21, footnote 8

As discussed in Chapter 3.2, livestock grazing is a Covered Activity under the Program, but similar to some other Covered Activities it is not new; rather, it has been occurring in the Program Area for decades. Hence, authorizing livestock grazing as part of the Program will not cause the level of grazing to increase or result in any impacts in addition to those that are already part of baseline conditions in the Program Area. In fact, the Program will reduce the impacts of grazing by excluding livestock from some riparian areas by installing and maintaining fencing (see ITP and MLTC Covered Activity 5). Also, where riparian fencing is constructed as part of the Program, any grazing of livestock within the riparian exclusion zone adjacent to the channel or within the bed, bank, or channel of the Shasta River or its tributaries may only occur in accordance with a grazing management plan that will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat.

Draft EIR Page 3.3-27

Agricultural activity in French and Miners Creeks extends from the headwaters to the confluence with the Scott River, ranging from summer grazing to irrigated crop production, but mostly focused on irrigated (mostly flood irrigated) pasture production. Most of the acreage in French Creek is under pasture production for cattle (some for horses) with some under alfalfa production. Agricultural activity within Miners Creek is limited to pasture production. Summer rangeland grazing also occurs in Miners Creek. Livestock is watered through surface diversions in both streams but winter stock water is diverted only in French Creek. Methods to divert water from the stream and into the ditches consist primarily of bolder ~~vortex~~ weirs. Irrigation may begin on April 1 and continue through the adjudicated diversion season (September 30).

Draft EIR Page 3.3-52

**Mitigation Measure 3.3-1c:** ITP General Conditions (g) and (h) (Article XIII.E.1) limit the season for instream equipment operations and work related to structural restoration projects to the period of July 1 through October ~~15~~ ~~31~~. Similarly, ITP Additional Avoidance and Minimization Measure D (Livestock and Vehicle Crossings) and conditions in the MLTC limit the use of stream crossings to the same period. ~~However, based on adult coho salmon observations in the Scott River (Quigley, 2006a), as well as documented migration timing in the adjacent Shasta River watershed (Hampton, 2006), coho salmon may enter the Scott River prior to October 31. Furthermore, the Chinook salmon spawning season occurs even earlier in the season, depending on streamflows. Therefore, as specified under Mitigation Measure 3.2-1d (Chapter 3.2 Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Quality), the season for instream construction activities, equipment operations, and stream crossing utilization shall be limited to the period of July 1 through October 15.~~ If weather conditions permit and the

stream is dry or at its lowest flow, instream construction activities and equipment operations may continue after October 15, provided a written request is made to CDFG at least five days before the proposed work period variance. Written approval from CDFG for the proposed work period variance must be received by SQRCD or Agricultural Operator prior to the start or continuation of work after October 15.

Draft EIR Page 3.4-7, footnote 5

As discussed in Chapter 3.2 and below under Section 3.4.3, livestock grazing is a Covered Activity under the Program, but similar to some other Covered Activities it is not new; rather, it has been occurring in the Program Area for decades. Hence, authorizing livestock grazing as part of the Program will not cause the level of grazing to increase or result in any impacts in addition to those that are already part of baseline conditions in the Program Area. In fact, the Program will reduce the impacts of grazing by excluding livestock from some riparian areas by installing and maintaining fencing (see ITP and MLTC Covered Activity 5). Also, where riparian fencing is constructed under the Program, any grazing of livestock within the riparian exclusion zone ~~adjacent to the channel or within the bed, bank, or channel~~ of the Scott River or its tributaries may only occur in accordance with a grazing management plan that will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat.

Draft EIR Page 3.4-22

Potential impacts to common plant and wildlife species were determined by CDFG to be less than significant based on the abundance of the species, the small area disturbed by the Covered Activities; and/or the ability of wildlife to move away from any disturbance. CDFG species of special concern which could occur in the vicinity of Covered Activity sites include northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata marmorata*), long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*). CDFG has determined the Program's impacts on these species to be less than significant because the potential for any one of them to be present at a project site is low, the Program's timing restrictions for instream work (July 1 to October ~~15~~ ~~31~~) would avoid potential impacts to nests and den sites, and their ability to move away from and avoid areas of active construction.

Draft EIR Page 3.4-30

**Mitigation Measure 3.4-1a:** ITP General Conditions (g) and (h) (Article XIII.E.1) stipulate that instream work on structural restoration projects and instream equipment operations shall occur from July 1 to October ~~15~~ ~~31~~. This restricts noise and other sources of disturbance during most of the nesting season for special status riparian birds.

Draft EIR Page 3.4-30

**Mitigation Measure 3.4-1c:** Master List of Terms and Conditions (MLTC) Condition ~~109~~ ~~100~~ stipulates that, prior to ground-disturbing activities, work sites shall be surveyed for special-status plant species by a qualified botanist. Special-status plant surveys shall be conducted following the *Guidelines for Assessing Effects of Proposed Projects on Rare,*

*Threatened and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities* (CDFG, 2000). The survey report, including the methodology and survey findings, shall be provided to CDFG for review and approval prior to any ground-disturbing activities. MLTC eCondition 110 ~~101~~ further states that if any special-status plant species are identified at a work site, CDFG shall identify one or more of the following protective measures, but not limited to these measures, to be implemented at the project site before work may proceed:

Draft EIR Page 3.4-32, Under Impact 3.4-2

Crossing construction and use as a Covered Activity may include the placement of a boulder weir on the downstream side of the crossing at or near grade and placement of angular quarry rock within the crossing location. Constructing and using the crossing for livestock or vehicles can adversely affect stream and riparian special-status species. Although disturbances are temporary and intermittent, movement of livestock and vehicles can mobilize sediment, decreasing habitat quality for aquatic species, destabilize streambeds and banks, and inhibit the growth or reduce the vigor of riparian or instream vegetation. ITP Additional SQRCD and Sub-Permittee Avoidance and Minimization Obligation D.1 through 5 (Article XV), however, prohibit livestock and vehicles crossing flowing streams between October ~~15~~ ~~31~~ through July 1, except in designated, CDFG-approved crossing lanes. Further, the ITP and sub-permits include the following restrictions:

Draft EIR Page 3.4-33

**Impact 3.4-3: ITP Covered Activity 10, the grazing of livestock within the riparian exclusion zone ~~bed, bank, or channel of a stream~~ different from current operations (i.e., not part of baseline conditions), could impact sensitive habitat and special-status species (Significant).**

Grazing of livestock within the riparian exclusion zone ~~adjacent to the channel or within the bed, bank, or channel~~, of the Scott River or its tributaries in accordance with a grazing management plan approved by CDFG is a Covered Activity under the ITP.

Draft EIR Page 3.4-33

### ***Mitigation Measures Proposed as Part of the Program***

**Mitigation Measure 3.4-3a:** ITP Additional SQRCD and Sub-Permittee Avoidance and Minimization Obligation E.5 (Article XV) stipulates that livestock grazing be done in accordance with a grazing management plan prepared by the sub-permittee and approved by CDFG. The grazing management plan shall address the timing, duration, and intensity (the number of livestock allowable per unit area [i.e., stocking rate]) of livestock grazing within the riparian zone and shall explain how the proposed management plan will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat. Grazing plans completed in accordance with the ITP shall include, in addition to other specified requirements, a means to prohibit livestock in live streams.

### ***Mitigation Measures Identified in this Draft EIR***

**Mitigation Measure 3.4-3b:** The ITP stipulation noted in Mitigation Measure 3.4-3a does not constitute complete mitigation because the actual restriction is not sufficiently specific. Mitigation Measure 3.4-3b clarifies “intensity” to stipulate the number of livestock allowable per unit area (i.e., stocking rate) per unit of time. Grazing plans completed in accordance with the ITP shall include, in addition to other specified requirements, a means to prohibit livestock in live streams.

Draft EIR Page 3.4.34

Because MLTC Specific Terms and Conditions 21-130 ~~20-114~~ are comprehensive and either meet or exceed the provisions which are normally included within CWA section 404 permits, this impact is considered less than significant and requires no further mitigation.

Draft EIR Page 3.5-13

**Mitigation Measure 3.5-1a:** Master List of Terms and Conditions (MLTC) Condition 111c ~~102~~ states that prior to any ground-disturbing activities, the responsible party shall contract with at least one qualified archaeologist and paleontologist ~~to~~. The archaeologist/paleontologist will complete cultural and paleontological resource surveys, to identify any previously recorded and unknown historical resources, unique archeological resources, or unique paleontological resources, using standard survey protocols. The survey report must be provided to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for review and approval prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5-1b:** MLTC Condition 112 ~~103~~ notes that if any potentially significant historical resources, unique archaeological resources and/or paleontological resources are identified at the work site, CDFG shall consult with the consulting archaeologist or paleontologist to identify one or more of the following protective measures, or site specific measures, to be implemented at the project site before work may proceed:

Draft EIR Page 3.5-14

**Mitigation Measure 3.5-1c:** MLTC Condition 116 ~~104~~ states that the responsible party shall report any previously unknown historical resources, unique archaeological resources, and paleontological remains discovered at the site to CDFG and other appropriate agencies.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5-1d:** MLTC Condition 117 ~~105~~ states that if cultural resources such as lithic debitage, groundstone, historic debris, building foundations, or bone are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work shall cease within 20 meters (66 feet) of the discovery. Furthermore, work near archaeological finds shall not resume until a professional archaeologist has evaluated the materials and offered recommendations for further action.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5-1e:** MLTC Condition 122 ~~108~~ states that the responsible party shall instruct all persons who will be completing any ground-disturbing activity at a worksite to comply with conditions set forth in the SAA Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) and to inspect each work site before, during and after completion of ground-disturbing activity at the work site.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5-1f:** Prior to carrying out MLTC Condition 111 c. ~~102~~, the archaeologist/paleontologist shall: a.) contact the Native American Heritage Commission for a Sacred Lands File check and a list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site and, if necessary, to assist with the development of mitigation measures; and, b.) make a determination shall first be made as to whether the area has had an adequate archaeological survey by a professional archaeologist and whether any historic or prehistoric sites have been recorded within a ¼-mile radius of the project area. This records review may be conducted at NE/CHRIS on a case-by-case basis for each project. Alternatively, a professional archaeologist will be contracted to conduct a watershed-wide records search at NE/CHRIS and prepare a map showing the previous surveys and recorded sites. An update of this information would then be prepared at least every two years. This map, which will show the locations of archaeological sites, would be considered confidential and made available only to individuals on an as-needed basis.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5-1g:** If none of the protective measures described in MLTC Condition 112 ~~103~~ can be implemented, then an archaeological data recovery program (ADRP) shall be implemented, unless the professional archaeologist determines that the archaeological resource is of greater interpretive use than research significance and that interpretive use of the resource is feasible.

Draft EIR Page 3.5-15

Data recovery, in general, should be limited to the portions of the historical property that could be adversely affected by the proposed project. Destructive data recovery methods shall not be applied to portions of the archaeological resources if nondestructive methods are practical. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be, as necessary, subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and a report shall be prepared by a qualified archaeologist according to current professional standards. If the recovered artifacts are from a prehistoric site, the local Native American groups will be consulted relative to the disposition of these materials.

**Mitigation Measure 3.5-1h:** If built historical resources (e.g. structures, buildings, or similar) that qualify for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources (CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15064.5)) are identified through the implementation of measure MLTC Condition 111c ~~102~~ and cannot be avoided through implementation of measure MLTC Condition 112 ~~103~~, SQRCD or the Agricultural Operator will comply with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (Standards) which would, in accordance with CEQA *Guidelines*, § 15064.5(b)(3), reduce potential impacts associated with the alteration or modification of a historical resource (including historic districts and individually eligible resources) to a less-than-significant level.

Draft EIR Page 3.5-15

**Mitigation Measure 3.5-2a:** Implement **Mitigation Measures 3.5-1a – 3.5-1e** (MLTC Conditions 111, 112, 116, 117, and 122 ~~102, 103, 104, 105, and 108~~), as described above.

Draft EIR Pages 3.5-15 and 3.5-16

**Mitigation Measure 3.5-2b:** MLTC Condition ~~117 405~~ (see Mitigation Measure 3.5-1d) states that if cultural resources such as lithic debitage, groundstone, historic debris, building foundations, or bone are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work shall cease within 20 meters (66 feet) of the discovery.

Draft EIR Page 3.5-16

MLTC Condition ~~119 406~~, which states, “In the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains during project construction, work shall cease within 20 meters (66 feet) of the discovery location, and any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent to human remains (see Public Resources Code, § 7050.5).

Draft EIR Page 3.5-17

MLTC Condition ~~120 407~~, which states, “The responsible party shall insure that the immediate vicinity where Native American human remains are located, according to generally accepted cultural or archeological standards or practices, is not damaged or disturbed by further ground-disturbing activity until the responsible party has discussed and conferred with the most likely descendents regarding their wishes, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains, as provided in Public Resources Code, § 5097.98.

MLTC Condition ~~122 408~~, which states, “[T]he responsible party shall instruct all persons who will be completing any ground-disturbing activity at a worksite to comply with conditions set forth in this Agreement and shall inspect each work site before, during and after completion of ground-disturbing activity at the work site.”

MLTC Conditions ~~119, 120, and 122 406, 407, and 408~~ would ensure that impacts to previously undiscovered human remains are less than significant.

Draft EIR Page 3.6-6

**Mitigation Measure 3.6-1a:** The Program’s incidental take permit (ITP) General condition (b) (Article XIII.E.1) states the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (SQRC) “and any sub-permittee shall immediately stop, contain, and clean-up any fuel, lubricants, or other hazardous materials that leak or spill while engaged in a Covered Activity. SQRC or the sub-permittee shall notify the Department immediately of any leak or spill of hazardous materials into a stream or in a place where it can pass into a stream. While engaged in a covered activity, SQRC and all sub-permittees shall store and handle hazardous materials at least 150 feet away from the edge of mean high water elevation of any stream and properly dispose any unused or leftover hazardous materials offsite. Exceptions to this provision may be provided in individual sub-permits for pre-existing structures with adequate containment facilities.” Conditions ~~76 through 84 68 through 75~~ of the Program’s streambed alteration agreement Memorandum of Understanding Attachment 1 Master List of Terms and Conditions (MLTC), contain similar provisions.

Draft EIR Page 3.7-1 and 3.7-2

The Farmers Ditch Company is formed by an unincorporated group of 11 ranchers. Each is signatory to a ditch agreement that establishes the Ditch Company and spells out rights and

responsibilities of the members. Under the Scott River Decree (1980), the Farmers Ditch can divert up to 30 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the Scott River from April 15 until about October 15; during the remainder of the year diversion is allowed for stock-watering only. The point of diversion is on the upper reach of the Scott River, just below Callahan, within the tailings (Figure 3.7-1). The headworks consist of a seasonally-constructed gravel push-up dam that spans the Scott River. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (SQRC) are currently working with the Farmers Ditch Company to replace the gravel push-up dam with a series of boulder ~~vortex~~ weirs to enable fish passage.

Draft EIR Page 3.7-13, Impact 3.7-1

The Program includes several minimization, avoidance, and mitigation measures that would involve changes to the existing systems of water diversion, conveyance, and application for irrigation and stock watering. These include: moving points of diversion; piping and lining ditches; realigning ditches; and removing barriers to fish passage. Several projects are specified, including fish passage at Young’s Dam (the diversion dam for SVID); replacement of the seasonal push-up dam for Farmers Ditch with a series of boulder ~~vortex~~ weirs; and replacement of China Cove Ditch with a pipeline to eliminate loss through seepage.

Construction within stream channels is limited in the Program to the period of July 1-October 15 ~~31~~. This overlaps with the diversion season. It is possible, therefore, that some water supply construction projects could interrupt service. Periods of service interruption are, however, likely to be temporary and of short duration, and are therefore considered less than significant.

Draft EIR Page 5-9

The Program already contains several provisions to increase instream flows, including SQRC’s ITP Flow Enhancement Mitigation Obligations (Article XIII.E.2.(a)), Additional SQRC and Sub-Permittee Avoidance and Minimization Obligation A: Water Management (Article XV), Additional SQRC and Sub-Permittee Avoidance and Minimization Obligation J: Maintain Connectivity of Tributaries in the Mainstem (Article XV), and MLTC condition 26 ~~25~~ (bypass flows at diversions).

Draft EIR Page 5-15

<p><b>Impact 3.4-3:</b> ITP Covered Activity 10, the grazing of livestock within the <u>riparian exclusion zone</u> <del>bed, bank, or channel</del> of a stream different from current operations (i.e., not part of baseline conditions), could impact sensitive habitat and special-status species (Less than Significant with Mitigation).</p>	<p>Greater Impact</p>	<p>Same Impact</p>
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# **APPENDIX A**

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## **Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Incidental Take Permit**



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**California Department of Fish and Game  
NORTHERN REGION  
601 LOCUST STREET  
REDDING, CA 96001**

California Endangered Species Act  
Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2005-027-01  
**SISKIYOU RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE ~~COHO~~ PERMITTING PROGRAM**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Fish and Game is issuing this permit ("Permit") to the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District ("SQRCD" or "Permittee") pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c), and section 783 *et seq.* in title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. The California Endangered Species Act ("CESA") (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 *et seq.*) prohibits the take<sup>1</sup> of endangered, threatened, or candidate<sup>2</sup> species, unless the Department authorizes, by permit, the take of such species ("take authorization"). The Department may issue such a permit, referred to as an "incidental take permit," if the take is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity and the other conditions set forth in section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c), are met.

## **II. PERMITTEE INFORMATION**

A. Name

Siskiyou Resource Conservation District

B. Name and Title of Principal Officer

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<sup>1</sup>Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 86, "'take' means hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill."

<sup>2</sup>"Candidate species" means a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that the Fish and Game Commission has formally noticed as being under review by the Department for addition to either the list of endangered species or the list of threatened species or a species for which the Commission has published a notice of proposed regulation to add the species to either list. (See Fish & Game Code, § 2074.2.)

Bill Krum, President  
Board of Directors  
Siskiyou Resource Conservation District

C. Contact Person

Bill Krum, President  
Board of Directors  
Siskiyou Resource Conservation District  
530-467-3975

D. Mailing Address

Siskiyou Resource Conservation District  
P.O. Box 268  
Etna, CA 96027

E. Agent for Service of Process

Carolyn Pimentel, District Manager  
Siskiyou Resource Conservation District

**III. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM OF PERMIT**

This Permit shall be executed in duplicate original form and shall become effective once a duplicate original is acknowledged by signature of the Permittee on the last page of the Permit and returned to the Department's Office of the General Counsel, with a copy to the Department's Northern Region in Redding, California. The authorization under this Permit to take the Covered Species listed below shall expire ten years from the effective date of the Permit, unless the Department renews the Permit, the Department revokes or terminates the Permit prior to its expiration, or the SQRCD relinquishes the Permit prior to its expiration.

**IV. DESCRIPTION OF PERMIT PROGRAM**

This Permit establishes a program with SQRCD through which SQRCD, the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") or any other entity approved by the Department that agrees to perform DWR's obligations under the Permit, and those agricultural operators (defined below) who choose to participate in the Program will be authorized to take coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)

incidental to an activity this Permit covers, defined below as a “Covered Activity” (“Program”). Under the Program, agricultural operators will receive incidental take authorization for coho salmon by means of an individual “sub-permit.” The sub-permittee will be required to execute the sub-permit and be responsible for complying with its terms and conditions. The Department will determine the terms and conditions in this Permit that apply to the sub-permittee’s particular Covered Activity or Covered Activities and incorporate them into the sub-permit by reference and/or by writing. The Department may also include terms and conditions in a sub-permit that are not included in this Permit, if the Department determines that such additional terms and conditions are necessary to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the take of coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity. The purpose of the Program is to assist agricultural operators to comply with CESA and to complete projects consistent with the goals of the “Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon” (2004) (“Recovery Strategy”) and projects identified in the Scott River Watershed Council Strategic Action Plan (2004).

## **V. PROGRAM AREA**

The Program Area is the Scott River watershed, including the Scott River and its tributaries, in Siskiyou County as shown in Attachment 1, “Scott River Watershed Map” (“Program Area”).

## **VI. AGRICULTURAL OPERATOR**

For purposes of this Permit, “agricultural operator” is defined as any natural person or any partnership, corporation, limited liability company, trust, or other type of association, or any public agency, as defined in CEQA Guidelines, §15379, who diverts water from a stream by means of an active diversion in the Program Area for an agricultural purpose, or is involved in an agricultural operation on property in the Program Area through which or adjacent to which a stream flows “Active diversion” is defined as a surface water diversion that has been operated at least one out of the last five years.

## **VII. COVERED ACTIVITIES**

The Permit and any sub-permit issued under the Program shall apply only to take incidental to the following activities that occur in the Program Area and are otherwise lawful (referred to collectively as “Covered Activities,” and individually as a “Covered Activity”): 1) the diversion of water from streams, channels, or sloughs for irrigation or watering of stock by any means, including instream pumps; 2) the installation, operation, maintenance, and removal of devices and structures used to divert water; 3) the installation, operation, and maintenance of

fish screens; 4) the movement of livestock and vehicles across flowing streams and the construction, maintenance, and use of livestock and vehicle crossings and livestock watering lanes; 5) the installation and maintenance of riparian exclusion fencing; 6) riparian restoration or revegetation activities; 7) the installation, maintenance, and repair of instream habitat improvement structures; 8) the installation and maintenance of stream gages; 9) barrier removal and fish passage projects; 10) the grazing of livestock within the ~~bed, bank, or channel of a stream~~ riparian exclusion zone under specified conditions; 11) water management, water monitoring, and watermastering activities; 12) activities associated with the implementation of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures required by the Permit or any sub-permit; 13) activities associated with monitoring efforts required by this Permit or any sub-permit; and 14) activities associated with conducting research on coho salmon. The Covered Activities are more fully described in Attachment 2, "Covered Activities." This Permit does not, and any sub-permit shall not, cover water use for domestic, municipal, industrial, or mining purposes, power production for commercial purposes, and pesticide/herbicide use.

#### **VIII. COVERED SPECIES**

The Permit authorizes the take of coho salmon and no other species in the Program Area incidental to a Covered Activity ("coho salmon"). Coho salmon that occur in the Program Area are listed under CESA as a threatened species. Take authorization under any sub-permit issued under the Program shall also be limited to coho salmon.

#### **IX. INCIDENTAL TAKE AUTHORIZATION**

The Permit authorizes SQRCD and its employees, contractors, agents to take coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity, subject to the terms and conditions of the Permit. The Permit does not authorize the intentional take of coho salmon, take of coho salmon from an activity that is not a Covered Activity, or take of coho salmon that results from a violation of a term or condition of the Permit. Any sub-permit issued under the Program shall likewise authorize the sub-permittee, its employees, contractors, and agents to take coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity, subject to the terms and conditions of the sub-permit. The sub-permit shall not authorize the intentional take of coho salmon, take of coho salmon from an activity that is not a Covered Activity, or take of coho salmon that results from a violation of a term or condition of the sub-permit.

#### **X. FULLY-PROTECTED SPECIES**

This Permit does not, and sub-permits shall not, authorize the take of any species listed in Fish and Game Code sections 3511, 4700, 5050, or 5515, referred to as “fully-protected” species.

## **XI. RECOVERY STRATEGY**

In February 2004, the Fish and Game Commission adopted the Recovery Strategy. The Recovery Strategy emphasizes cooperation and collaboration, and recognizes the need for funding, public and private support for restoration actions, and maintaining a balance between regulatory and voluntary efforts to meet the goals of the Recovery Strategy. The Shasta and Scott River watersheds were identified for a pilot program to address coho salmon recovery issues and solutions related to agriculture and agricultural water use in Siskiyou County. In addition to identifying recommendations for the pilot program, the Shasta-Scott Recovery Team identified the need to develop a programmatic implementation framework (i.e., an incidental take permit program) that works toward the recovery of coho salmon, while affording take authorization to agricultural operators. The avoidance, minimization, and mitigation actions required by this Permit are consistent with the recovery tasks identified in the Shasta-Scott Pilot Program of the Recovery Strategy.

## **XII. SUB-PERMIT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND STRUCTURE**

After the Permit takes effect, a 60-day sub-permittee enrollment period shall begin. Any agricultural operator who would like to enroll in the Program after the initial enrollment period closes may do so from January 1 to February 28 each year.

After an agricultural operator enrolls in the Program, the SQRCD will assist the operator in obtaining a sub-permit from the Department. The sub-permit will include measures the sub-permittee will be responsible for implementing to avoid and minimize impacts to coho salmon that may result from a Covered Activity. An agricultural operator may obtain authorization to take coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity by obtaining a sub-permit after enrolling in the Program. Nothing in this Permit gives to SQRCD the authority to issue a sub-permit or provide take authorization to agricultural operators in any form.

## **XIII. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT AND SUB-PERMIT APPROVAL**

- A. SQRCD shall coordinate this Permit on behalf of all agricultural operators who participate in the Program. Such agricultural operators will receive

authorization to take coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity pursuant to a separate permit reviewed and issued by the Department, described above and hereinafter as a “sub-permit.” An agricultural operator who participates in the Program and obtains a sub-permit is referred to above and hereinafter as a “sub-permittee.”

- B. SQRCD shall be responsible for implementing the mitigation and monitoring requirements that apply to it in this Permit.
- C. All mitigation measures identified in this Permit that are implemented by the SQRCD or a sub-permittee since the date that the Department deemed the application for this Permit complete (April 28, 2005) shall be counted in any determination of whether the SQRCD or a sub-permittee has fully mitigated for the take of coho salmon this Permit or any sub-permit authorizes.
- D. SQRCD shall comply with the terms and conditions of this Permit that apply to it within the timeframes set forth below and in Attachment 3, “Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan” (“MAMP”), and shall comply with all other applicable requirements of this Permit and the MAMP. Each sub-permittee shall comply with the terms and conditions of this Permit that apply to him/her that are included in the sub-permit within the timeframes set forth below and in the MAMP, and shall comply with all other applicable requirements of the MAMP.
- E. SQRCD and each sub-permittee shall fully implement and adhere to the conditions below that apply to them.
  - 1. General conditions
    - (a) SQRCD shall conduct an education program for all sub-permittees within sixty days of the close of each sub-permittee enrollment period, described below. The education program shall consist of a presentation by a person or persons knowledgeable about the biology of coho salmon, the terms of the Permit, and CESA. The education program shall include a discussion of the biology of coho salmon, their habitat needs, their threatened status under CESA, and the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures required by this Permit. A fact sheet containing this information shall also be distributed to all sub-permittees. Upon completion of the education program, the

sub-permittees shall sign a form acknowledging that they attended the education program and understand the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures required by this Permit. SQRCD shall be responsible for preparing the presentation, the fact sheet, and acknowledgment form; for distributing and collecting the forms; and for making the completed forms available to the Department upon request. SQRCD shall submit the presentation, fact sheet, and acknowledgment form to the Department for its prior review and approval.

- (b) SQRCD and any sub-permittee shall immediately stop, contain, and clean-up any fuel, lubricants, or other hazardous materials that leak or spill while engaged in a Covered Activity. SQRCD or the sub-permittee shall notify the Department immediately of any leak or spill of hazardous materials into a stream or in a place where it can pass into a stream. While engaged in a covered activity, SQRCD and all sub-permittees shall store and handle hazardous materials at least 150 feet away from the edge of mean high water elevation of any stream and properly dispose any unused or leftover hazardous materials offsite. Exceptions to this provision may be provided in individual sub-permits for pre-existing structures with adequate containment facilities.
- (c) Sub-permittees shall provide non-enforcement Department employees written consent to access the sub-permittee's property for the specific purpose of verifying compliance with, or the effectiveness of, the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures required by this Permit or a sub-permit and/or for the purpose of fish population monitoring in the Scott River and its tributaries, provided the Department notifies the sub-permittee at least 48 hours in advance, whether verbally or in writing. *The sub-permittee is entitled to be present or have a representative present. Sworn peace officers may enter private lands if necessary for law enforcement purposes pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 857 or as otherwise authorized by law.*
- (d) Each sub-permittee shall be solely responsible for any costs the sub-permittee incurs to implement any avoidance or minimization measures required under a sub-permit and



SQRCD shall be solely responsible for any costs it incurs to implement any mitigation and monitoring measures required under this Permit.

- (e) SQRCD's mitigation obligations under this Permit shall end only when the SQRCD has implemented the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures identified in this Permit, for which it is responsible, that are necessary to fully mitigate for authorized take of coho salmon that occurred while this Permit and all sub-permits were in effect and the Final Report (described below) is deemed complete pursuant to Section XVI.C, regardless of whether the Permit has expired or been revoked, relinquished, or terminated.
- (f) SQRCD shall submit to the Department an irrevocable letter of credit or another form of security other than a bond ("Security") approved by the Department's Office of the General Counsel in the principal sum of \$100,000. The Security shall allow the Department to draw on the principal sum if the Department, in its sole discretion, determines that SQRCD or a sub-permittee has failed to comply with any of the avoidance, minimization, mitigation, or monitoring measures in this Permit or a sub-permit for which the SQRCD or sub-permittee is responsible. The Department shall not execute this Permit until after the Department has approved the Security.

If the Department draws on the Security, it shall use the amount drawn to implement the avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures the SQRCD or sub-permittee has failed to implement, unless the Department determines, in its sole discretion, that the measure can no longer be successfully implemented or will not be effective, in which case the Department may use the amount drawn to fund other measures within the Program Area that will more effectively avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on coho salmon caused by a Covered Activity.

- (g) Instream work on structural restoration projects by SQRCD or a sub-permittee shall occur from July 1 to October ~~15~~<sup>31</sup> when coho salmon are least likely to be present and/or when water temperatures exceed the tolerance levels of coho

salmon. If the work needs to be completed before July 1 or after October 15 34, SQRCD or the sub-permittee shall request a variance from the Department in writing. If the Department grants the request, the work shall be completed in accordance with the avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures the Department specifies in granting the variance.

- (h) Instream equipment operations by SQRCD or a sub-permittee shall occur when coho salmon are least likely to be present and/or when water temperatures exceed the tolerance levels of coho salmon, which is generally from July 1 to October 15 34, except as otherwise provided in BMPs adopted pursuant to Section XV.F below. SQRCD will verify with the Department when such operations may begin each year prior to their commencement. If the work needs to be completed before July 1 or after October 15, SQRCD shall request a variance from the Department in writing. If the Department grants the request, the work shall be completed in accordance with the avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures the Department specifies in granting the variance. To the extent possible, all such work shall be done from outside the channel. All refueling of machinery shall be done no less than 150 feet away from the edge of the mean high water elevation of any stream. Access without specific Department approval is allowed to correct emergency problems demanding immediate action (as defined in Public Resources Code section 21060.3)
- (i) SQRCD and each sub-permittee shall comply with Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.*, if applicable.

## 2. Mitigation obligations of SQRCD

SQRCD's mitigation obligations are described below.

### (a) Flow enhancement

The practice of diverting water from coho salmon-bearing streams increases the risk of take. To mitigate potential take of coho salmon from the diversion of water in streams where coho salmon occur, SQRCD shall implement the programs

below to provide for or support the instream needs of coho salmon at specific life-cycle stages.

- (i) Development and implementation of Scott River Water Trust. SQRCD shall develop a locally-based Scott River Water Trust (“Water Trust”) specific to the conditions in the Scott River watershed. The SQRCD shall develop a guidance document (“charter”) that governs that Water Trust. The charter shall be subject to the Department’s approval. The Water Trust shall provide instream flows by leasing or purchasing water from sub-permittees or other willing water right holders for instream beneficial use. The Water Trust shall use the income generated from the endowment that funds the Water Trust, or from other sources, to lease or purchase water from sub-permittees or others for instream beneficial use in accordance with guidelines prepared by SQRCD and approved by the Department. SQRCD shall begin developing the Water Trust immediately upon the effective date of the Permit. A forbearance agreement with the sub-permittee or other water right holder shall be required when leasing or purchasing water for one year or less. Water leased or purchased for greater than one year shall be dedicated to instream beneficial use pursuant to Water Code section 1707.
  
- (ii) Improve baseline instream flows and/or water quality. The SQRCD shall improve baseline instream flows and/or water quality within critical reaches of the Scott River and its tributaries and at critical life stages of coho salmon by either installing water efficiency and/or water management improvement projects on sub-permittees properties or changing/adding points of diversion to keep flows instream to point of use. Within one year of the effective date of this Permit, SQRCD will provide to the Department, for its review and approval, a list of priority stream reaches for flow enhancement based on coho life stage, need and work with sub-permittees to address overall irrigation efficiency, and delivery considerations to accomplish

aquatic habitat improvement. Generally, a Water Code section 1707 water transfer/dedication for instream benefits will be pursued where the net water savings is consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board policy.

- (iii) Sugar Creek Flow Enhancement. Sugar Creek provides some of the coldest summer water temperatures in the Scott River watershed and possesses high-quality, over-summering habitat. Flows from 1.2 to 6.0 cubic feet per second used for irrigation purposes will be dedicated to instream use within one year of the effective date of this Permit.
  
- (iv) Develop and implement a Contingency Plan for Dry and Critically-Dry Water Years. SQRCD shall submit a detailed Contingency Plan for Dry and Critically-Dry Water Years (“Contingency Plan”) to the Department for its review and approval within three years of the effective date of the Permit. The Contingency Plan shall identify the criteria to determine when a year is dry or critically-dry and describe a process by which SQRCD will coordinate with sub-permittees to augment stream flows. SQRCD shall determine whether the water year will be dry or critically-dry by April 1st, based on the criteria in the Contingency Plan. Measures contained within the Contingency Plan will incorporate the best available information on both surface and groundwater (where relevant) to minimize the likelihood that critical coldwater flows to the Scott River and its tributaries are impaired. In addition, the Contingency Plan will identify data gaps and will include a strategy to avoid stranding, as defined in Section XVII.C. One component of the Contingency Plan shall be the Diversion Ramp-Up Management Plan.

During the irrigation season, significant changes in stream flow occur when agricultural water users cease or begin diverting water at the same time. A rapid decrease in flow can result in the stranding of fish in shallow pools and side channels below

diversions, as well as a loss of critical rearing habitat. To address this problem SQRCD, in consultation with the Department and DWR, or functional equivalent watermaster, shall develop and implement a Diversion Ramp-Up Management Plan (“Management Plan”) to coordinate and monitor irrigation so as to minimize rapid reductions in instream flows and the possible stranding of coho salmon. SQRCD shall submit the Management Plan to the Department for its review and approval within ~~three~~ one year from the effective date of the Permit. SQRCD and the sub-permittees shall begin implementing the Management Plan immediately upon the Department’s approval.

- (v) Install alternative stock water systems. Water is diverted for stock watering purposes and/or off-stream storage in October, November, and December each year after diversions for irrigation cease. In those years when the seasonal rains arrive late, such stock water diversions can limit the ability of returning adult coho salmon to reach potential spawning areas in the Scott River watershed. To address that problem, SQRCD shall identify priority areas where additional instream flows in the fall will contribute significantly to adult coho migration. A priority plan shall be prepared by SQRCD that identifies where alternative stock watering systems may be beneficial for coho salmon. The priority plan shall be submitted to the Department for its review and approval within one year from the effective date of this Permit. The priority plan shall take into consideration groundwater availability, off stream storage capacity, and the feasibility of altering farm management practices.

During the term of the Permit, SQRCD shall install an average of two alternative stock watering systems or other flow improvement measures per year. A total of 20 alternative stock watering systems shall be installed by the expiration date of this Permit. The watering systems shall use groundwater, off stream storage, or other appropriate method, rather than surface water. Minimizing surface water diversion in

the fall will facilitate adult coho salmon access to spawning areas. For purposes of this Permit, an alternative stock water system means the wells, tanks, pumps, water lines, watering troughs, and other physical components used to provide groundwater or stored water to livestock.

Where alternative stock watering systems are installed, the diversion of surface water for stock watering purposes shall cease after the irrigation season ends and not begin again until the USGS gage near Fort Jones on the Scott River shows three consecutive days of average flows in excess of 40 cubic feet per second

~~Alternative stock watering systems implemented pursuant to this Permit shall be utilized to water stock from the end of the irrigation season as specified in the Scott River, Shackleford Creek, French Creek, and any other applicable court decrees until December 31<sup>st</sup>. When winter flows are exceedingly low, the alternative stock water system may be operated beyond December 31<sup>st</sup>. Conversely, in years when fall precipitation is high, diversion of stock water can be resumed prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> if requested by a sub-permittee, recommended by the SQRCD, and approved by the Department.~~

Sub-permittees shall receive a reimbursement of the cost per day for running the alternative stock water system from the Water Trust or equivalent means if funds are available.

No sub-permittee shall be required to forego exercise of a right to divert for stock water purposes for more than four consecutive years. Within one year of the effective date of this Permit, the SQRCD shall develop and administer a program, subject to Department review and approval, to rotate the periodic exercise of diversion rights among sub-permittees to best enhance instream flows while preserving diversion rights from forfeiture.

(vi) East Fork Water Quantity Improvement Project. The East Fork Water Quality/Quantity Improvement Project will provide instream flows and reduce historical use up to 5.0 cubic feet per second throughout the irrigation season. The volume of water diverted will be reduced by implementing the measures described below. In addition, fish passage will be improved by installing a ~~vertex~~ boulder weir at the head of China Cove Ditch to eliminate the existing gravel dam. That project will be completed within three years of the effective date of the Permit.

- (1) Reduce the volume of water diverted from the East Fork by converting an inefficient earthen ditch (China Cove Ditch) to a piped ditch.
- (2) Provide an alternative pressurized irrigation system for the second half of the irrigation season to further reduce diversion volume from China Cove Ditch.
- (3) Extend irrigation coverage of China Cove Ditch to more efficiently irrigate and provide stock water in order to eliminate late season diversion of the Big Mill Ditch, which will free up cold water to the East Fork for instream beneficial uses.

(b) Habitat improvement

(i) Spawning gravel enhancement. SQRCD shall work with the Department to develop and implement a Spawning Gravel Enhancement Plan (“Gravel Enhancement Plan”). The Gravel Enhancement Plan shall identify areas where gravel for coho salmon spawning could be placed effectively and where gravel can be recruited, and prioritize all immediately-needed gravel enhancement projects throughout the Program Area. SQRCD shall submit the Gravel Enhancement Plan to the Department for its review

and approval within two years from the effective date of the Permit.

SQRCD shall design and install constrictors and/or other spawning area enhancement structures at a total of five priority stream reaches where spawning gravels are not plentiful, if deemed necessary in the Gravel Enhancement Plan. SQRCD shall complete all gravel enhancement projects prior to the expiration of this Permit.

- (ii) Instream habitat improvement structures. SQRCD, in consultation with the Department and sub-permittees, shall identify locations in the Program Area where instream habitat improvement structures would benefit coho salmon, and list those locations in order of priority. SQRCD shall submit the priority list to the Department for its review and approval within one year from the effective date the Permit. SQRCD shall install at least twenty instream habitat improvement structures at sites identified on the priority list prior to the expiration date of this Permit. At least ten of those structures shall be installed within five years from the effective date of the Permit. Instream habitat improvement structures may include large and small woody debris and boulder structures to improve pools and cover in areas where potential for over-summering exists.
- (iii) Riparian planting. SQRCD and the sub-permittees shall prepare and submit to the Department for its review and approval a priority list of areas currently being used by coho salmon for spawning and rearing within two years of the effective data of this Permit. Before this Permit expires SQRCD shall plant twenty acres of riparian habitat in the areas included on the priority list to improve instream cover and shade canopy, improve channel stabilization, and trap or hold sediment. Ten of those acres shall be planted within five years of the effective date of the Permit.

- (c) Barrier removal/fish passage



Significant barriers exist in the Scott River system that prevent fish passage or limit historical access. Some older structures that impede fish passage are considered “legacy projects.” Restoration of passage at those sites involves efforts that go beyond minimization, and for purposes of this Permit are considered mitigation measures. SQRCD will continue to work toward eliminating the fish passage barriers identified below.

- (i) Fish Passage at the Scott Valley Irrigation District diversion head. The Scott Valley Irrigation District (“SVID”) diversion structure on the Scott River is the largest diversion in the Scott River watershed. SVID’s diversion structure currently allows for adult passage when minimum flow volumes reach 12-15 cubic feet per second. The diversion structure does not provide for upstream passage of juveniles. Summer water temperatures in the upper portion of the Scott River are suitable to provide for over-summering habitat for coho salmon, and it is likely that juveniles will move upstream to cooler water if they can move past SVID’s diversion structure. SQRCD shall work with SVID to provide volitional fish passage to both adult and juvenile coho salmon at Young’s Dam within seven years of the effective date of the Permit.
  
- (ii) Installation of two or more boulder weirs and improved head works at Farmers Ditch. Farmers Ditch is the second largest diversion in the Scott River watershed. A gravel dam is currently used to divert water from the upper portion of the Scott River into the ditch. The annual construction of the dam disturbs the channel, creates turbidity, and presents a fish passage barrier. Fish passage is very important in mid-summer because juvenile coho salmon in the Scott River are moving to find suitable over-summering habitat. Upstream access past the Farmers Ditch stream reach would provide access to cold water tributaries located in the southern end of Scott Valley. In conjunction with the construction of the diversion, the stream reach (within the tailings

section of the Scott River) is aggraded and flows drop below the surface downstream from the diversion in early July.

SQRCD shall replace the gravel push-up dam with two or more boulder ~~vortex~~ weirs. The diversion take-out will be relocated upstream and the initial section of the diversion will be piped to reduce ditch loss. The weirs will provide for fish passage whenever flow is present. SQRCD shall be responsible for installing the boulder weirs within one year of the effective date of the Permit.

- (iii) Development of fish passage – Rail Creek tributary to the East Fork of the Scott River. The East Fork of the Scott River is an important coho tributary. While the summer water temperatures of the East Fork are very warm, the tributaries to the East Fork are cold, and historically provided over-summering habitat. Currently, an earthen dam in Rail Creek prevents anadromous fish access to approximately 1 mile of spawning and summer rearing habitat. The impact of limited access to cold water tributaries of the East Fork is considered significant. In order to provide year-round fish passage to upper Rail Creek, the SQRCD shall engineer and construct an appropriate fish passage facility at the earthen dam within seven years of the effective date of this Permit.

#### **XIV. MONITORING PROGRAM**

SQRCD shall establish a monitoring program to track the implementation of the mitigation measures for which it is responsible, and to determine if the sub-permittee is fulfilling all sub-permit terms and conditions, implementation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures identified in the Permit and any sub-permit, and the effectiveness of those measures in improving conditions for coho salmon (“Monitoring Program”). In addition, the SQRCD is available to assist the sub-permittee in fulfilling monitoring responsibilities related to the diversion of water and livestock or vehicle crossings. SQRCD shall fund all monitoring activities it is responsible for performing. The Monitoring Program is summarized below and is more fully described in Attachment 3.

A. Compliance Monitoring

~~SQRCD shall conduct monitoring activities to verify that the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures identified in this Permit are being implemented in accordance with the requirements below.~~

1. SQRCD shall be responsible for determining if it is fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Permit by instituting a comprehensive monitoring program. The program shall include a means to confirm and monitor the implementation of the mitigation measures for which it is responsible.

2. The sub-permittee shall be responsible for monitoring the terms and condition of their sub-permit by completing the appropriate implementation and effectiveness monitoring checklists for their Covered Activities and submitting them to the Department. SQRCD is available to assist the sub-permittee in completing the water diversion and livestock and vehicle crossings checklists.

~~SQRCD shall be responsible for determining if the sub-permittee is fulfilling the terms and conditions of their sub-permits by instituting a comprehensive monitoring program. The program shall include a means to: (1) confirm and monitor the implementation of the minimization and avoidance measures for which the sub-permittees are responsible, and (2) identify sub-permittees who are not or who have not implemented the terms and conditions of their sub-permits. SQRCD shall immediately notify the Department of sub-permittees who SQRCD believes are not fulfilling or implementing a term or condition of their sub-permit.~~

3. The SQRCD shall inspect the screen, headgate, measuring device, diversion structure and livestock and vehicle crossings annually and is available to assist the sub-permittee in filling out the qualitative effectiveness monitoring checklists for those Covered Activities.

- 4 If during any field review of a sub-permittees water diversion facilities and/or livestock or vehicle crossing, the SQRCD identifies a sub-permittee who may not or has not implemented the terms and conditions of their sub-permits the SQRCD shall inform the sub-permittee and work with the sub-permittee to develop a strategy for implementing the terms and conditions of the sub-permit.

5. At the discretion of either the SQRCD or the sub-permittee, the Department will be notified in order to assist in the development of an implementation strategy.

6. If the SQRCD and the sub-permittee cannot agree upon an acceptable strategy for implementation of the terms and conditions of the sub-permit, or the implementation of a term or condition of this Permit which requires the SQRCD to implement certain mitigation measures on the property of sub-permittees, the Department shall be notified.

7.3. SQRCD shall summarize the results of its monitoring activities in each of its Annual Reports (described below). Analysis of the past year's monitoring activities and the monitoring data shall be provided to the Department at that time.

8.4. After revocation, relinquishment, expiration, or termination of the Permit, SQRCD shall deliver a Final Report (described below) to the Department analyzing all of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures implemented pursuant to this Permit, including an evaluation of their effectiveness.

9.5. SQRCD's obligations under this Permit shall not end until the Final Report has been deemed complete by the Department (Section XVI.C), regardless of when the Permit expires, or is revoked, relinquished, or terminated.

10.6. SQRCD shall conduct photo monitoring to document the installation, operation, maintenance, and effectiveness of all avoidance, minimization, and mitigation activities (individually, "project") for which it is responsible ~~required~~ under this Permit and any sub-permit.

Photo monitoring shall be used to document current conditions, implementation and effectiveness by:

- documenting pre- and post-site conditions;
- identifying key steps taken during and after the completion of a project;
- determining whether a project was correctly implemented pursuant to SQRCD and Department guidelines; and

- document ongoing maintenance of the project.

Sequential photographs shall be taken over time in order to show changes in site conditions. At a minimum, photographs shall be taken at three different times: before project implementation, directly after project implementation, and again at a later date appropriate to the particular project.

11.7. SQRCD shall conduct monitoring activities prior to and immediately after project implementation for those projects for which it is responsible, ~~using photographs and checklists for documentation. That information shall include pre-project and pre-treatment checklists. That information shall include pre-project and pre-treatment checklists. The pre-treatment checklist shall be used during monitoring to help judge effectiveness of the project.~~ Data collection shall include pre-project implementation checklists, implementation checklists and photo monitoring.

12.8. SQRCD and Department project evaluators shall have access to photographs and project files to take with them on site visits.

#### ~~B.~~ Effectiveness Monitoring

~~SQRCD shall determine the effectiveness of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures identified in this Permit and sub-permits and the extent to which the objectives of those measures have been met in accordance with the requirements below.~~

13.4. SQRCD shall conduct qualitative effectiveness monitoring ~~before and after project implementation, and annually thereafter, for all mitigation measures for which it is responsible pursuant to this Permit by filling out the qualitative effectiveness monitoring checklist and conducting photo monitoring for those particular project types.~~

14.2. SQRCD shall identify at least one specific objective for each project installed pursuant to this Permit. The objective shall be documented in project files by SQRCD and shall be reported to the Department in the Annual Report.

15.3. SQRCD shall conduct quantitative effectiveness monitoring ~~for all measures implemented pursuant to this Permit and any sub-permit.~~

In addition, SQRCD shall conduct quantitative effectiveness monitoring of 10% of all instream measures implemented. For purposes of quantitative effectiveness monitoring instream measures shall include: spawning gravel enhancement (if determined necessary), instream habitat structures, livestock and vehicle crossings, fish passage improvements, and instream flow.

## **XV. ADDITIONAL SQRCD AND SUB-PERMITTEE AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION OBLIGATIONS**

In addition to any other obligations in this Permit that apply to SQRCD and sub-permittees, SQRCD and each sub-permittee shall implement the measures described below to avoid and minimize the incidental take of all life stages of coho salmon, including the eggs, alevins, juveniles (i.e., fry, parr, and smolt), and adults. SQRCD shall describe the implementation status of each of the following avoidance and minimization measures in each Annual Report (described below).

### **A. Water Management**

#### **1. Compliance with water rights**

Each sub-permittee shall divert and use water in the Program Area pursuant to, and in accordance with, a valid and existing right at all times. Such compliance includes diverting water at the authorized point of diversion(s), in the authorized amount, and during the authorized period(s), and using it for the authorized purpose(s) and at the authorized place(s) of use. SQRCD shall not be responsible for enforcing the sub-permittees' compliance with their right(s) to divert and use water in the Program Area.

#### **2. Verification of the quantity of water diverted**

Each sub-permittee shall verify that the quantity of water the sub-permittee is diverting or using is in accordance with a valid water right. Verification shall be performed by the watermaster for diversions that are controlled by a watermaster. In the absence of a watermaster, verification shall be performed by some other reliable means as determined by the Department. The quantities diverted at each diversion shall be reported to the Department on at least a monthly basis in the form of a database or in some other form approved by the Department.

3. Headgate and gage installation

- a. All sub-permittees shall install a locking headgate or valve, sized appropriately for the authorized diversion, that can regulate flow, and a functional measuring device or flow meter, on any structure or facility used to divert water, whether by pumping, through a ditch, pipe, or flume, or by some other means (“diversion”) ~~that meet Department~~ ~~criteria~~ to facilitate better control and monitoring of water delivery within three years of the effective date of the Permit.
- b. The designs for headgates or valves and measuring devices in State Watermaster or Special Watermaster District Service areas shall be approved by Department of Water Resources (DWR) or said Special District, if applicable, in coordination with the Department. In areas where there is no watermaster service the designs shall be approved by the Department. All measuring devices and methods of water measurement shall be constructed and maintained to meet a ±5% measuring accuracy criteria.
- c. SQRCD shall prepare a priority plan that identifies locations where headgate and measuring device installation is a priority and shall submit the list to the Department for review and approval within one year of the effective date of this Permit.

B. Fish Screens

1. All sub-permittees shall be responsible for fitting their diversions, including diversions for stock water, with fish screens that meet Department and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service’s (“NMFS”) criteria for steelhead fry as they exist at the time the screen will be installed. Fish screens shall be in place and maintained at all times water is being diverted, and SQRCD, in consultation with the Department, shall inspect the screens at least once a year during the irrigation season to verify that this requirement is being fulfilled and to ensure assure that the screens are in good working condition.

2. Any unscreened diversion operated by a sub-permittee within the known range of coho salmon in the Program Area shall have a fish screen installed on or in the diversion no later than four years from the effective date of the Permit, or within two years from the date of the sub-permit, whichever date is later.
3. Each sub-permittee shall supply sufficient bypass water as determined by the Department on a case-by-case basis and, if necessary, construct or install a bypass channel or device, to carry fish, stopped by the fish screen, back to the channel from which they were diverted.
4. If a screen needs to be removed for cleaning or repair, the sub-permittee shall ensure that a replacement screen is installed immediately after the screen is removed or, alternatively, that no water is flowing through the area where the screen is located.
5. Each sub-permittee shall regularly inspect and clean all fish screens as necessary to remove debris, properly operate the bypass, and prevent over-topping of the fish screen.

C. Fish Passage Improvements

There are an estimated 90 active diversions in the Program Area within known or presumed areas of coho use. Of those, an estimated 35 to 40 impede fish passage to some extent ("fish barriers"). To address this problem, SQRCD and each sub-permittee whose diversion is a fish barrier shall comply with the below requirements in an effort to eliminate all the fish barriers.

1. Each sub-permittee whose diversion is a fish barrier shall provide volitional fish passage for both adult and juvenile coho salmon, both upstream and downstream within five years of the effective date of their sub-permit. Where such passage is inadequate, the sub-permittee shall submit plans to improve passage to the Department for review and approval. As a part of the review the Department will make a determination regarding whether or not engineered drawings are necessary for the project. If the Department determines that engineered drawings are necessary, the sub-permittee shall submit such drawings to the Department for its review and approval prior to implementing the project. Annual reports that document progress to provide adequate fish passage



at a diversion that is a fish barrier shall be provided to the SQRCD by the owner of the diversion. SQRCD shall submit the sub-permittees' annual reports to the Department with the SQRCD's Annual Report (described below).

2. SQRCD shall review and prioritize in the form of a written list the diversions sub-permittees use in the Program Area based on existing fish passage conditions, the impacts of the current diversion method and operation on coho salmon, the presence of coho salmon, the habitat that would be available to coho salmon were the barrier removed, and a cost-benefit estimate. SQRCD shall submit the priority list to the Department for its review and approval within one year from the effective date of the Permit. The priority list shall be used to focus efforts to remove fish barriers in the most critical areas early in the Program.
3. SQRCD shall coordinate with the Department to develop a curriculum for a fish passage workshop within eight months from the effective date of the Permit, and shall conduct a fish passage workshop for those persons who own, operate, or use diversions that are likely to obstruct passage within one year from the effective date of the Permit.
4. All diversion structures operated by sub-permittees shall comply with all provisions of the Fish and Game Code within five years of the effective date of the sub-permit.

D. Livestock and Vehicle Crossings

1. Livestock and vehicles may not cross a flowing stream from October ~~15~~<sup>31</sup> through July 1 to avoid any possible damage to coho redds, except on designated lanes where measures to prevent spawning have been taken or where spawning is deemed unlikely, as documented by a Department fisheries biologist or a Department-approved coho spawner surveyor. The Department shall approve coho spawner surveyors who have demonstrated competency in identifying and classifying spawning habitat. Instream installation of any crossing improvements shall occur when coho salmon are the least likely to be present and/or when water temperatures exceed coho tolerance levels, generally July through October or when the channel is dry. SQRCD will verify

with the Department when any construction activities can be undertaken on a site-by-site basis.

2. Due to the uniqueness of the landscape and conditions throughout the Program Area, SQRCD will work with landowners and the Department on the appropriate placement for improved crossing areas. Sites will be selected to avoid impacts on potential spawning habitat and coho redds. SQRCD shall develop a list of priority locations for livestock and vehicle crossing construction and shall submit the list to the Department for review and approval within one year of the effective date of this Permit. High priority areas identified in the priority plan will be addressed as soon as practical. The Department will have final approval of the location and design of the crossing area prior to use.
3. The crossing sites shall meet the following criteria:
  - (a) Crossing sites shall not be located in the tails of pools, known spawning habitat, or identified, suitable spawning habitat.
  - (b) Approaches must be no steeper than 3:1, and should be sloped with clean and angular base rock.
  - (c) Angular rock shall be applied to the crossing during the period of July 1 through October ~~15~~ 31. The diameter of angular rock shall be determined in consultation with SQRCD so as to eliminate the risk of angular rock becoming a grade control affecting channel conditions.
  - (d) In locations where the stream crossings occur on intermittent streams, application of rock shall occur when the stream channel is dry.
4. In order to ensure the crossing structures remain in operable condition, SQRCD shall monitor them annually for shifting of the base rock. During the monitoring visit, SQRCD shall evaluate fish passage and the approaches to the crossing. If the crossing is exacerbating erosion and contributing fine sediment to the stream, SQRCD shall note that in its Annual Report and the sub-permittee shall be responsible for implementing reasonable measures to correct the problem as soon as practicable.

5. All sub-permittees with livestock and vehicle crossings shall meet the crossing criteria identified above, unless otherwise determined by the Department, prior to the expiration date of their sub-permit.
  
6. For the mainstem of the Scott River upstream from Young's Point Dam (where SVID's diversion is located), including the East Fork of the Scott River, due to various factors including the presence and movement of tailings, the above procedure in some cases may not be practical. Therefore, the procedure below is an alternative that may be used in the above-described area only.
  - (a) The sub-permittee, working with SQRCD, shall identify a potential crossing area to be utilized over the coming fall and winter months.
  - (b) Between September 1 and October 1, the sub-permittee and SQRCD shall meet with the Department to review the potential crossing area.
  - (c) If the Department determines the proposed crossing area is not directly downstream from and does not provide suitable spawning habitat, the proposed crossing site may be utilized as a crossing site from October ~~15~~ <sup>31</sup> through July 1 with no further investigation on the part of the sub-permittee or SQRCD required.
  - (d) If the Department has concerns that the crossing may be used by coho salmon to spawn in the upcoming coho spawning season, the sub-permittee, the Department, and the SQRCD shall work together to find a mutually agreed upon alternate crossing location.

E. Riparian Fencing/Grazing of Livestock in Riparian Area

1. SQRCD shall prepare a plan that identifies in order of priority riparian locations in the Program Area that if fenced to exclude livestock would benefit coho salmon ("Riparian Fencing Plan"). High priority areas identified in the priority plan will be addressed as soon as practical. SQRCD shall submit the Riparian Fencing Plan to the Department for review and approval within one year from the effective date of the Permit. SQRCD shall select and prioritize the

riparian locations based on coho use of the stream segment adjacent to or near the riparian location; the severity of the impact livestock have on the stream segment adjacent to or near the riparian location; the ability of livestock to access the stream and; the condition of the vegetation in the riparian location.

2. The sub-permittees shall be responsible for installing *livestock* exclusion fencing in accordance with the Riparian Fencing Plan. SQRCD shall work with the sub-permittees to identify funds that can be used to offset the cost of installing exclusion fencing in an effort to protect an average of two miles of additional stream every year (once the Riparian Fencing Plan has been approved) based on the priority list in the Riparian Fencing Plan. Until the exclusion fencing is installed, the sub-permittees shall take all reasonable precautions in regard to the watering and movement of livestock on or within the bed, banks, or channel of the Scott River or its tributaries to ensure minimal adverse impacts to coho habitat.
3. The sub-permittees shall build any exclusion fencing approximately 35 feet from the edge of the stream bank and shall make reasonable efforts to include the existing riparian vegetation within the fenced area. A sub-permittee may deviate from the 35-foot setback requirement, provided the deviation is minor and approved by SQRCD. Sub-permittees shall be responsible for maintaining and repairing all exclusion fencing built on their property in good working order. If the exclusion fencing will be built in an area prone to flooding, or other special circumstances exist, the sub-permittee shall consult with and get the approval for any deviations from these standards from both SQRCD and the Department to address those circumstances before the exclusion fencing is built. If after the exclusion fencing is built, flood damage impacts more than 50% of it, SQRCD, the sub-permittee, and the Department shall meet to determine the proper course of action to take.
4. All sub-permittees shall allow riparian revegetation planting and exclusion fencing to occur along designated stream reaches located on their property.
5. Sub-permittees may not graze livestock within a fenced riparian area unless the grazing is done in accordance with a grazing management plan prepared by the sub-permittee and approved by the Department. The grazing management plan shall address the

timing, duration, and intensity (number of livestock allowable per unit area [i.e., stocking rate]) of livestock grazing within the riparian zone and shall explain how the proposed management plan will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat. In addition, the grazing plan shall describe the means by which the livestock will be prohibited from entering live streams.

F. Push-Up Dams

1. In consultation with the Department, SQRCD shall prepare and adopt a set of Best Management Practices (“BMPs”) governing the construction, operation, and/or removal of push-up dams within 6 months of the effective date of this Permit. The BMPs shall specify the conditions under which these push-up dams may be used, including, but not limited to, work windows during which the dams may be constructed and removed; provisions to allow dam passage by both adult and juvenile coho salmon; measures to minimize downstream sedimentation, turbidity, and other water quality impacts; and a description of the type of equipment that may be used to construct and remove the dams. Push-up dams are defined as temporary diversion structures created by using motorized equipment (for example loaders, backhoes, or excavators) to move bedload within the stream channel to form a flow barrier that seasonally diverts the flow of the stream.
2. Any sub-permittee who uses push-up dams in streams within the Program Area shall implement the BMP’s, once approved by the Department, to minimize dam-related impacts.
3. No later than five years after the effective date of their sub-permit all sub-permittees shall replace their push-up dams with boulder ~~vertex~~ weirs or some other diversion method, provided the Department approves the method, unless the Department determines that an alternative method is not feasible. “Feasible” means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.

G. Other Temporary Diversion Structures

1. In consultation with the Department, SQRCD shall prepare and adopt a set of Best Management Practices (“BMPs”) governing the

construction, operation, and/or removal of temporary diversion structures other than push-up dams within 6 months of the effective date of this Permit. The BMPs shall specify the conditions under which these other temporary diversion structures may be used, including, but not limited to, work windows during which they may be constructed and removed; provisions to allow passage by both adult and juvenile coho salmon; measures to minimize downstream sedimentation, turbidity, and other water quality impacts and a description of the construction methods that may be used to construct and remove the structures. Other temporary diversion structures are defined as any temporary structure (other than a push-up dam) used to seasonally divert water from a stream that is typically made with materials such as hay bales, hand-stacked rocks and cobble, tarps, wood, or a combination of these materials, placed in the channel with or without the use of heavy motorized equipment.

2. Within two years from the effective date of the Permit, any sub-permittee who uses an other temporary diversion structure in streams within the Program Area shall request the SQRCD and the Department to assess the structure. The request shall be in writing. If the Department determines that the other temporary diversion structure will comply with the Fish and Game Code, then the sub-permittee may use such structure, provided that specific BMPs shall be added to the sub-permit to minimize dam-related impacts.
3. If the Department determines that the other temporary diversion structure will not comply with the Fish and Game Code, even with implementation of BMPs, the sub-permittee shall within five years of such determination replace the other temporary diversion structure with a boulder vortex weir or some other diversion method approved by the Department.

#### H. Bioengineered Bank Stabilization

In areas where the slopes of streambanks on a sub-permittee's property have become unstable due to actions by the sub-permittee and re-stabilization measures are necessary to re-establish vegetation, the sub-permittee shall implement bioengineered bank stabilization techniques to prevent additional erosion from occurring. The techniques to be implemented shall be consistent with methods identified in the most recent version of the Department's California Salmonid Stream Habitat

Restoration Manual and shall be approved by the Department on a site-by-site basis. Any bank stabilization required pursuant to a sub-permit shall be implemented within three years of the effective date of the sub-permit.

I. Irrigation Tailwater Reduction and/or Capture

SQRCD shall assist sub-permittees in the design and implementation of tailwater reduction and capture systems. SQRCD shall inventory and prioritize tailwater sources for remediation and submit the priority list of sites to the Department for its review and approval within two years of the effective date of the Permit. High priority areas identified in the priority plan will be addressed as soon as practical. Any tailwater capture system implemented pursuant to this Permit or any sub-permit shall be consistent with the standards outlined by Natural Resources Conservation Service guidelines, and shall be constructed so as not to have negative impacts on the stream either during or after construction. The sub-permittees whose property is on the priority list shall have tailwater reduction and capture systems in place by the expiration of their sub-permit.

J. Maintain Connectivity of Tributaries in the Mainstem

A break in connectivity between French and Lower Shackleford Creeks and the Scott River prior to June 15 can impede movement of juvenile coho salmon. In order to address that problem, if such a break is about to occur before June 15, each sub-permittee shall refrain from diverting up to a maximum of 25% of the water the sub-permittee otherwise would be allowed to divert for a period of up to 12 hours at a time no more frequently than twice per week. Sub-permittees will be compensated with Water Trust or other funds for any water left in the stream for the purpose of maintaining connectivity, if such funds are available. SQRCD shall work with DWR and the Department to coordinate with sub-permittees in an effort to provide the maximum degree of connectivity feasible.

## XVI. SQRCD REPORTING

A. Annual Report

1. After the effective date of the Permit and until the Permit expires or terminates, SQRCD shall provide the Department an Annual Report by April 30 each year that covers the period of time from February 1 the previous year to January 31 of the current year.

2. Each Annual Report shall include at a minimum, the following information: 1) a general description of the status of the Program, including a description of all avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures that were implemented during the previous year; 2) a copy of an implementation database with notes showing the current implementation status of each avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measure; 3) the results of all monitoring activities conducted pursuant to the Permit; and 4) all monitoring data.

B. Five-Year Report

1. Five years after the effective date of the Permit, SQRCD shall conduct a comprehensive review of the Program and submit its findings in the form of a Five-Year Report to the Department. As part of its review, SQRCD shall evaluate coho recovery task implementation and community participation. The Five-Year Report shall include an analysis of the Program beginning on the effective date of the Permit, as well as the activities that have been implemented. The Five-Year Report shall include the Annual Report for the fifth year and recommended adaptive management actions to improve operations.

C. Final Report

1. No later than six months after the Permit expires, revoked, relinquished, or terminated, and all measures necessary to fully mitigate for take during the term of the Permit have been implemented, SQRCD shall provide the Department with a Final Report. SQRCD shall prepare the Final Report and include, at a minimum: 1) a copy of the implementation database with notes showing when each avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measure was implemented; 2) all available information about the incidental take of coho salmon the Permit covers; 3) information about the impacts the Covered Activities have had on coho salmon notwithstanding the implementation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures; 4) the beginning and ending dates of all construction projects the Permit ~~or any sub-permit~~ covers; 5) an assessment of the effectiveness of the Permit's ~~and sub-permits'~~ terms and conditions to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on coho salmon; 6) recommendations on how those terms and conditions might be changed to more effectively avoid, minimize,



and mitigate such impacts in the future; and 7) any other pertinent information.

The Department shall have sixty days from receipt of the Final Report to notify the SQRCD of any information the Department believes is missing from the Final Report. If the Department does not notify the SQRCD that the Final Report is incomplete within sixty days of receipt, the Final Report shall be deemed complete. Any such notice of incompleteness shall specify the information the Department believes is missing. The SQRCD shall have sixty days thereafter to provide the missing information, if it is available to the SQRCD, or if it cannot provide the missing information, an explanation that is acceptable to the Department of why the information is not available to the SQRCD. When the SQRCD has provided the missing information, or an explanation why it cannot provide missing information, the Final Report shall be deemed complete.

## **XVII. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SUB-PERMIT OBLIGATIONS**

DWR as a sub-permittee shall be responsible for complying only with the following terms and conditions:

- A. To assist with the implementation and compliance monitoring of this Permit and sub-permits, DWR shall provide to the Department water use data for all diversions with watermaster service in the Program Area, including, but not limited to the name of the diverter, the location of the diversion, the quantity of water that may lawfully be diverted and used, the dates the watermaster visits each diversion, and the estimated or measured quantity of water diverted by the watermaster on each visit. DWR shall provide the data in the form of a database on a monthly basis from April to November each year by the second week of each month following data collection
  
- B. DWR shall implement the Scott River, French Creek and Shackelford Creek and any other applicable court decrees pursuant to provisions of the Water Code in the adjudicated portions of the Scott River Watershed, ~~unless the Department instructs DWR otherwise pursuant to Section XVII.C below.~~ As part of that responsibility, the DWR watermaster, or a functional equivalent, shall verify that each sub-permittee is in compliance with their respective water right(s). The watermaster shall create a database of all diversions visited on a monthly basis to verify compliance

with water rights and shall provide this data monthly to the Department.

- C. DWR shall meet with the Department in person or by telephone on a weekly basis during the diversion season in order to inform the Department of any points of diversion in the watermastered areas where stranding is probable. The Department shall make a determination regarding whether or not any diversion is causing or will cause the stranding of coho salmon. For the purpose of this Permit, "stranding" is defined as a situation in which coho salmon are in a location with poor aquatic habitat conditions, due to a reduction in flow, from which they cannot escape. ~~The Department shall instruct DWR to reduce or cease the diversion and/or change the timing or manner of the diversion and take any other measures within DWR's control that the Department determines are necessary to correct or avoid stranding and DWR shall implement those measures immediately. However, before instructing DWR as described above, the Department will make every effort to work with SQRCD and sub-permittee to correct or avoid such take by some means other than reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion, all in accordance with Section XVIII.~~

D. The Department will make every effort to work with SQRCD and sub-permittee to correct or avoid such take by some means other than reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion.

E. If the Department determines that reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion will avoid or minimize stranding, and that is the only available measure to avoid or minimize stranding, the Department shall inform the sub-permittee of the required measures to be implemented to reduce stranding. The Department shall work with DWR to implement such measures within DWR's control.

## **XVIII. STRANDING**

If the Department determines that a diversion covered by a sub-permit is causing or will cause the stranding of coho salmon, the Department shall take the steps in the order below to avoid or minimize such stranding:

- A. The Department shall determine whether or not the sub-permittee is in compliance with the sub-permit.

- B. If the sub-permittee is not in compliance with the sub-permit, the Department shall contact the sub-permittee to determine why they are not in compliance and take appropriate action, whether or not in accordance with Section XIX.
- C. In either case, the Department shall consult with the SQRCD and sub-permittee to determine whether there are any measures the SQRCD and/or sub-permittee can take to avoid or minimize stranding.
- D. If reducing or ceasing the diversion and/or changing the timing or manner of the diversion will avoid or minimize stranding, and that is determined by the Department to be the only available measure to avoid or minimize stranding, the Department shall work with the SQRCD and sub-permittee and, if applicable, DWR to take such action.

## **XIX. SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION**

If the SQRCD or a sub-permittee fails to comply with any term or condition in the Permit or sub-permit, the Department may suspend or revoke the Permit or sub-permit in accordance with subsection 783.7 of title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. The SQRCD or the affected sub-permittee may seek reconsideration of or appeal a suspension or revocation pursuant to section 783.8 of title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. If, during the term of this Permit or any sub-permit, these regulations are amended or superseded, then the criteria and procedures specified in the regulations in effect at the time of the suspension, revocation, reconsideration or appeal shall apply.

## **XX. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS**

The Permit authorizes SQRCD to take coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity in accordance with CESA. The Permit does not satisfy any other local, state, or federal laws or necessarily entitle SQRCD to complete any Covered Activity. SQRCD is responsible for complying with all other applicable local, state, and federal laws that apply to a Covered Activity, including the following provisions in the Fish and Game Code: section 1600 *et seq.*, 5901, and 5937. Any sub-permit issued by the Department will likewise authorize a sub-permittee to take coho salmon incidental to a Covered Activity in accordance with CESA, will not satisfy any local, state, or federal laws, other than CESA, or necessarily entitle the sub-permittee to complete any Covered Activity. The sub-permittee will be responsible for complying with all other applicable local, state, and federal laws, including the following provisions in the Fish and Game Code: section 1600 *et seq.*, 5901, and 5937.

## XXI. ENFORCEMENT

- A. This Permit does not authorize or require SQRCD to bring an enforcement action against a sub-permittee who is not in compliance with its sub-permit. Such enforcement will be the sole responsibility and at the sole discretion of the Department.
- B. Nothing in this Permit precludes the Department from pursuing an enforcement action against the SQRCD or a sub-permittee instead of or in addition to suspending or revoking the Permit or any sub-permit.

## XXII. LIABILITY

SQRCD shall be solely responsible for any violation of the terms and conditions of the Permit applicable to SQRCD, whether committed by SQRCD or any person acting on behalf of SQRCD to complete a Covered Activity, including SQRCD's agents, officers, employees, contractors, or sub-contractors. Each sub-permittee shall be solely responsible for any violation of the terms and conditions of the Permit applicable to sub-permittee, whether committed by sub-permittee or any person acting on behalf of sub-permittee to complete a Covered Activity, including sub-permittee's agents, officers, employees, contractors, or sub-contractors. The Department shall not hold SQRCD responsible for sub-permittee's non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the Permit applicable to sub-permittee or its sub-permit.

~~Sub-permittees shall be solely responsible for complying with the terms and conditions of their sub-permits. The Department shall not hold SQRCD responsible for sub-permittee's non-compliance with the terms and conditions of a sub-permit. SQRCD and each sub-permittee shall be severally liable for the actions of their own employees, contractors and agents.~~

## XXIII. FORCE MAJEURE

The SQRCD and sub-permittees shall not be responsible for the damage or destruction of any fencing, fish screen, or any other device, facility, or structure the Permit or any sub-permit requires ("property"); the failure to perform an avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measure the Permit or any sub-permit requires; or the take of coho salmon due to any natural cause beyond the SQRCD's or sub-permittee's control, including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm, and earth movement, provided, however, the SQRCD or sub-permittee: 1)

notifies the Department in writing within two weeks after the event occurs, describing the event and the property damage or destruction and/or the measures the SQRCD or sub-permittee cannot perform because of it; 2) repairs or replaces the damaged or destroyed property and/or resumes performance of the avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measure as soon as practicable after the event ends; and 3) notifies the Department in writing within two weeks of repairing or replacing the property and/or resuming performance, unless the Department and the SQRCD or sub-permittee agree otherwise. This clause is intended to excuse SQRCD or sub-permittee only if the damage to the property, failure to perform the measure, or take of coho salmon could not be avoided by the exercise of due care by that party.

#### **XXIV. ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER**

This Permit and any sub-permit may not be assigned or transferred without the written consent of the Department in accordance with Department's CESA regulations, specifically section 783.6, subdivision (a), of title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

#### **XXV. RENEWAL**

The Permit and any sub-permit may be renewed in accordance with the Department's CESA regulations, specifically section 783.6, subdivision (b), of title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

#### **XXVI. RELINQUISHMENT**

- A. The SQRCD may relinquish the Permit, and a sub-permittee may relinquish a sub-permit, subject to and in accordance with the conditions below:
1. Relinquishment by sub-permittee. A sub-permittee may relinquish a sub-permit by providing notice to the Department and the SQRCD of intent to withdraw from the Program and relinquish the sub-permit. The termination of the sub-permit will be effective immediately upon receipt by the Department of the relinquishment notice from the sub-permittee. A terminated sub-permit may be reinstated by the Department, at the request of the sub-permittee, within 60 days of receipt of the relinquishment notification. The new sub-permit will include all of the conditions of the original sub-permit and any new conditions that the Department determines are necessary. After the sub-permit expires, the sub-permittee shall

no longer be required to comply with the avoidance and minimization measures identified in the sub-permit, and shall no longer have authorization under CESA to take coho salmon. Likewise, after the sub-permit expires, the sub-permittee shall no longer have authorization under the Streambed Alteration Agreement Program for activities subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602. After the sub-permit expires, the SQRCD shall be responsible to fully mitigate any authorized take of coho salmon that occurred when the sub-permit was in effect.

2. Relinquishment by SQRCD. The SQRCD may relinquish this Permit by providing notice to of the Department and all sub-permittees of its intent to withdraw from the Program and relinquish the Permit. The Permit shall expire upon receipt by the Department of the relinquishment notice from the SQRCD 60 days after the Department receives the notice. All sub-permits will expire upon expiration of the Permit, which the SQRCD shall state in its notice to sub-permittees. After the Permit expires, the SQRCD shall: 1) no longer be required to comply with the Permit; 2) have no continuing financial or other obligations under the Permit and Program with the exception of the costs of implementing any measures required pursuant to Section XXVI.A.2.(4) *immediately* below; 3) no longer have authorization under CESA to take coho salmon; 4) continue to implement the mitigation measures the Permit requires until the Department determines that take of coho salmon that occurred during the time the Permit and all sub-permits were in effect has been fully mitigated; and 5) prepare and submit to the Department the Final Report

## **XXVII. TERMINATION**

This Permit may be terminated by the Department at its sole discretion if circumstances or new information provides evidence that continued program implementation would jeopardize ~~may result in jeopardy to~~ coho salmon, or if such termination is required by law or court order. For the purpose of the Permit, "jeopardy" includes, but is not limited to, ~~to~~ the probable extirpation of any coho salmon cohort in the Scott River watershed.

## **XXVIII. NOTICES**

Written notices, reports, and other communications required by or relating to the Permit shall be delivered to the Department by first-class mail to the addresses

below, unless the Department instructs SQRCD otherwise. Notices, reports, and other communications should reference the Program name, the name of the Permittee (i.e., SQRCD), and the Permit number (i.e., 2081-2005-027-01) in the cover letter or other submitted document.

Original cover with attachment(s) to:

Gary B. Stacey, Regional Manager  
Northern Region  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Office: 530-225-2636  
Fax: 530-225-2381

Copy of cover without attachment(s) to:

General Counsel, Department of Fish and Game  
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

and:

Department of Fish and Game  
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1260  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Unless SQRCD is notified otherwise, the Department's Regional Representative for purposes of addressing and Permit-related issues is:

Caitlin Bean, Staff Environmental Scientist  
California Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Office: 530-225-2273  
Fax: 530-225-2381

## **XXIX. AMENDMENTS**

The Department may amend this Permit at any time during its term with the

concurrence of SQRCD. The Department may amend any sub-permit at any time during its term with the concurrence of the SQRCD and the sub-permittee. If the amendment is required by law, the Department shall amend the Permit or sub-permit regardless of whether the SQRCD or the sub-permittee concurs with such amendment. *This Permit may only be amended in accordance with section 783.6(c) of the California Code of Regulations, title 14.*

### **XXX. CESA FINDINGS**

To be completed after environmental review of the Program.

### **XXXI. ATTACHMENTS**

The following documents are attached to this Permit and incorporated herein by reference:

Attachment 1, "Scott River Watershed Map"

Attachment 2, "Covered Activities"

Attachment 3, "Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan"



Issued by the Department of Fish and Game on [date]

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Gary B. Stacey, Regional Manager  
Northern Region

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Ann Malcolm, General Counsel

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The undersigned: 1) warrants that he or she is acting as a duly authorized representative of the Permittee, 2) acknowledges receipt of this Permit, and 3) agrees on behalf of the Permittee to comply with all terms and conditions of the Permit.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

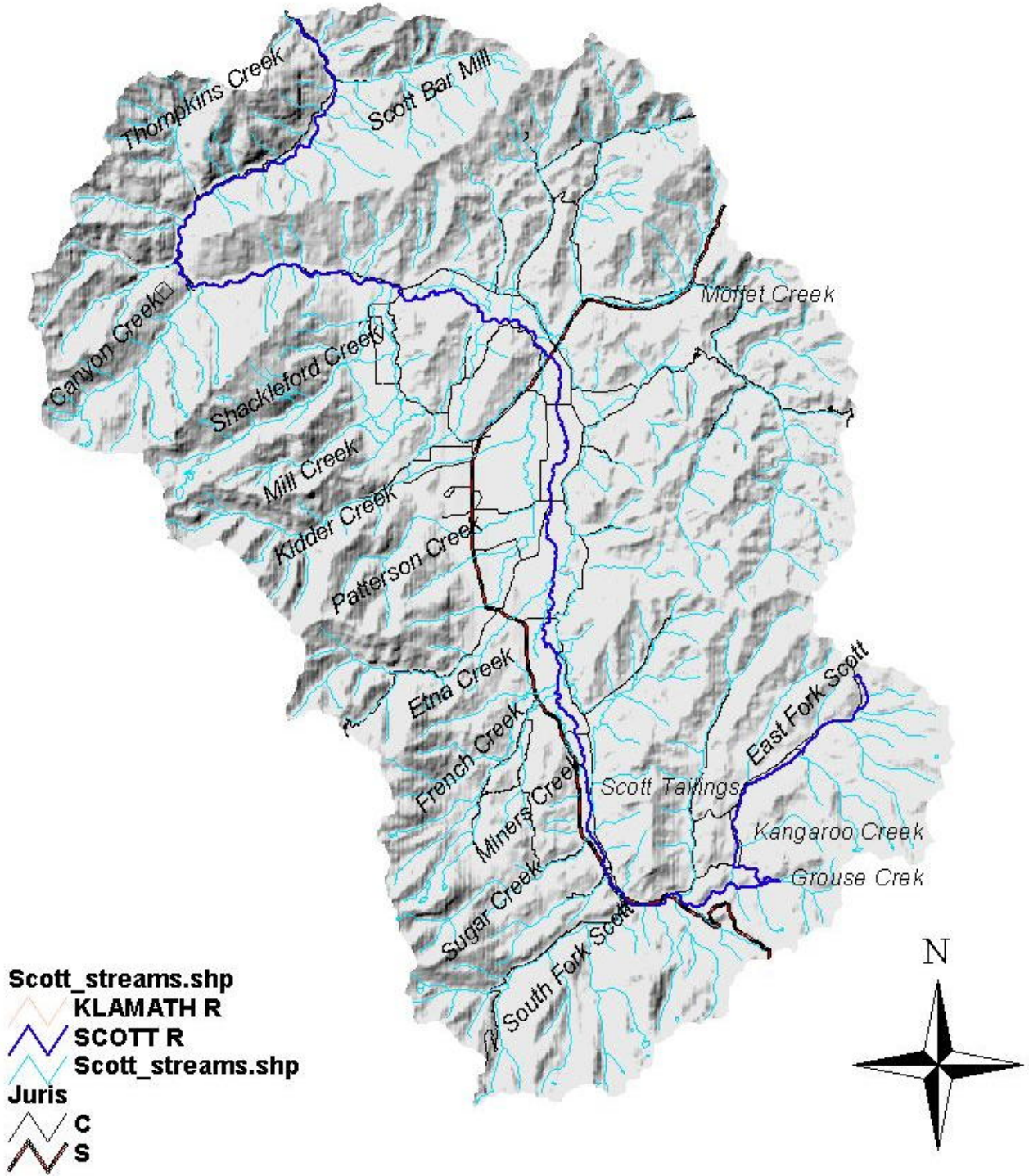
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

# Attachment 1

## SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED, SISKIYOU COUNTY



## ATTACHMENT 2

### COVERED ACTIVITIES FOR THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM

The Program covers the fourteen (14) categories of activities described below that are subject to the provisions of the California Endangered Species Act.

#### 1. Water Diversions

Water diversions covered under this category include only the diversion of surface water through a conduit or opening from streams, channels, or sloughs within the Scott River watershed by an agricultural operator for agricultural purposes in accordance with a valid water right, including one specified in the one of the following court decrees: Shackleford Creek (1950), French Creek (1958), and Scott River (1980).

#### 2. Water Diversion Structures

This category includes only the following activities relating to water diversion structures:

- a. Ongoing management and/or maintenance of existing flashboard dams, including the placement of boards into concrete abutments across the wetted channel to build head to divert water, and the removal of the boards.
- b. Ongoing maintenance, management, and repair of boulder weirs.
- c. Installing, operating, maintaining, and removing push-up dams. "Push-up dam" is defined as a temporary diversion structure created by using motorized equipment (for example loaders, backhoes, or excavators) to move bedload within the stream channel to form a flow barrier that seasonally diverts the flow of the stream.
- d. Installing, operating, maintaining, and removing other temporary diversion structures that are not push-up dams. "Other temporary diversion structure" is defined as any temporary structure to divert water seasonally from a stream and is typically made with materials such as hay bales, hand-stacked rocks and cobble, tarps, wood, and/or a combination of these materials placed in the channel with or without the use of heavy equipment.

- e. Installing or placing pumps and sumps and maintaining existing pumps and sumps within or adjacent to the active channel of a stream, which sometimes requires the use of large machinery within or adjacent to the active channel.
- f. Installing headgates and measuring devices, sized appropriately for the authorized diversion, that meet the Department and/or Department of Water Resource's standards on or in a diversion channel, which usually is done by excavating the site to proper elevation using large machinery, positioning the headgate and measuring device at the appropriate elevation, and installing rock or other "armoring" around the headgate to protect the structure. During installation, the stream bank could be affected by the construction of concrete forms and other necessary construction activities.

### 3. Fish Screens

This category includes only the installation, operation, and maintenance of the types of fish screens described below, provided they meet the Department's and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service's ("NMFS") criteria for steelhead fry as they exist at the time the screen is installed. Installing a fish screen usually includes site excavation, forming and pouring a concrete foundation and walls, excavation and installation of a fish bypass pipe or channel, and installation of the fish screen structure. Heavy equipment is typically used for excavation of the screen site and bypass. If the fish screen is placed within or near flood prone areas, typically rock or other "armoring" is installed to protect the screen. The average size of the bed, channel, and/or bank area affected by the installation of a bypass pipe or channel ranges from 40 to 100 square feet. Types of fish screens include:

- a. Self-cleaning screens, including flat plate self-cleaning screens, and other self-cleaning designs, including, but not limited to, rotary drum screens and cone screens, with a variety of cleaning mechanisms, consistent with Department and NMFS screening criteria.
- b. Non-self cleaning screens, including tubular, box, and other screen designs consistent with Department and NMFS screening criteria.

### 4. Stream Access and Crossings

This category includes only the moving of livestock and vehicles across

flowing streams or intermittent channels and/or the construction, maintenance, and use of stream crossings at designated locations where potential spawning gravels, incubating eggs, and fry are not present based on repeated site specific surveys. Factors considered when selecting a crossing location include the stream gradient, channel width, and the ability to maintain the existing channel slope. Generally, to construct a crossing, a boulder weir is placed on the downstream side of the crossing and angular quarry rock is placed in the crossing location; the width of the crossing does not exceed 25 feet; the crossing spans the entire width of the channel; the crossing is “keyed” into the bank on each side; the approaches on both sides do not exceed a slope of 3:1; and bank armoring (usually using quarry rock) is added where needed.

#### 5. Fencing

This category includes only the installation and maintenance of livestock exclusion fencing to protect riparian zones including the construction of fencing along livestock and vehicle crossings and livestock watering lanes.

#### 6. Riparian Restoration and Revegetation

This category includes only the restoration, including revegetation of riparian areas, consistent with the methods specified in the most current edition of the Department’s *Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*, or as otherwise approved in writing by the Department. The most current edition of the manual is available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/HabitatManual.asp nafwb/index.html>. Typically, riparian vegetation is planted within or adjacent to the active channel, and often in or near the wetted channel. Plantings include herbaceous perennials, emergent species, native grasses, trees, and shrubs. Planting methods vary by species, site, and size of material planted, ranging from hand planting to using a backhoe or excavator. For riparian trees, planting densities range from 130 to 300 plantings per acre, depending on the restoration goals (e.g., shading, sediment trapping, and bank stabilization), substrate, and hydrology. Trees and cuttings range in size from small rooted plugs to large diameter pole plantings. When installing pole plantings, heavy equipment may be used to excavate to or below water table depth. Maintenance activities include the occasional use of hand tools, portable pumps, pick-up trucks and/or water trucks in or near the bed, bank, or channel, for irrigation, debris removal, and replanting of restoration sites.

#### 7. Instream Structures

This category includes only the installation, maintenance, and repair of the following instream structures consistent with the methods specified in the most current edition of the Department’s *Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*, available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/HabitatManual.asp nafwb/index.html>:

- a. structures to protect the bed and banks of streams;
- b. bioengineered habitat structures;
- c. deflectors;
- d. boulder clusters;
- e. boulder weirs for instream habitat or to replace flashboard dams, push-up dams, and other temporary diversion structures;
- f. large woody debris; and
- g. spawning gravels to enhance spawning habitat

#### 8. Stream Gages

This category includes the installation and maintenance of stream gages in the active stream channel, usually using pipe 2" or greater in diameter. Typically, the pipe is secured to the bank by notching it into the bank and by then attaching it to the bedrock, a boulder, or a concrete buttress. Generally, heavy equipment is not needed to install and maintain stream gages.

#### 9. Barrier Removal and Fish Passage Projects

The projects listed below are covered under this category, although the Department may add others to the list in the future. Each project will provide access to historic fish spawning and rearing habitat.

- a. The installation and maintenance of a fish ladder at the Scott Valley Irrigation District diversion head
- b. The installation and maintenance of two or more boulder weirs and improved head works at Farmers Ditch
- c. The following barrier removal and fish passage projects on tributaries to the east fork of the Scott River:
  - i. Rail Creek fish barrier removal project
  - ii. Grouse Creek low flow fish passage project
  - iii. Big Mill Creek fish barrier and channel restoration projects

iv. Shackleford Creek confluence gravel aggradation maintenance

10. Grazing livestock

Grazing of livestock within the riparian exclusion zone adjacent to the channel or within the bed, bank, or channel, of the Scott River or its tributaries in accordance with a grazing management plan approved by the Department. The grazing plan shall address the timing, duration, and intensity (number of livestock allowable per unit area [i.e., stocking rate]) of livestock grazing within the riparian zone and shall explain how the proposed management plan will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat. In addition, the grazing plan shall describe the means by which the livestock will be prohibited from entering live streams.

11. Water Management

Covered activities include water management, water monitoring, and watermastering (either State or private Special District) activities; including:

1. the operation of head gates in conjunction with measuring devices to assure that each diversion is operated in compliance with the associated water right or adjudicated volume;

2. the ongoing management and/or maintenance of existing flashboard dams, including the placement of boards into concrete abutments across the wetted channel to build head to divert water, and the removal of the boards;

3. ~~the actions related to water diversion construction; operation, repair, minor alteration, replacement, and removal; the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, minor alteration, replacement, and removal of headgates and measuring devices on or in a diversion channel;~~

4. ~~the installation, operation, repair, minor alteration, removal, replacement and maintenance of stream gages in the active stream channel; and~~

5. ~~Water management activities~~ infrequently require moving equipment or vehicles across flowing streams or intermittent channels and/or the construction of stream crossings at designated locations where potential spawning gravels, incubating eggs, and fry are not present based on repeated site specific surveys.

12. Permit Implementation

Other activities associated with the implementation of avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures required by this Permit, a sub-permit, or a



Streambed Alteration Agreement.

13. Monitoring

Activities associated with the determination of whether or not the terms and conditions of this ITP, a each sub-permit, or a SAA are being fulfilled and are effective.

14. Research

Activities associated with conducting studies to improve our understanding of salmonid distribution, natural history, population dynamics, etc. in the Scott River watershed.

**SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM**

**MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**(ATTACHMENT 3 OF THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT)**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**I. Introduction..... 4**

**II. Goals of the Monitoring Plan..... 4**

**III. Scope of Area to be Monitored..... 4**

**IV. Monitoring Terms and Conditions ..... 5**

    A. \_\_\_ General Monitoring Conditions..... 5

    B. \_\_\_ Implementation Monitoring..... 8

    C. \_\_\_ Effectiveness Monitoring..... 10

    D. \_\_\_ Qualitative Effectiveness Monitoring for Habitat Change ..... 10

    E. \_\_\_ Quantitative Effectiveness Monitoring for Habitat Change..... 11

    F. \_\_\_ Quantitative Effectiveness Monitoring for Fish Response ..... 11

**V. Methods of Data Collection ..... 12**

    A. \_\_\_ Photographs..... 12

    B. \_\_\_ Checklists..... 13

    C. \_\_\_ Other Data..... 13

**VI. Monitoring Timing, Frequency, and Duration ..... 13**

    A. \_\_\_ Timing of Monitoring..... 14

    B. \_\_\_ Frequency of Monitoring ..... 14

    C. \_\_\_ Duration of Monitoring..... 14

**VII. Tracking and Reporting ..... 15**

    A. \_\_\_ Tracking ..... 15

    B. \_\_\_ Reporting..... 15

        1. \_\_\_ Annual Report..... 15

        2. \_\_\_ Five-Year Report ..... 16

        3. \_\_\_ Final Report ..... 16

**VIII. Adaptive Management..... 17**

**IX. Measurement of the Overall Success of the Program..... 19**

**Appendix 1..... 20**

**Compliance Monitoring Tables..... 20**

**Appendix 2..... 25**

**SQRCD Monitoring Table ..... 25**

**Appendix 3..... 26**

**Checklist Monitoring..... 26**

A. _____	Assembling Monitoring Checklists .....	26
B. _____	Completing Checklists .....	26
C. _____	Checklists.....	26
1. ___	<b>DV- WATER DIVERSION FACILITIES</b> .....	26
2. ___	<b>CR- LIVESTOCK AND VEHICLE CROSSINGS</b> .....	27
3. ___	<b>RF–RIPARIAN FENCING</b> .....	27
4. ___	<b>RT-RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION</b> .....	27
5. ___	<b>IN-INSTREAM HABITAT &amp; BANK STABILIZATION</b> .....	27
6. ___	<b>FB - BARRIER REMOVAL AND FISH PASSAGE</b> .....	28
7. ___	<b>IT-IRRIGATION TAILWATER REDUCTION AND CAPTURE</b> .....	28
<b>Appendix 4. _____</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Adaptive Management Plan Feedback Loop _____</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>29</b>

## **ATTACHMENT 3**

### **MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

#### **I. Introduction**

This Attachment describes the SQRCD's Incidental Take Permit Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (Monitoring Plan). Monitoring includes observation, detection, and recording of environmental conditions, resources, and effects of ~~Covered a~~ Activities and Permit avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures ("conservation measures") for the Covered Species. ~~The evaluation of monitoring information will provide the basis for assessing compliance with terms and conditions of the Permit and~~ for assessing success of the Permit in attaining biological goals and objectives. An adaptive management approach will guide the manner in which information collected by the SQRCD through monitoring and directed research, as well as new information collected by others, will be used to continually evaluate and improve implementation of the Covered Species conservation measures. Collecting and analyzing data through monitoring and research are essential components of adaptive management.

The SQRCD has been conducting environmental monitoring in the Scott Valley watershed since 1995. To date, monitoring has focused on gathering information on the environmental condition of the riparian and stream environments, condition of anadromous salmonid habitat, and anadromous salmonid populations within the watershed. The SQRCD expects to continue to conduct or participate in these types of monitoring efforts during the duration of the Permit. However, the SQRCD will be focusing much of its attention and staffing to monitoring and other activities required by the Permit.

#### **II. Goals of the Monitoring Plan**

The goals of the Monitoring Plan are to evaluate the ~~compliance, implementation, and effectiveness of conservation measures required pursuant to this Permit and all sub-permits.~~ To meet the goals, this ~~m~~Monitoring ~~p~~Plan provides guidance so that the SQRCD ~~can~~ and the Department ~~can~~ document and assess the ~~compliance, implementation and effectiveness of the conservation measures and assure that the projects are meeting the objectives of this e~~ Permit. In addition, the Monitoring Plan provides guidance regarding adaptive management. Adaptive management will be employed to modify and refine conservation measures based upon the results of implementation and effectiveness monitoring, to maximize effectiveness of coho recovery actions and landowner participation

#### **III. Scope of Area to be Monitored**

*The overall program area is the Scott River watershed, including the Scott River and its tributaries, in Siskiyou County.* Because the Permit is watershed-wide and there is

uncertainty as to which agricultural operators will become sub-permittees, the geographic scope of monitoring activities will be only those properties of agricultural operators who become sub-permittees or within stream reaches where activities occur and appropriate permissions have been received.

#### IV. **Monitoring Approaches Terms and Conditions**

The SQRCD will be conducting several types of monitoring pursuant to this Monitoring Plan. All monitoring requirements of the SQRCD and sub-permittees are further described in the SQRCD Monitoring Table (Appendix 2). The SQRCD may request sub-permittees to ~~collect~~ provide some monitoring data required for the Annual Report. Strictly defined, “monitoring” is the systematic and usually repetitive collection of information, typically used to track the status of a variable or system. This ~~Monitoring Plan~~ Monitoring Plan includes ~~two~~ three components: ~~compliance monitoring, implementation monitoring and, effectiveness monitoring.~~ The Department is responsible for any and all compliance monitoring. This Monitoring Plan is not intended to and does not delegate any regulatory authority to the SQRCD. Tables illustrating compliance requirements for each conservation measure identified in this Permit are provided in Appendix 1. Below are descriptions of the general conditions of the Monitoring Plan ~~the types of monitoring that will be conducted and key components of each approach.~~

##### A. Compliance Monitoring

~~Compliance monitoring is conducted to determine whether the conservation measures agreed for particular designated sites are in place and operating; collection and evaluation of data, including self-monitoring reports, and verification to show whether permitted conditions are in compliance with the limits and conditions specified in the Permit or sub-permit. This type of monitoring is done to ensure that permit and/or sub-permit conditions and statutory requirements have been met~~

~~Compliance monitoring tracks the status of Permit condition implementation, to verify that the measures required by the Permit are being implemented as specified. The degree of compliance is determined by comparing field information with conditions of compliance as specified by the Permit and/or sub-permit.~~

##### A. General Monitoring Conditions

1. SQRCD shall be responsible for determining if it is fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Permit by instituting a comprehensive monitoring program. The program shall include a means to confirm and monitor the implementation of the mitigation measures for which it is responsible.
2. The sub-permittee shall be responsible for monitoring the terms and condition of their sub-permit by completing the appropriate implementation and effectiveness monitoring checklists for their Covered Activities and

submitting them to the Department. SQRCD is available to assist the sub-permittee in completing the water diversion and livestock and vehicle crossings checklists.

~~SQRCD shall be responsible for determining if the sub-permittee is fulfilling the terms and conditions of their sub-permits by instituting a comprehensive monitoring program. The program shall include a means to: (1) confirm and monitor the implementation of the minimization and avoidance measures for which the sub-permittees are responsible, and (2) identify sub-permittees who are not or who have not implemented the terms and conditions of their sub-permits. SQRCD shall immediately notify the Department of sub-permittees who SQRCD believes are not fulfilling or implementing a term or condition of their sub-permit.~~

3. The SQRCD shall inspect the screen, headgate, measuring device, diversion structure and livestock and vehicle crossings annually and is available to assist the sub-permittee in filling out the qualitative effectiveness monitoring checklists for those Covered Activities.
- 4 If during any field review of a sub-permittees water diversion facilities and/or livestock or vehicle crossing, the SQRCD identifies a sub-permittee who may not or has not implemented the terms and conditions of their sub-permits the SQRCD shall inform the sub-permittee and work with the sub-permittee to develop a strategy for implementing the terms and conditions of the sub-permit.
5. At the discretion of either the SQRCD or the sub-permittee, the Department will be notified in order to assist in the development of an implementation strategy.
6. If the SQRCD and the sub-permittee cannot agree upon an acceptable strategy for implementation of the terms and conditions of the sub-permit, or the implementation of a term or condition of this Permit which requires the SQRCD to implement certain mitigation measures on the property of sub-permittees, the Department shall be notified.
73. SQRCD shall summarize the results of its monitoring activities in each of its Annual Reports (described below). Analysis of the past year's monitoring activities and the monitoring data shall be provided to the Department at that time.
84. After relinquishment, revocation, expiration, or termination of the Permit, SQRCD shall deliver a Final Report (described below) to the Department analyzing all of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures implemented pursuant to this Permit, including an evaluation of their effectiveness.

95. SQRCD's obligations under this Permit shall not end until the Final Report has been deemed complete by the Department (Section XVI.C), regardless of when the Permit expires or is revoked, relinquished, or terminated.

106. SQRCD shall conduct photo monitoring to document the installation, operation, maintenance, and effectiveness of all avoidance, minimization, and mitigation activities (individually, "project") required under this Permit ~~and any sub-permit.~~

Photo monitoring shall be used to document current conditions, implementation and effectiveness by:

- documenting pre- and post-site conditions;
- identifying key steps taken during and after the completion of a project;
- determining whether a project was correctly implemented pursuant to SQRCD and Department guidelines; and
- document ongoing maintenance of the project.

Sequential photographs shall be taken over time in order to show changes in site conditions. At a minimum, photographs shall be taken at three different times: before project implementation, directly after project implementation, and again at a later date appropriate to the particular project,

117. SQRCD shall conduct monitoring activities prior to and immediately after project implementation for those projects for which it is responsible, using photographs and checklists (Appendix 3) for documentation. That information shall include pre-project and pre-treatment implementation checklists. The pre-treatment implementation checklist shall be used during monitoring project construction to help judge effectiveness of the project determine if the project was installed as designed and to document any variances from the design.

128. SQRCD and Department project evaluators shall have access to photographs and project files to take with them on site visits.

139. A primary avoidance measure required by the Permit is that all sub-permittees comply with valid water right(s). California Department of Water Resources (DWR) currently provides watermaster service for agricultural water use in portions of the Scott River watershed. As a sub-permittee to this Permit, DWR shall provide water use verification data to the Department, as specified in the Permit, on a monthly basis from April to October each year for the duration of the Permit. The SQRCD may



identify an alternative watermaster service or other verification methods approved by the Department to verify that each sub-permittee that participates in this Permit Program is in compliance with their water right.

In addition to the water use verification data:

- The watermaster shall report to the Department any sub-permittees that are not complying with their adjudicated water rights.
- Within ten working days upon receiving such notification from the watermaster, the Department shall consult with the sub-permittee regarding the non-compliance.

## B. Implementation Monitoring

Implementation monitoring is conducted to document whether or not management practices were applied as designed. Project and contract administration is a part of implementation monitoring. Implementation monitoring will be conducted by the SQRCD to verify that permitted activities and projects have been carried out and completed according to the conditions specified for the activity or project. The level of successful implementation is determined by comparing field information with performance criteria developed for each activity and practice implemented.

Generally, performance criteria set standards for the reliability of a product in terms of actual output; for each element in a unit of competency, performance criteria describe the tasks against which agents or products are assessed; Minimal level by which an objective is considered to be attained; qualitative or quantitative criteria which the agent or product is to satisfy in performing its functional requirements.

Implementation monitoring includes:

- ~~Establishing p~~Photo-monitoring sites prior to implementation of each activity, following the procedures set forth in this Monitoring Plan;
- Photo-documenting pre- and post- site conditions;
- Identifying and photographing key steps taken during project implementation;
- Making a determination regarding whether or not a project was implemented correctly and in compliance with permit requirements;
- Filling out a project type-specific, implementation field check-lists;
  - Note: The implementation checklists shall ~~will~~ be completed after every project is implemented;
- Within ten working days, the SQRCD shall notify the Department in writing when either:
  - An activity or project has not been implemented according to specified conditions;
  - An activity or project has failed for other reasons not associated specifically to how the activity or project was implemented;

- For all such projects, the SQRCD shall take additional photographs to document its findings;
- All information from implementation monitoring will be recorded in the SQRCD's database.
- Status of implementation shall be reported to the Department annually.

### C. Effectiveness Monitoring

Effectiveness monitoring is conducted to determine if some activity is having the desired effect; documenting how well the management practices meet intended objectives for the defined area [can evaluate the cause and effect relations between management activities and conditions of the dependent resources]; evaluating and documenting the total effectiveness of site-specific actions; determining the degree to which the biological system responds to management activities as expected

In order to provide information for adaptive management within the Permit, the SQRCD will conduct effectiveness monitoring to determine effectiveness of specified activities and practices and document habitat and fishery response of activities carried out under the Permit to benefit the Covered Species. Effectiveness monitoring evaluates the success of the Permit in meeting its stated biological objectives. Effectiveness monitoring will be conducted in three, tiered approaches: qualitative habitat effectiveness, quantitative habitat effectiveness, and quantitative fish-response.

Effectiveness monitoring has three main monitoring objectives:

- To evaluate the effectiveness of specific permitted activities and practices and restoration measures in achieving aquatic resource protection and restoration objectives on a site scale, and determine factors that influence effectiveness.
- To provide the Department with evaluations of effectiveness of projects within the watershed for comparison to similar activities in similar watersheds for the purposes of improving the effectiveness such activities and practices.
- To document overall effectiveness of activities and practices carried out under the Permit for the duration of the Permit for purposes of adapting management with the watershed to protect the Covered Species.

Effectiveness monitoring shall occur, at a minimum annually. Monitoring frequency shall be based on the project type.

The following conditions apply to all effectiveness monitoring:

1. SQRCD shall conduct qualitative effectiveness monitoring after project implementation, and annually thereafter, for all mitigation measures for which it is responsible pursuant to this Permit by filling out the qualitative effectiveness monitoring checklist and conducting photo monitoring for those particular project types. ~~SQRCD shall determine the effectiveness of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures identified in this~~

~~Permit and sub-permits and the extent to which the objectives of those measures have been met.~~

~~2. SQRCD shall conduct effectiveness monitoring before and after project implementation.~~

23. SQRCD shall identify at least one specific objective for each project installed pursuant to the Permit. The objective shall be documented in project files by SQRCD and shall be reported to the Department in the Annual Report.

34. ~~SQRCD shall conduct qualitative effectiveness monitoring for all conservation measures implemented pursuant to this Permit and any sub-permit. In addition, SQRCD shall conduct quantitative effectiveness monitoring of 10% of all instream measures implemented. *For purposes of quantitative effectiveness monitoring instream measures shall include: spawning gravel enhancement (if determined necessary), instream habitat structures, livestock and vehicle crossings, fish passage improvements, and instream flow.*~~

~~5. The SQRCD shall annually document conservation measure effectiveness using effectiveness check-lists or field sheets for restoration.~~

Note: When appropriate, the Department will provide revised checklists prior to each successive field season after the Permit is executed.

46. Within ten working days, the SQRCD shall notify the Department in writing when, while conducting effectiveness monitoring, the SQRCD determines:

- a. An activity or project has been impacted, rendered inoperative, or destroyed due to an environmental (e.g., flooding) or human-caused (e.g., vandalism) conditions;
- b. An activity or project has been impacted, rendered inoperative, or destroyed due to other reasons;
- c. For all such projects, the SQRCD shall utilize the photo-monitoring site to document its findings;

57. All information from effectiveness monitoring activities shall be recorded in the SQRCD's database.

68. Status of effectiveness shall be reported to the Department annually in the ~~Status~~ Annual Report.

D. Qualitative Effectiveness Monitoring for Habitat Change

Qualitative effectiveness monitoring consists of utilizing both permanent photo-monitoring sites and field checklists to determine condition/change. For each activity carried out under the Permit, the SQRCD, ~~in conjunction with the sub-permittees and~~ under the guidance and technical support of the Department, will conduct the following tasks.

1. Annually utilize ~~the established~~ photo-monitoring sites to document habitat conditions/changes as a result of the implementation of the conservation measure;
2. Annually document the effectiveness of the selected activities and practices, using the ~~post-treatment~~, qualitative *effectiveness monitoring* checklists; Note: Use of these checklists will commence one year after activities and practices under the Permit have occurred;
3. Annually summarize the findings and results of qualitative effectiveness monitoring in the Annual Report.

E. Quantitative Effectiveness Monitoring for Habitat Change

Quantitative effectiveness monitoring consists of the use of scientifically valid field monitoring methodologies and analyses to determine condition change of specific habitat conditions affected by the conservation measure. For the ten-percent of the activities where quantitative monitoring is being carried out under the Permit, the SQRCD, ~~in conjunction with the sub-permittees and~~ under the guidance and technical support of the Department, will conduct the following tasks:

1. At a minimum, annually conduct quantitative effectiveness monitoring, using project-specific methodologies; Application of quantitative habitat effectiveness monitoring shall not start sooner than after the initial rain season or major storm event after activities and practices have been initiated;
2. Annually analyze habitat data gathered from the monitored activities and practices;
3. Annually report to the Department the findings of the analysis of the quantitative data, including, but not limited to, the degree of individual and collective effectiveness of the monitored activities and practices.

F. Quantitative Effectiveness Monitoring for Fish Response

Quantitative effectiveness of fish response consists of the use of scientifically valid field monitoring methodologies and analyses. For ten-percent of the instream habitat enhancement measures carried out under the Permit quantitative effectiveness

monitoring will be conducted to determine fish response to specific habitat conditions enhanced by the activity. The SQRCD, ~~in conjunction with the sub-permittees and~~ under the guidance and technical support of the Department, will conduct the following tasks:

1. Annually conduct quantitative fish-response monitoring, using project-specific methodologies; Note: Application of quantitative fish-response monitoring will not start sooner than is applicable to project-type, after activities and practices have been initiated;
2. Annually analyze fish data gathered from the monitored activities and practices;
3. Annually report to the Department the findings of the analysis of the quantitative data, including, but not limited to, the degree that fish appear to be responding to the specific conservation measure implemented at the monitoring site.

## V. Methods of Data Collection

Different types of monitoring will be applied at different times and frequencies in relation to each of the conservation measures required pursuant the Permit. Specific monitoring approaches for each conservation measure shall be identified.

### A. ~~Methods of Data Collection~~

All data will be collected in the field, at the project site-specific level. Project sites may have data recorded in three forms; photographs, field notes, and checklists ~~field data sheets~~.

#### A1. Photographs

~~Permanent p~~Photograph sites shall be set up for every conservation measure, for which the SQRCD is ~~for~~ responsible, for the purposes of ~~compliance and implementation~~ and effectiveness monitoring. These same sites will be used for qualitative effectiveness monitoring of selected projects. The SQRCD may opt to utilize photographs for additional effectiveness monitoring, when the SQRCD believes photographs will enhance its ability to report on effectiveness of implemented activities and practices.

SQRCD shall conduct photo monitoring to document the installation, operation, maintenance, and effectiveness of all ~~avoidance, minimization, and~~ mitigation activities (i.e., conservation measure) required under the Permit ~~and any sub-permit~~.

Photo monitoring shall be used to document ~~compliance~~, implementation and effectiveness by:

- documenting pre- and post-site conditions;
- identifying key steps taken during and after the completion of a project;
- determining whether a project was correctly implemented and is in compliance with SQRCD and Department guidelines; and
- document ongoing maintenance of the project.
- facilitate the evaluation of how well the project met the objectives
- document unanticipated problems or negative outcomes to an activity,

Sequential photographs shall be taken over time in order to show changes in site conditions. At a minimum, photographs shall be taken at three different times: before project implementation, directly after project implementation, and again at a later date appropriate to the particular project. The photo sequence should include pre- project photos taken of the project area before the project is implemented, post-project photos taken directly after project implementation, and post-project photos taken during subsequent effectiveness monitoring, all from the same photo point.

### B2. Checklists ~~Field data sheets~~

~~Data sheets~~ Checklists specifically developed for monitoring will be used for recording monitoring information in a systematic and standardized approach (Appendix 3). For all monitoring, the ~~data sheets~~ checklists are customized to the type of activity or practice being implemented. The categories of monitoring for which ~~field sheets~~ checklists have been developed are:

- Pre-implementation monitoring
- Implementation monitoring
- Qualitative effectiveness monitoring of habitat change: pre-treatment condition
- ~~Qualitative effectiveness monitoring of habitat change: post treatment condition~~
- ~~Quantitative effectiveness: habitat change~~
- ~~Quantitative effectiveness: fish response~~

Baseline information shall be collected prior to project implementation to allow comparison to post-project conditions and effectiveness. This information will include pre-implementation ~~project and pre-treatment~~ checklists. The pre-implementation ~~treatment~~ checklist shall be used during monitoring to help judge effectiveness of the project.

Copies of All checklists ~~data sheets~~ shall be provided by the Department.

### C3. Other Data

Where appropriate, the SQRCD may also use other methods to record field data such as field notes, Global Positioning System recorders, Hobo temperature recorders, or stream flow gauges to record pertinent monitoring information.

## VI. Monitoring Timing, Frequency, and Duration

## A. Timing of Monitoring

Two types of monitoring have to be initiated after the activity or practice sites are selected but before ground-work can commence. This must occur to ensure that the SQRCD collects data regarding pre-project conditions to assess post-project change. The establishment of the permanent photographic sites and collection of the qualitative, pre-implementation ~~treatment effectiveness~~ information must occur at this time.

Three types of monitoring take place after an activity or practice has been completed. Photographs documenting both implementation of the project and compliance with the Permit shall be taken. The implementation checklist is shall be completed. Last, any specific ~~compliance~~ effectiveness monitoring information shall be recorded.

The timing of effectiveness monitoring is based on the feature being measured, and how it responds to environmental conditions and seasonal differences. For habitat condition, the occurrence of storm events, the frequency and magnitude of these events, and the duration of the rain season all affect when one has to measure changes at a site. In addition, the presences of different life-stages of the Covered Species, and how each life stage may respond to a project, dictates the timing of field monitoring.

## B. Frequency of Monitoring

~~Compliance m~~Monitoring frequency will be based on project type. It can be performed as infrequently as once a year (e.g., continued use of screening). However, a greater frequency might be necessary in some cases (e.g., summer flow).

Implementation monitoring occurs prior to and after completion of a specific project.

Effectiveness monitoring occurs at various variable frequencies, dependent on how rapidly or often the measured feature may change. Water and fish variables can change often and rapidly, requiring more frequent monitoring to be able to detect change. Other more stable or slower-changing variables, such as a functioning screen or dam or installed large woody debris, require less frequent monitoring. For the interim, the SQRCD, in consultation with the Department, will adhere to the following preliminary frequencies.

- More variable features: No less than annually and no more than weekly, given the appropriate seasonal window:
  - Seasonal window:
    - late November to January- adult fish, spawning grounds
    - late February to May- fry and spring habitat conditions
    - mid May until rain season- water flow and juveniles

## C. Duration of Monitoring

Monitoring will continue for the duration of the Permit. ~~Compliance monitoring and use of the permanent photo sites will occur annually.~~ Implementation monitoring occurs prior to and after a conservation measure is completed. Effectiveness monitoring and use of the photo sites will occur annually. ~~For effectiveness monitoring, the type of project and the environmental feature's timing and duration of response determine when to terminate monitoring. However, since the Permit period is ten years, effectiveness monitoring for each of the projects, (that constitute the ten-percent being tracked) will span the lifetime of the Permit.~~

## VII. Tracking and Reporting

### A. Tracking

The SQRCD will develop and maintain a comprehensive database to track implementation of all aspects of the Monitoring Plan. All data from photographs, field data sheets checklists, and other recording technologies will be integrated in the monitoring database. Data from completed field data sheets checklists will be entered into the database by SQRCD staff. The database will be structured to allow for future expansion and integration with external databases (e.g., linkage to agency or other GIS map libraries). The database will be structured to facilitate the following requirements:

- Inclusion of all types of recorded, field data;
- data documentation such that future users can determine why, how, and where data were collected;
- quality assurance and quality control of the data;
- access and use of the most current information in assessment and decision making for purposes of interpreting monitoring information and plan revision;
- evaluation of data by all appropriate SQRCD and Department database users, as appropriate;
- facilitation of data to produce monitoring reports;
- utilization of field data to conduct analyses, as appropriate.

Reports generated from this database will allow evaluation of the activities required by the Permit.

### B. Reporting

#### 1. Annual Report

After the effective date of the Permit and until the Permit expires or terminates, SQRCD shall provide the Department an Annual Report by April 30 each year that covers the period of time from February 1 to January 31 the previous year.

Each Annual Report shall include at a minimum, the following information:

- a. a general description of the status of the Program, including a description of all avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures that were implemented during



the previous year;

- b. a copy of an implementation database with notes showing the current implementation status of each avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measure;
- c. the results of all ~~compliance~~, implementation, and effectiveness monitoring conducted pursuant to the Permit;
- d. all monitoring data; and
- e. an assessment of the efficacy of the monitoring program and recommended changes to the program based on interpretation of monitoring results.

Additionally, for reports subsequent to the first ~~Status~~ Annual Report and in particular the fifth year program review ~~Status~~ Annual Report the following shall be included:

- f. an assessment of status and trend of monitored activities and practices;
- g. an assessment of the effectiveness of each completed or partially completed measure in avoiding, minimizing, and/or mitigating for impacts from Covered Activities; and
- h. a summary and analysis of all ~~compliance~~, implementation, and effectiveness of monitoring conducted on the avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures.

## 2. Five-Year Report

Five years after the effective date of the Permit, SQRCD shall conduct a comprehensive review of the Program and submit its findings in the form of a Five-Year Report to the Department. As part of its review, SQRCD shall evaluate coho recovery task implementation and community participation. The Five-Year Report shall include an analysis of the Program beginning on the effective date of the Permit, as well as the activities that have been implemented. The Five-Year Report shall include recommended adaptive management actions to improve operations.

## 3. Final Report

No later than six months after the Permit expires and all mitigation measures have been implemented, SQRCD shall provide the Department with a Final Report. SQRCD shall prepare the Final Report and include, at a minimum:

- a. a copy of the implementation database with notes showing when each avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measure was implemented;
- b. all available information about the incidental take of coho salmon the Permit

covers;

- c. information about the impacts the Covered Activities have had on coho salmon notwithstanding the implementation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures;
- d. the beginning and ending dates of all construction projects the Permit ~~or any sub-permit~~ covers;
- e. an assessment of the effectiveness of the Permit's and sub-permits' terms and conditions to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on coho salmon;
- f. recommendations on how those terms and conditions might be changed to more effectively avoid, minimize, and mitigate such impacts in the future; and
- g. any other pertinent information.

### **VIII. Adaptive Management**

Adaptive management is the process whereby management is initiated, evaluated, and refined (Appendix 4).

- It recognizes and prepares for the uncertainty that underlies resource management decisions
- Continually evaluates and modifies management practices.
- Uses information gained from past management experiences to evaluate both success and failure, and explore new management options.

Based on the best scientific information currently available, the measures outlined in this Permit will effectively achieve the biological goals and objectives of the Permit. However, habitat conditions within the Permit area and the status of the Covered Species will likely change during the Permit period. Furthermore, it is possible that additional and different conservation measures, not identified in the Permit, will be developed or proven to be more effective in achieving the biological goals and objectives of the Permit than those currently identified for implementation. Last, results of the implementation and effectiveness monitoring may also indicate that some conservation measures, activities, and practices are more effective in achieving the biological goals and objectives of the Permit. To address 1) these uncertainties and 2) monitoring information, the SQRCD will have an on-going evaluation of the progress of Permit activities and practices through an adaptive management process to:

- in cooperation with the Department, gauge the effectiveness of Permit conservation measures and techniques to implement them;
- propose alternative or modified conservation measures as the need arises; and

- address changed and unforeseen circumstances.

The cornerstone of the Permit adaptive management process is the Monitoring Plan. Information collected through the monitoring will be used to manage watershed lands and provide information to direct future activities and practices to conserve the Covered Species and habitat. During the early phases of Permit implementation, monitoring will provide the SQRCD with the information necessary to improve the efficacy of techniques that are employed to better and more successfully enhance or restore Covered Species habitat. The adaptive management process will allow for the experience gained through early projects to shape and refine future activities.

The adaptive management program will be administered by the SQRCD. Responsibilities of the SQRCD for implementing the adaptive management plan include the following:

- A. gather monitoring data, including relevant information developed by others, conducting appropriate data analysis, and maintaining an integrated database;
- B. disseminate generated monitoring and research information and reports, including monitoring analysis and reports and research papers, minimally, to sub-permttees and the Department;
  1. assess the effectiveness of conservation measures;
  2. identify the need to modify existing or to adopt additional conservation measures;
  3. identify the need to modify the monitoring program;
  4. identify the need for and implementing experimental pilot and demonstration projects;
  5. identify and prioritizing research needs and conducting limited directed research, as funding allows;
  6. incorporate monitoring, research, and other adaptive management–related activities into annual work plans; and contacting Science Advisors, as needed, to solicit input regarding new scientific information relevant to implementation, important data gaps, monitoring and management methods, and data interpretation.

Under the direction of the Department and the SQRCD, the adaptive management process will also allow for scientific examination of the monitoring information for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of existing or proposed avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The SQRCD will incorporate recommendations offered through these reviews, where appropriate, into implementation of the Permit. It is also intended that the adaptive management process will provide the basis for budget and

funding decisions throughout the term of the Permit. Adaptive management, in conjunction with monitoring and research, will provide the SQRCD with a process to effectively address uncertainties associated with successful implementation of the Permit.

## **IX. Measurement of the Overall Success of the Program**

The Department has developed priorities for long-term population monitoring of salmonids in the Scott river watershed. The Department will conduct this critical monitoring using existing fisheries staff with additional funds necessary for equipment, operations, and temporary field personnel. Coho salmon monitoring is the primary objective. This effort will also dovetail with recommendations in the Coho Recovery Plan concerning limiting factors and trends, and prioritize geographic locations for restoration most benefiting these species. One of the primary goals of this effort is to provide sound and statistically defensible data to estimate the number of adult coho returning to the basin and the relationship to juvenile coho production in the Scott River basin. Data collection methods include the operation of rotary screw traps to estimate juvenile abundance and carcass surveys to provide adult population estimates of coho salmon. These data will allow for an analysis of adult to juvenile ratio trends over time to determine if the permit program is resulting in a stable or increased production rate based on the ratio of juveniles per adult in the watershed.

**Appendix 1.**  
**Compliance Monitoring Tables**

SQRC D RESPONSIBILITIES	QUANTIFICATION	DUE DATE
Education program	SQRC D prepares and delivers program to subpermittees	Conducted within 60 days after close of each enrollment period
Develop and implement Water Trust	Submit charter documents to DFG	Effective immediately
List priority stream reaches to accomplish instream flow enhancement		Within one year.
Sugar Creek Flow Enhancement		Within one year
Dry year plan		Within three years
Ramp up plan		Within three years
Alternative stock water priority plan		Within one year
Install alternative stock water systems	2 per year/ 20 total	Prior to expiration date
Program to rotate diversions		Within one year
East Fork Improvement Project		Within three years
Spawning gravel enhancement plan		Within two years
Install spawning gravel projects	5 priority reaches	Prior to expiration date
Priority plan for instream habitat improvement structure locations		Within one year
Install instream structures	10 20	Within five years Within ten years
Riparian planting priority list		Within two years
Riparian planting	20 acres 10 acres	10 years (prior to expiration date) 5 years
Scott Valley Irrigation District - fish passage		Within seven years
Farmer's Ditch - fish passage		Within one year
Rail Creek - fish passage		Within seven years

SQRC D RESPONSIBILITIES (cont.)	QUANTIFICATION	DUE DATE
Identify priority locations for headgates and gauges		Within one year
Inspection of fish screens	Annually during irrigation season	Annually
Prioritize fish passage sites		Within one year
Fish passage workshop		Within eight months
Priority list of livestock/vehicle crossings		Within one year
Monitor livestock crossings	Annually during spawning season	Annually
Riparian Fencing Plan	Install 2 mi. per year	Within one year
Push up dams – prepare BMPs		Within six months
Other temporary diversion structures - prepare BMPs		Within six months
Other temporary structures – assessment		Within two years
Tailwater priority list		Within two years

SUB-PERMITTEE TASK	QUANTIFICATION	DUE DATE
Participate in education program		Within 60 days after enrollment
Verification of water rights		Monthly
Headgate and gage installation		Within three years
Install fish screens		Within four years
Fish passage		Within five years
Livestock and vehicle crossings		Prior to expiration
Install riparian fencing	2 miles per year	Prior to expiration
Replace push dams		Within five years
Other temporary structure replacement		Within five years
Bioengineered bank stabilization		Within three years
Install tailwater system in priority sites		Prior to expiration
Maintain connectivity of tributaries to mainstem		When necessary
Utilize stock water system		During fall migration



<b>DWR COODINATION TASK</b>	<b>QUANTIFICATION</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
Participate in the development and implementation of Water Trust		Effective immediately
Participate in the development and implementation of the Dry Year Plan		Within three years
Participate in the development and implementation of the Ramp Up Plan		Within three years
Participate in the implementation of the program to rotate diversions		Within one year
Coordinate on the development of a priority plan for instream habitat improvement structure locations		Within one year
Coordinate with RCD to identify priority locations for headgates and gauges		Within one year
Review and approve headgate and measuring weirs in watermastered areas		Ongoing
Coordinate with RCD in maintaining connectivity in French and Shackleford Creeks		Annually until June 15
<b>DWR SUB-PERMITTEE TASK</b>	<b>QUANTIFICATION</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
Verification of water rights compliance	database submittal	monthly
Implement decree	database submittal	Effective immediately
"Stranding" coordination		weekly phone call
Report any sub-permittees not complying with adjudicated water rights	NA	weekly phone call

**Appendix 2.  
SQRCD Monitoring Table**

<b>Monitoring for Mitigation, Minimization, and Avoidance Activities Required in the SQRCD Watershed-wide Incidental Take Permit (Permit)</b>			
<b>Required Task</b>	<b>Goal and Objectives</b>	<b>Implementation and Compliance Monitoring</b>	<b>Effectiveness Monitoring<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Flow Enhancement</b>			
<b>(i) Development and Implementation of the Scott River Water Trust</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To provide instream flows in the Scott River watershed by leasing or purchasing water from sub-permittees or other willing water right holders for instream beneficial use.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Develop a locally-based Scott River Water Trust specific to the conditions in the Scott River watershed to provide for, or support, the habitat needs of coho salmon at specific life-cycle stages.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> The RCD shall provide a narrative description of each action implemented under the Scott River Water Trust.  <b>Frequency:</b> Annually  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of Scott River Water Trust Charter, forbearance agreements, and instream flow dedication documents.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Development of the Scott River Water Trust by the RCD shall begin immediately upon the effective date of the Permit.  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Submittal of Annual Water Trust Monitoring Report.  <b>Frequency:</b> Annually  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p>
<b>(ii) Improve baseline instream flows and/or water quality</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Improve baseline instream flows and/or water quality within reaches of the Scott River and its tributaries for specific life stages of coho salmon.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Develop a list of priority stream reaches for flow enhancement based on coho life stage and need. Work with sub-permittees to address irrigation efficiency needs or changing/adding points of diversion to keep flows instream to point of use. Install water efficiency and/or water management improvement projects based on the list of priority stream reaches.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> The RCD shall provide documentation of each water efficiency project, water management improvement project, and point of diversion change implemented in the prior year in the annual report. The narrative shall include a discussion of instream flow contributions and coho habitat benefits.  <b>Frequency:</b> Annually  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of a priority list of stream reaches for flow enhancement.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within one year of the effective date of the Permit.  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p>	
<b>(iii) Sugar Creek Flow Enhancement</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Increase instream flows in Sugar Creek to maintain over-summering habitat of coho salmon.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Increase instream flows from 1.2 to 6.0 cfs during the irrigation season through the use of section 1707 of the California Water Code.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> The RCD shall provide a narrative description and photographs illustrating the efficiency projects undertaken for the Sugar Creek Flow Enhancement Project in the annual report.  <b>Frequency:</b> One time after implementation  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of the instream flow dedication documents.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within one year from effective date of the Permit.  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p>	<p><b>Quantitative Habitat<sup>2</sup>:</b> The RCD shall visit Sugar Creek during the irrigation season on an annual basis to document that the objectives of the project are being achieved.  <b>Frequency:</b> Twice annually during the irrigation season.  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p>
<b>(iv) Develop &amp; Implement a Contingency Plan for Dry and Critically Dry Water Years</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Address coho salmon habitat needs during dry and critically dry water years.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Develop and implement a Contingency Plan for Dry and Critically Dry Water Years to provide guidance and management options that will minimize the likelihood that</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> The RCD shall provide a narrative description of the activities performed to implement the Contingency Plan during and dry and critically dry year.  <b>Frequency:</b> Immediately after any dry or critically dry year.  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p>	

<sup>1</sup> To determine compliance over the term of the Permit qualitative effectiveness monitoring for habitat will document the requirements sufficiently.

<sup>2</sup> All quantitative effectiveness monitoring is conducted for only 10% of a given project type in any single year with the exception of mitigation (legacy) projects implemented by the RCD which must be monitored annually.

**Monitoring for Mitigation, Minimization, and Avoidance Activities Required in the SQRCD Watershed-wide Incidental Take Permit (Permit)**

Required Task	Goal and Objectives	Implementation and Compliance Monitoring	Effectiveness Monitoring <sup>1</sup>
	critical cold water flows to the Scott River and its tributaries are impaired.	<p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of the Contingency Plan for Dry and Critically Dry Water Years.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within three years from effective date of the Permit.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>	
<b>(iv) Diversion Ramp-up Management</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Minimize the stranding of fish in shallow pools and side channels below diversions, as well as the loss of critical rearing habitat at the onset of the diversion season.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Develop a Diversion Ramp-up Management Plan to reduce fish stranding and the loss of rearing habitat at the onset of the irrigation season. Implement the Plan in coordination with the Watermaster and sub-permittees.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> The RCD shall prepare a narrative description of Diversion Ramp-up Management Plan implementation including the participants, dates, and volumes of water.  <b>Frequency:</b> Annually  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of the Diversion Ramp-up Management Plan.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The development of the Diversion Ramp-up Management Plan shall be completed within one year from the effective date of Permit. Implementation of the plan throughout the term of the Permit.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>	
<b>(v) Install Alternative Stock water Systems</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Reduce stock water diversions in the fall and early winter to increase instream flows for migrating adult coho salmon.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Develop an Alternative Stock Water Priority Plan and install two alternative stock water systems per year in areas identified in the Plan where increased flows in the fall will contribute significantly to adult coho migration.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> The RCD shall document installation of alternative stock water systems (including photomonitoring) to ensure that systems are installed as designed.  <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of alternative stock water systems.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of the Alternative Stock water Priority Plan.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The Alternative Stock Water Priority Plan shall be completed by the RCD within one year from the effective date of Permit. A total of twenty alternative stock water systems shall be installed by the expiration date of the Permit.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> The RCD shall document the use of alternative stock water systems in the fall and early winter in a narrative form in the annual report.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during adult migration  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>
<b>(vi) East Fork Water Quantity Improvement Project</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Provide instream flows, fish passage, and reduce historical water use by up to 5.0 cfs on the East Fork throughout the irrigation season.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Reduce water diversion at three locations on the East Fork through water efficiency projects (ditch piping, pressurized irrigation systems, and irrigation coverage) and replace the existing gravel dam with a boulder weir at China Cove Ditch.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of IN and FB checklists and photomonitoring of efficiency projects and boulder weir installation to ensure proper implementation, baseline flow improvements and volitional fish passage.  <b>Frequency:</b> before, during, and immediately after the installation of efficiency and boulder weir projects.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of instream flow dedication documents.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within 3 years of the effective date of Permit.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> The RCD shall complete the IN and FB checklists and conduct photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of implemented measures in reducing water use, improving water quality, and providing volitional fish passage.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during the low flow season  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Habitat:</b> Evaluation of the boulder weir to ensure volitional fish passage by comparing as-built conditions with existing conditions. Typically measurements may include comparing as-built conditions with existing conditions including jump height and an analysis of whether or not the boulders are shifting. In addition functionality of the low flow notch shall be assessed. Evaluation of the structure shall also include an assessment of any aggradation above the structure and any</p>

A-77

**Monitoring for Mitigation, Minimization, and Avoidance Activities Required in the SQRCD Watershed-wide Incidental Take Permit (Permit)**

Required Task	Goal and Objectives	Implementation and Compliance Monitoring	Effectiveness Monitoring <sup>1</sup>
			downcutting or scouring below the structure for two stream widths. <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during the low flow season <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD
<b>Habitat Improvement</b>			
<b>(i) Spawning Gravel Enhancement</b>	<b>Goal:</b> Provide high quality spawning habitat for coho salmon.  <b>Objectives:</b> Develop a Spawning Gravel Enhancement Plan that identifies where gravel for coho salmon spawning could be placed effectively and where gravel can be recruited to improve spawning habitat conditions. Design and install constrictors and/or other spawning enhancement structures at a total of five priority stream reaches where spawning gravels are not plentiful, if determined necessary.	<b>Implementation:</b> Completion of IN checklists and photomonitoring of spawning enhancement projects , if determined necessary, to document proper installation. <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of spawning enhancement projects. <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD  <b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of the Spawning Gravel Enhancement Plan. <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The Spawning Gravel Enhancement Plan shall be completed by the RCD within two years of the effective date of Permit. If determined necessary, five gravel enhancement structures shall be installed by the RCD prior to the expiration of the Permit. <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD	<b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of IN checklist and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of spawning gravel enhancement projects for quality spawning gravel, retention of gravel and supplementation. <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during adult migration and spawning <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD  <b>Quantitative Habitat:</b> Will be determined in the Spawning Gravel Enhancement Plan. <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD  <b>Quantitative Fish Response:</b> Will be determined in the Spawning Gravel Enhancement Plan <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD
<b>(ii) Instream Habitat Improvement Structure</b>	<b>Goal:</b> Improve habitat conditions by the installation of large and small woody debris or boulder structures to create pools and cover in areas where potential for over-summering exists.  <b>Objectives:</b> Develop a priority list of locations where instream habitat improvement structures will benefit coho salmon and install at least 20 instream habitat structures at sites identified on the list.	<b>Implementation:</b> Completion of IN checklist and photomonitoring during instream structure project construction to ensure proper installation and function. <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of instream structure projects. <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD  <b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of the priority list of instream habitat improvement structure locations. <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The priority list of instream habitat improvement project locations shall be completed within one year from the effective date of Permit. Ten instream structures shall be installed within five years of the effective date of the Permit. Twenty instream structures shall be installed before expiration of the Permit. <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD	<b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of IN checklist and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of instream habitat structures in enhancing or creating rearing habitat conditions for coho salmon. <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD  <b>Quantitative Habitat:</b> Document site conditions at reference sites that provide suitable over-summering habitat for coho salmon including pool dimensions, depth, temperature, cover and velocity. The same data shall be collected from the instream habitat improvement project site. The two data sets shall be compared in order to determine if the instream habitat improvement project is creating conditions are suitable for over-summering coho salmon. <b>Timing:</b> During the summer at low flow conditions. <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD  <b>Quantitative Fish Response:</b> Completion of streambank and underwater surveys using methodologies in the California Salmonid Habitat Restoration Manual (CSHRM). <b>Timing:</b> During the summer at low flow conditions. <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD
<b>(iii) Riparian Planting</b>	<b>Goal:</b> Increase riparian habitat for improved instream cover and shade canopy, improved channel stability and to trap sediment in areas currently being used by coho salmon for spawning and rearing  <b>Objectives:</b> Develop a priority list that identifies areas where	<b>Implementation:</b> Completion of RT checklist and photomonitoring of riparian planting projects to ensure they are installed as designed. <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of riparian planting projects. <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD	<b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of RT checklist and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of riparian planting projects for establishment, long-term success, and instream benefits. <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD

A-78

**Monitoring for Mitigation, Minimization, and Avoidance Activities Required in the SQRCD Watershed-wide Incidental Take Permit (Permit)**

Required Task	Goal and Objectives	Implementation and Compliance Monitoring	Effectiveness Monitoring <sup>1</sup>
	<p>coho salmon spawn and rear that require riparian planting to increase habitat complexity and stream function. Install 20 acres of riparian plantings in areas identified in the priority plan.</p>	<p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of the priority list of locations where coho salmon spawn and rear.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The priority list shall be completed within two years from the effective date of the Permit. Ten acres of riparian planting shall occur within five years of the effective date of Permit, and twenty acres shall be planted prior to the expiration of Permit.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>	
<p><b>(i) Fish Passage at the Scott Valley Irrigation District diversion head</b></p>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To provide volitional fish passage for migrating adult and juvenile coho salmon both upstream and downstream of the diversion structure.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> To provide fish passage at the Scott Valley Irrigation District diversion structure for adult and juvenile coho salmon.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of FB and DV checklists and photomonitoring of the fish passage project implementation to ensure proper installation.  <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of the fish passage project.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Construct project to provide volitional fish passage.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within seven years of the effective date of the Permit the RCD shall provide volitional fish passage at the Scott Valley Irrigation District diversion structure.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of FB and DV checklists and photomonitoring to document volitional fish passage criteria are being met.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during the low flow season  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Habitat:</b> Evaluation of the fish passage structure by taking measurements at the project location to assess fish passage criteria. Typically measurements may include comparing as-built conditions with existing conditions including jump height and an analysis of whether or not the boulders are shifting. In addition functionality of the low flow notch shall be assessed. Evaluation of the structure shall also include an assessment of any aggradation above the structure and any downcutting or scouring below the structure for two stream widths.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during the low flow season  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Fish Response:</b> Fish response monitoring will include the results of carcass counts, spawning surveys, radio telemetry data, or other adult survey data, if available  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during adult migration and spawning  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>
<p><b>(ii) Installation of Two or More Boulder Weirs and Improved Head Works at Farmers Ditch</b></p> <p><b>Already Completed</b></p>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To provide volitional passage for juvenile fish through the Farmers Ditch diversion structure during the summer months and eliminate the gravel push-up dam.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Replacement of the gravel push-up dam at the Farmers Ditch diversion structure with two or more boulder weirs to allow for volitional fish passage.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of FB, DV and IN checklists and photomonitoring of boulder weir and head works construction to ensure proper installation and fish passage.  <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of the boulder weirs.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Construct project to provide volitional fish passage.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within one year from the effective date of the Permit the RCD shall provide volitional fish passage at Farmers Ditch diversion structure.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of FB, DV and IN checklists and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of the boulder weirs and head work in providing fish passage.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during the low flow season  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Habitat:</b> Evaluation of boulder weirs by taking measurements at project location to assess fish passage criteria. Typically measurements may include comparing as-built conditions with existing conditions including jump height and an analysis of whether or not the boulders are shifting. In addition functionality of the low flow notch shall be assessed. Evaluation of the structure shall also include an assessment of</p>

<b>Monitoring for Mitigation, Minimization, and Avoidance Activities Required in the SQRCD Watershed-wide Incidental Take Permit (Permit)</b>			
<b>Required Task</b>	<b>Goal and Objectives</b>	<b>Implementation and Compliance Monitoring</b>	<b>Effectiveness Monitoring<sup>1</sup></b>
			<p>any aggradation above the structure and any downcutting or scouring below the structure for two stream widths.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during the low flow season  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p> <p><b>Quantitative Fish Response:</b> Fish response monitoring will include the results of carcass counts, spawning surveys, radio telemetry data, or other adult survey data, if available.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during adult migration and spawning  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p>
<b>(iii) Development of Fish Passage - Rail Creek Tributary to the East Fork of the Scott River</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To Provide to provide year-round fish passage to upper Rail Creek which provides approximately one mile of spawning and summer rearing habitat.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> To design and construct a fish passage facility at the earthen dam on Rail Creek.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of FB checklist and photomonitoring of the fish passage structure to ensure proper installation.  <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of the fish passage structures.  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Construct project to provide fish passage.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within seven years of the effective date of Permit the RCD shall construct a project to provide volitional fish passage at the Rail Creek earthen dam.  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of FB checklist and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of juvenile and adult coho salmon passage.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during the low flow season  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p> <p><b>Quantitative Habitat:</b> Monitoring methods for year-round volitional fish passage will be developed in conjunction with the development of the proposed actions to be taken at the Rail Creek diversion dam. The monitoring shall include measurements similar in scope as other required fish passage monitoring and the proposed methods shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during the low flow season  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p> <p><b>Quantitative Fish Response:</b> Fish response monitoring will include the results of carcass counts, spawning surveys, radio telemetry data, or other adult survey data, if available.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during adult migration and spawning  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p>
<b>XV. Additional RCD and Sub-Permittee Avoidance and Minimization Obligations</b>			
<b>Headgate and Gage Installation</b>	<p><b>Goals:</b> To ensure that all diversions operated by sub-permittees have the ability to regulate flow and record water delivery by the installation of Department and DWR approved headgates and measuring devices.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> The preparation of a priority plan that identifies locations where headgate and measuring device installation is a priority. The installation of locking headgates and measuring devices to regulate flow.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of DV checklist and photomonitoring of headgate and gage projects to evaluate the proper installation and function of headgates and measuring devices.  <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of headgate and gage structures.  <b>Responsible Party:</b> Sub-permittee</p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of the Headgate and Gage Priority Plan.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The Headgate and Gage Priority Plan is to be completed within one from the effective date of the Permit.  <b>Responsible Party:</b> SQRCD</p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of DV checklist and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of the headgates and flow measuring devices including function and condition.  <b>Frequency:</b> Once annually during the irrigation season.</p> <p><b>Responsible Party:</b> Sub-permittee</p>

**Monitoring for Mitigation, Minimization, and Avoidance Activities Required in the SQRCD Watershed-wide Incidental Take Permit (Permit)**

Required Task	Goal and Objectives	Implementation and Compliance Monitoring	Effectiveness Monitoring <sup>1</sup>
		<p><b>Compliance:</b> All diversions operated by the sub-permittees shall have locking headgates and measuring devices installed.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within three years from the effective date of the Permit all diversions operated by the sub-permittee shall have locking headgates and measuring devices.  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p>	
<b>Fish Screens</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> All diversions operated by sub-permittees shall be properly screened to meet Department and NMFS criteria for steelhead fry as they exist at the time the screen will be installed.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> All diversions operated by the sub-permittees, including stockwater diversions, will be fitted with fish screens that meet Department and NMFS criteria as they exist at the time the screen will be installed.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of DV checklists and photomonitoring to ensure proper installation and function.  <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of fish screens.  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> The installation and proper function of fish screens and bypass facilities.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> All diversions operated by sub-permittees shall have a fish screen installed on or in the diversion no later than four years from the effective date of the Permit, or within two years from the date of the sub-permit, whichever date is later.  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of DV checklist and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness and maintenance of fish screen facilities.  <b>Frequency:</b> Annually during irrigation season(s).  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD/Sub-permittee</b></p>
<b>Fish Passage Improvements</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Provide volitional fish passage for all lifestages of coho salmon at water diversions operated by sub-permittees in the Program area.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Provide volitional fish passage at all water diversion structures operated by sub-permittees. Develop a priority list of fish passage barriers that will be used to address the most critical areas early in the Program. Develop a curriculum and hold a fish passage workshop for sub-permittees who own, operate, or use diversions that are likely to obstruct fish passage.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of FB checklist and photomonitoring of the diversion structure to ensure the proper implementation and installation of fish passage projects.  <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation or modification of a diversion structure.  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> SQRCD shall submit a priority list of fish barriers where providing passage is critical and conduct a fish passage workshop.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The fish passage workshop and priority list of diversion impacts to fish passage are to be completed within one year of the effective date of the Permit.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> All water diversion structures operated by sub-permittees shall provide volitional fish passage at any barrier for which they are responsible.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within five years of the effective date of a sub-permit.  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of FB checklist and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of juvenile and adult coho salmon passage.  <b>Frequency:</b> Annually  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Habitat:</b> Evaluation of fish passage improvements by taking measurements at the project location to assess fish passage criteria. Typically measurements may include comparing as-built conditions with existing conditions, including jump height, scour immediately below the structure, and shifts in the boulders over time, if applicable. In addition assess low flow notch functionality. Evaluation of the structure shall also include an evaluation of the aggradation above the structure and downcutting below the structure for two stream widths.  <b>Timing:</b> During the summer at low flow conditions.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Fish Response:</b> Fish response monitoring will include the results of carcass counts, spawning surveys, radio telemetry data, or other adult survey data if available.  <b>Timing:</b> During adult migration and spawning periods  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>
<b>Livestock and Vehicle Crossings</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To minimize impacts to potential spawning habitat and coho redds caused by livestock and vehicles crossing flowing streams.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of CR checklist and photomonitoring  <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation or modification of a crossing</p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of CR checklist and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of livestock and vehicle crossing to ensure consistency with design criteria (approach slope ratio, base rock consistency, distance from</p>

A-81



**Monitoring for Mitigation, Minimization, and Avoidance Activities Required in the SQRCD Watershed-wide Incidental Take Permit (Permit)**

Required Task	Goal and Objectives	Implementation and Compliance Monitoring	Effectiveness Monitoring <sup>1</sup>
	<p><b>Objectives:</b> Develop a priority list of locations where the appropriate placement of improved livestock and vehicle crossings will minimizing impacts to potential spawning habitat and construct the crossing sites to meet criteria. All existing and installed livestock and vehicle crossings shall meet the crossing criteria identified in the Permit unless otherwise determined by the Department.</p>	<p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Development of a priority list of locations for livestock and vehicle crossing construction.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within one year of the effective date of Permit.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> All livestock and vehicle crossings shall meet the crossing criteria identified in the Permit.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Prior to the expiration date of the sub-permit.  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p>	<p>coho redds).  <b>Frequency:</b> Annually  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD/Sub-permittee</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Habitat:</b> Document any changes in stream channel habitat type above and below crossing location.  <b>Timing:</b> During the coho salmon spawning period  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Fish Response:</b> Verification that coho salmon are not utilizing the crossing for spawning by completing redd surveys following methods in the CSHRM at or directly below the crossing location.  <b>Timing:</b> During the coho salmon spawning period.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>
<p><b>Riparian Fencing</b></p>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Reduce livestock impacts in riparian zones and allow reestablishment of riparian vegetation/cover along stream segments utilized by coho salmon.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> The preparation of a Riparian Fencing Plan that will identify priority locations for exclusion fencing. Install an average of two miles of additional stream every year.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of RF checklists and photomonitoring of exclusion fence installation and riparian vegetation within fenced zone.  <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation or modification of exclusion fencing.  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of the Riparian Fencing Plan.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The Riparian Fencing Plan shall be submitted within one year from the effective date of Permit. Riparian fencing shall be completed at average of an additional two miles of stream annually after the riparian fencing plan is completed.  <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Any sub-permittee whose property is identified in the Riparian Fencing Plan shall install fencing.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The sub-permittee shall install fencing at locations identified in the Riparian Fencing Plan by the expiration date of their sub-permit.  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of RF checklist and photomonitoring to evaluate fencing for proper operation, livestock exclusion and structural integrity.  <b>Frequency:</b> Annually  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p>
<p><b>Gravel Push-up Dams</b></p>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Reduce the impacts to coho salmon associated with the operation and maintenance of gravel push up dams by replacing them with boulder weirs or some other diversion method approved by the Department.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> The replacement of all gravel push-up dams with boulder weirs or some other Department approved diversion method. The development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) governing the construction, operation and/or removal of gravel push-up dams currently in use.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of DV and FB checklist and photomonitoring of replacement of gravel pushup dams during construction and removal.  <b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and after the replacement of gravel push-up dams.  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee with a gravel push-up dam.</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of a BMP list.  <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The BMP list shall be completed by the RCD within six months of the effective date of the Permit.</p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of DV checklist and photomonitoring and a narrative description of BMP implementation until the removal and replacement push-up dam. After removal of the gravel push-up dam the FB checklist shall be completed to document the effectiveness of the fish passage project.  <b>Frequency:</b> Annually  <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Habitat:</b> After the replacement of the gravel push-up dam with a boulder weir or some other diversion method, implementation and effectiveness surveys shall follow</p>

**Monitoring for Mitigation, Minimization, and Avoidance Activities Required in the SQRCD Watershed-wide Incidental Take Permit (Permit)**

Required Task	Goal and Objectives	Implementation and Compliance Monitoring	Effectiveness Monitoring <sup>1</sup>
		<p><b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Any sub-permittee with a gravel push-up dam shall remove or replace it with an alternative diversion method unless the Department determines that an alternative method is not feasible. Until such time, the sub-permittee shall provide an annual report documenting progress to provide adequate fish passage at a diversion that is a barrier to the Department and the RCD.</p> <p><b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within five years from the effective date of the sub-permit any sub-permittee with a gravel push-up dam shall replace it with an alternative diversion method unless the Department determines that an alternative method is not feasible.</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee with a gravel push-up dam</b></p>	<p>fish passage effectiveness monitoring methodology to determine if fish passage criteria are being met. Typically measurements may include comparing as-built conditions with existing conditions including jump height and an analysis of whether or not the boulders are shifting, if applicable. In addition functionality of the low flow notch shall be assessed. Evaluation of the structure shall also include an assessment of any aggradation above the structure and any downcutting or scouring below the structure for two stream widths.</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> During the low flow season <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Fish Response:</b> Fish response monitoring shall include the results of carcass counts, spawning surveys, radio telemetry data, or other adult survey data, if available. <b>Timing:</b> During adult migration and spawning periods. <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>
<p><b>Other Temporary Diversion Structures</b></p>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Reduce the impacts to coho salmon associated with the operation and maintenance of temporary diversion structures by replacing such structures with boulder weirs or some other diversion method approved by the Department.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> The replacement of temporary diversions that do not comply with Fish and Game Code with either a boulder weir or some other diversion method approved by the Department. The development of BMPs governing the construction, operation and/or removal of other diversion structures currently in use.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of DV and FB checklist and photomonitoring of the replacement of any other temporary diversion structure during construction and removal.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and after the replacement of a temporary diversion structure.</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee with a temporary diversion structure</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of a BMP list. <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The BMP list shall be completed within six months of the effective date of the Permit. <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Any sub-permittee with a temporary diversion structure shall request the SQRCD and the Department to determine whether the structure shall comply with Fish and Game Code. <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within two years from the effective date of the sub-permit the sub-permittee shall contact the Department for a determination. <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee with a temporary diversion structure</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Any sub-permittee with a temporary diversion structure that does not comply with Fish and Game Code shall remove or replace it with an alternative diversion method. Until such time, the sub-permittee shall provide an annual report documenting progress to provide adequate fish passage at a diversion that is a barrier to the Department and the RCD. <b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Within five years from the effective date of the sub-permit any temporary diversion operated by a sub-permittee that does not comply with Fish and Game Code</p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of DV checklist and photomonitoring and a narrative description of BMP implementation until the removal or the replacement of the structure. After removal of the temporary diversion structure the FB checklist shall be completed to document the effectiveness of the fish passage project. <b>Frequency:</b> Annually <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Habitat:</b> After the replacement of the temporary diversion structure with a boulder weir or some other diversion method, implementation and effectiveness surveys shall follow fish passage effectiveness monitoring methodology to determine if fish passage criteria are being met. Fish passage methodology includes the evaluation of fish passage criteria by taking measurements at project location to ensure volitional fish passage. Typically measurements may include comparing as-built conditions with existing conditions including jump height and an analysis of whether or not the boulders are shifting, if applicable. In addition functionality of the low flow notch shall be assessed. Evaluation of the structure shall also include an assessment of any aggradation above the structure and any downcutting or scouring below the structure for two stream widths. <b>Timing:</b> During the low flow season <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative Fish Response:</b> Fish response monitoring shall include the results of carcass counts, spawning surveys, radio telemetry data, or other adult survey data, if available. <b>Timing:</b> During adult migration and spawning periods <b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p>

**Monitoring for Mitigation, Minimization, and Avoidance Activities Required in the SQRCD Watershed-wide Incidental Take Permit (Permit)**

Required Task	Goal and Objectives	Implementation and Compliance Monitoring	Effectiveness Monitoring <sup>1</sup>
		shall remove or replace it with an alternative diversion method. <b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee with a temporary diversion structure</b>	
<b>Bioengineered Bank Stabilization</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Restore natural streambank stability to allow for the re-establishment of riparian vegetation and prevent excessive erosion.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Implement bioengineered bank stabilization using techniques consistent with the latest version of the CSHRM.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of IN and RP checklist and photomonitoring of bioengineered bank stabilization projects to ensure that treatments have been installed as designed.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of bioengineered bank stabilization projects.</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Construction of bioengineered bank stabilization projects.</p> <p><b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Any bio-engineered bank stabilization project identified in a sub-permit shall be installed by the sub-permittee within three years of the effective date of the sub-permit.</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of IN and RP checklist and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of the bioengineered bank stabilization projects at restoring natural streambank stability and re-establishment of riparian vegetation.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Annually</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p> <p>Note: If bioengineered bank stabilization measures include structures that increase instream habitat, those structures shall be included in the 10% habitat effectiveness monitoring sample group.</p>
<b>Irrigation Tailwater Reduction and/or Capture</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> The elimination of tailwater by implementing tailwater reduction and capture systems.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> The inventory of tailwater sources and development of a priority list of tailwater sources for remediation. The installation of tailwater reduction and capture systems that are consistent with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) guidelines.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> Completion of TW checklist and photomonitoring of tailwater projects or capture of tailwater returns to ensure consistency with NRCS guidelines.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Before, during, and immediately after the installation of tailwater reduction and/or capture structures.</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Submittal of the priority list of tailwater sources for remediation.</p> <p><b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The priority list shall be developed within two years from the effective date of Permit.</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: SQRCD</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> A sub-permittee whose property is identified on the priority list shall install a tailwater reduction and capture system</p> <p><b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> The tailwater reduction and capture system on the sub-permittees property shall be in place by the expiration of their sub-permit.</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p>	<p><b>Qualitative Habitat:</b> Completion of TW checklist and photomonitoring to document the effectiveness of the operation of tailwater reduction and/or capture systems and to insure the project is consistent with the original design criteria.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Annually</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p>
<b>Maintain Connectivity of Tributaries to Mainstem</b>	<p><b>Goal:</b> Maintain connectivity between French Creek and Lower Shackleford Creek with the confluence of the Scott River prior to June 15 to allow for juvenile coho salmon passage</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Sub-permittees will maintain water connectivity and fish passage until June 15th. If water disconnectivity will occur before June 15<sup>th</sup>, sub-permittees will refrain from diverting up to a maximum of 25% of the water the sub-permittee would otherwise be allowed to divert for a period of 12 hours at a time and no more than twice per week.</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> The sub-permittee shall provide a narrative description in the annual report of any measures taken on either French and Lower Shackleford Creeks to maintain connectivity.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Whenever flow conditions warrant.</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p> <p><b>Compliance:</b> Contribute to the amount of water necessary to maintain connectivity between French Creek and Lower Shackleford Creek with the confluence of the Scott River.</p> <p><b>Compliance Timeframe:</b> Whenever flow conditions warrant.</p> <p><b>Responsible Party: Sub-permittee</b></p>	

### Appendix 3. Checklist Monitoring

Completion of monitoring checklists involves assembling relevant project information, visiting the project site and answering checklist questions, and making a summary judgment of implementation or effectiveness of each feature.

Each covered activity has three separate checklists corresponding to specific chronological time periods described above. CDFG will aid in the completion of the pre-implementation checklist and help determine what other checklist may be needed to ensure activities are properly monitored by using the appropriate checklist. Sub-permittees that do not require construction activities to meet the requirements of the Program will not be required to complete implementation checklists, completing only the effectiveness monitoring checklists. However, if operation or maintenance requires ground disturbing activities, these activities shall be described on a implementation checklist.

#### A. Assembling Monitoring Checklists

The number and type of project features to be monitored shall be determined by the Department during the initial site visit.

#### B. Completing Checklists

Once a project has been identified checklists shall be completed. Visit each project feature and answer the questions that pertain to the feature. Each checklist contains questions for a wide range of implementation and effectiveness criteria, not all of which will apply to every feature. Each checklist should be consistent with the previous checklist for the time sequence. If an additional checklist is used for a project, note that in the comments section. Many of the questions require an answer in the form of a three letter code. These codes are identified on a sheet attached to the checklist and are consistent for each checklist in the monitoring program.

#### C. Checklists

##### 1. DV- WATER DIVERSION FACILITIES

These checklists are for activities related to the ***diversion of water and the diversion facilities. The facilities include headgates, fish screens, bypass conduits and measuring devices.*** Pre-implementation monitoring forms focus on the presence or absence of required structures and features, their condition and functionality and relevant criteria. Implementation checklists focus on improvements made to diversion structures to meet requirements of the Program. Effectiveness checklists focus on the functionality of the required structures

## 2. CR- LIVESTOCK AND VEHICLE CROSSINGS

These checklists are for ***livestock and vehicle crossings***. The pre-implementation monitoring form focuses on the existing physical features of the site and evaluates which crossing conditions need to be addressed. The Implementation checklist evaluates activities taken to meet the conditions for livestock and vehicle crossings identified in this Permit. The effectiveness monitoring checklist focuses on the functionality of the crossings over the life of the program and will allow informed decisions to be made regarding maintenance activities required.

## 3. RF–RIPARIAN FENCING

These checklists are for ***the installation of fencing for livestock exclusion from riparian zones***. This feature may include fencing set back approximately 35 feet from the edge of bank or temporary fencing across stream. The pre-implementation checklist establishes the need for riparian exclusion fencing based on existing conditions. The implementation checklist evaluates the installation of fencing, records other features that may have been installed in conjunction with the riparian fencing and documents the post construction conditions. The effectiveness monitoring checklist evaluates the feature in meeting the goals of the exclusion fencing over time, and changes in the riparian and stream bank components of the project area.

## 4. RT-RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION

These checklists are for ***any type of riparian planting activity or other riparian restoration activity consistent with the Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual***. The checklists focus on riparian revegetation. The pre-implementation checklist focuses on the existing habitat conditions at the project location and the condition of the banks and channel. The implementation checklist focuses on planting of vegetation, including develop and adherence to an approved restoration plan and documents any project modification that may have occurred during implementation. The effectiveness monitoring checklist focuses on vegetation monitoring, maintenance and changes in the density and cover from planted vegetation. This checklist can also be used when nothing is planted but, an area is treated by fencing and has the same objectives as a planting project.

## 5. IN-INSTREAM HABITAT & BANK STABILIZATION

These checklists are for ***structures to protect the beds and banks of streams, including biotechnical features, habitat structures and other structures consistent with the Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, including boulder weirs, large woody debris and spawning gravel enhancements***.

The pre-implementation checklist focuses on existing habitat and the physical characteristics of the project area. The implementation checklist evaluates the installation of the instream structures. The effectiveness monitoring checklist evaluates the changes in the habitat and physical structure of the project area over time and whether or not the desired features were created or maintained over time.

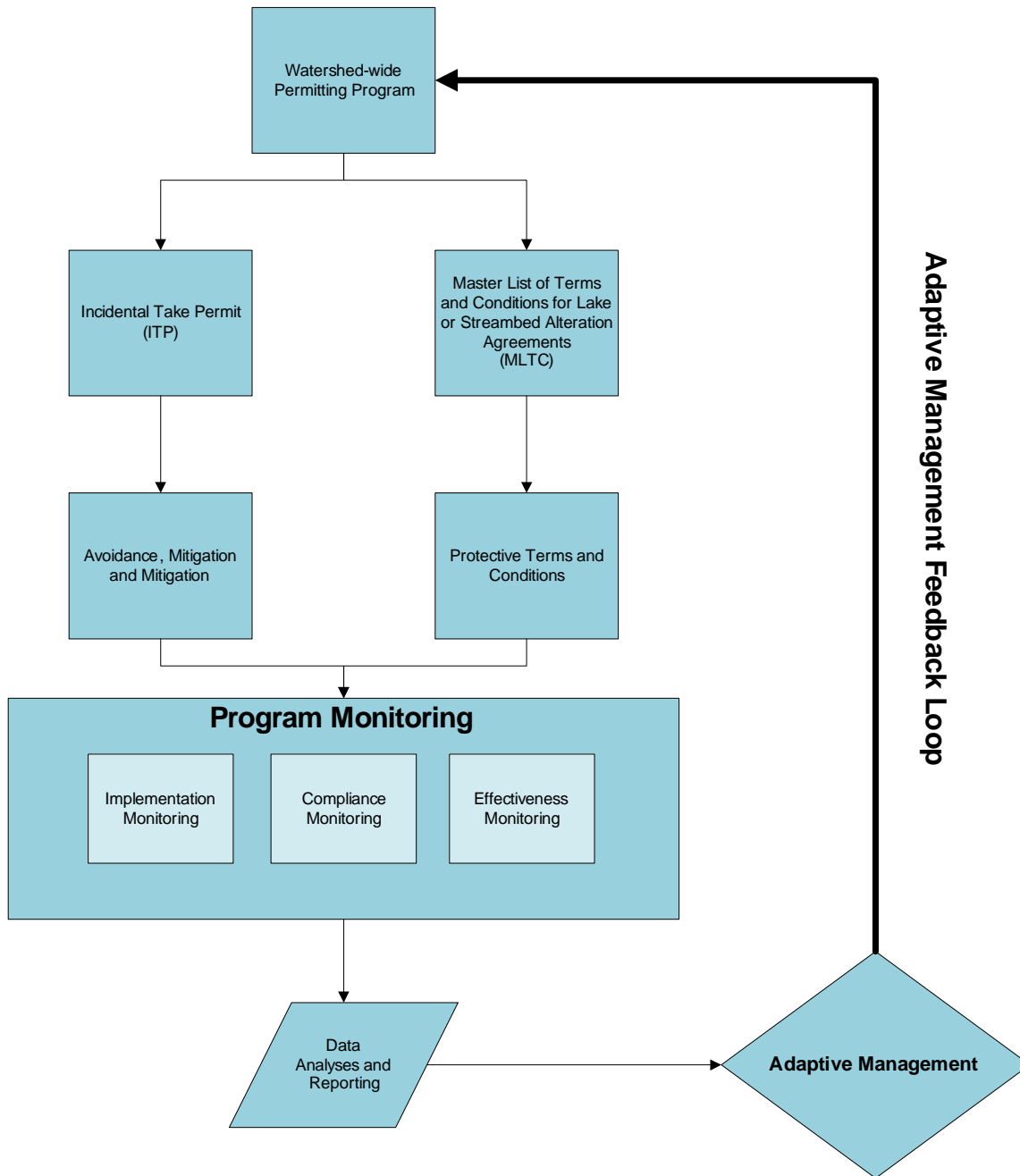
## 6. FB - BARRIER REMOVAL AND FISH PASSAGE

These checklists are for the ***removal of barriers that prevent volitional fish passage for access to historic spawning and rearing habitat.*** The pre-implementation checklist focuses on the type of barrier that exists and bed and channel conditions. Because of the unique nature of many barriers, a detailed description as well as opportunistic photos are required on the checklist. The implementation checklist evaluates the removal or modification of the structure, channel conditions and quantitative metrics. The effectiveness monitoring checklist evaluates the site to ensure that fish passage is maintained and that the physical features of the channel are intact and to determine if natural processes are maintained through the site.

## 7. IT-IRRIGATION TAILWATER REDUCTION AND CAPTURE

These checklists are for ***the installation of tailwater reduction and capture systems that are consistent with Natural Resource Conservation Service guidelines.*** The pre-implementation checklist focuses on the existing tailwater source including problems with the streambank, the amount of tailwater being delivered into the waterbody, and existing tailwater systems at the location. The implementation checklist focuses on the installation of a tailwater system and an evaluation of consistency with NRCS guidelines. The effectiveness monitoring checklist focuses on the effectiveness of the system at the reduction or elimination of tailwater entering the natural waterway and the maintenance and function of the tailwater system over time.

## Appendix 4. Adaptive Management Plan Feedback Loop



## **APPENDIX B**

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# Streambed Alteration Agreement Memorandum of Understanding



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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND  
THE SISKIYOU RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGARDING THE SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE  
STREAMBED ALTERATION AGREEMENT PROGRAM**

I. RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Legislature has declared that the protection and conservation of the State of California's fish and wildlife resources are of utmost public interest;

WHEREAS, the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife resources depend largely upon the preservation of the quality and quantity of the habitat that sustain them;

WHEREAS, the Department of Fish and Game ("Department") is the trustee for the state's fish and wildlife resources and responsible for administering and enforcing Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires an entity to notify the Department before beginning a project that will substantially obstruct or divert the natural flow of a river, stream, or lake; substantially change the bed, channel, or bank, of a river, stream, or lake; use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake; or result in the deposition or disposal of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, and requires the Department to prepare a Streambed Alteration Agreement ("Agreement") if it determines the project could substantially adversely affect a fish or wildlife resource;

WHEREAS, the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District ("SQRCD") works in partnership with various parties to provide technical assistance and cost-sharing to private landowners to assist them with conservation projects on their property and to reduce erosion and sedimentation, in an effort to protect surrounding natural resources;

WHEREAS, SQRCD has been working closely with local community groups to create watershed plans and to protect and improve the biological functioning of their watersheds and natural resources while maintaining the economic viability of agriculture, and has been identified as an appropriate organization to assist local landowners in implementing those plans;

WHEREAS, the Department, with SQRCD's assistance, has developed the Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Program ("Permitting Program"), which is designed to implement key recovery tasks for coho salmon and ensure that participants are in

compliance with Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.* and the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 *et seq.*);

WHEREAS, the Department, with SQRCD's assistance, has developed a Streambed Alteration Agreement Program ("Program") as part of the Permitting Program to coordinate and simplify the process for agricultural water diverters in the Scott River watershed to comply with Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, as part of the Program, the Department, with SQRCD's assistance, has prepared a Master List of Terms and Conditions for Streambed Alteration Agreements Issued Under the Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program ("MLTC"), attached hereto as Attachment 1, that covers agricultural water diversions and other agricultural activities in the Scott River watershed; any projects directly related to such diversions; and restoration activities implemented by SQRCD, and includes general and specific measures that the Department and SQRCD agree are necessary to protect fish and wildlife resources that may be substantially adversely affected by such diversions or other agricultural activities and related projects, and restoration activities;

WHEREAS, the Department will prepare and approve or certify an environmental document in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 *et seq.*) for the Permitting Program before issuing Agreements under the program; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this MOU is to describe the Program and the Department's and SQRCD's roles and responsibilities under the Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE DEPARTMENT AND SQRCD AGREE THAT:

## II. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

A. The Program shall be limited to the activities described in Section III (Covered Activities) in Attachment 1.

B. SQRCD and each agricultural water diverter who is eligible for and wants to participate in the Program ("Participant") shall obtain a separate Agreement through the Program by including the information in Section III below.

## III. PROGRAM PROCESS

A. ~~It is the sole responsibility of the~~ Participant to shall fill out and submit to the Department a Permitting Program Notification Application Package ("Application notification") which includes the information necessary for notification of lake or

~~streambed alteration. The pParticipant will complete the Application with the assistance of the~~ may submit the completed notification to SQRCD for assistance and/or review. ~~The complete Application Package is in Exhibit 1 of Attachment 1.~~ If SQRCD determines that the notification should be modified, it shall describe for the participant the changes that should be made to the notification and offer to review the notification again after it is modified. If SQRCD determines that the notification does not need to be modified, it shall advise the participant to submit the notification to the Department. SQRCD shall initial and date any notification it recommends for submittal to the Department.

~~B. SQRCD's role in regard to reviewing and commenting on a participant's notification shall be advisory only. SQRCD shall not be responsible for a participant's failure to submit a notification to SQRCD for its review before it is submitted to the Department: the information included in the notification; or the completeness of the notification.~~

~~B.C. Within 15 days of receiving an Application notification, the Department will confirm determine if that the project is covered under the Program. If the Department determines the project is not covered under the Program, the Department shall explain to the pParticipant in writing that the project is not covered, and that if the pParticipant wants the Department to process the a notification outside of the Program, the pParticipant will need to submit a notification and notification fee to the Department within 30 days from the date of the letter. If the Department does not receive the notification fee within that time period, the Department will return the notification to the participant, unless the Department agrees otherwise. If the Department confirms that the project is covered under the Program, the Department will begin processing the notification Application by first determining whether the notification it is complete in accordance with Fish and Game Code section 1602(a)(2) and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 783.5 (b). The 30-day time period to determine whether the notification Application is complete shall begin on the date the Department confirms that the project is covered under the Permitting Program.~~

~~D.C. The Department will make every effort to provide the pParticipant with two copies of a draft Agreement for review within 45 days after the notification Application is complete determined to be complete. However, by signing the Application, the Participant has agreed that the 60-day time period for the Department to issue a draft Agreement as specified in Fish and Game Code section 1602(a)(4)(D) may be extended, if necessary, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1607 without further written authority. If the Department fails to provide a draft Agreement within 60 days after the draft notification is complete, the participant may begin the project without an Agreement, as provided in Fish and Game Code section 1602(a)(4)(D). The draft Agreement will include the general measures identified in the MLTC for the Program that apply to all projects and the specific measures that particularly apply to the project~~

described in the pParticipant's notification Application. Upon receipt of the draft Agreement, the pParticipant shall have 30 days to either accept or not accept the draft Agreement.

D E. If the pParticipant accepts the draft Agreement, the pParticipant shall sign both copies and submit them to the Department. Upon receipt of the executed copies, the Department shall sign both. The Department shall then file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse relying on the environmental document approved or certified for the Permitting Program in accordance with CEQA. At the same time, the Department shall submit one original of the final Agreement to the pParticipant, retain one original, and submit a copy of the original to SQRCD. Upon receipt of the final Agreement and an Incidental Take Sub-permit (Sub-permit), the pParticipant shall be authorized to complete the project and/or activity pursuant to the conditions in the Agreement and the Sub-permit.

E F. The Department may include in the draft Agreement measures that are not in the MLTC, if the Department determines such additional measures are necessary to protect fish and wildlife resources the project could substantially adversely affect, and the Department meets any CEQA requirements that might apply before issuing the final Agreement.

F. For draft Agreements that include measures that are not in the MLTC to protect fish and wildlife resources pursuant to paragraph E above, the Participant shall work with Department staff to resolve any disagreement regarding only those measures. If the disagreement is not resolved between the Participant and Department staff, the Regional Manager shall be informed. Thereafter the Region Manager shall work with the Participant to resolve any disagreement regarding any measure that is not in the MLTC. The decision by the Regional Manager shall be final.

G. If the pParticipant does not accept the draft Agreement, it shall notify the Department in writing that the draft Agreement is not acceptable. In that case, the dispute resolution provisions in Fish and Game Code section 1603, including arbitration, shall not apply. ~~Instead, the participant will need to obtain an Agreement from the Department outside the Program before beginning the project. In doing so, the participant will need to submit a new notification and notification fee outside the Program, all relevant provisions in Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. will apply, including the dispute resolution provisions in Fish and Game Code section 1603, and the Department will comply with CEQA before issuing a final Agreement.~~

H. If a draft Agreement is not accepted by the Participant, an Agreement from the Department outside the Program will be necessary before beginning any project that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or deposit or

dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake. The Participant will need to submit a standard notification and a notification fee. All relevant provisions in Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. will apply, including the dispute resolution provisions in Fish and Game Code section 1603. The Department is required to comply with CEQA before issuing an Agreement. The CEQA analysis conducted for the Permitting Program will not be sufficient for 1602 notifications received outside of the Permitting Program.

IH. The term of any Agreement that the Department issues to a pParticipant through the Program may not exceed five years.

JI. Fish and Game Code section 1605(a), (b), and (d) through (f) shall apply to any Agreement that the Department issues to a pParticipant through the Program.

#### IV. AMENDMENT

This MOU may be amended only by mutual written agreement between the Department and SQRCD.

#### V. TERMINATION

The Department or SQRCD may terminate this MOU at any time by written notice to the other party, in which case the MOU will terminate 30 days from receipt of the notice by the other party. Termination of this MOU shall not affect any Agreements issued under the Permitting Program prior to termination; shall not preclude the Department from issuing Agreements under the Permitting Program after termination; and shall not preclude the Department from using Attachment 1 in issuing Agreements under the Permitting Program after termination.

#### VI. TERM

This MOU shall remain in effect for five (5) years from the date of execution, unless the Department and SQRCD terminate or extend it prior to its expiration. The term of this MOU may be extended only by mutual written agreement prior to its expiration.

#### VII. REPRESENTATIVES

The individuals named below shall serve as the Department and SQRCD representatives for the Program.

For the Department:

Donna L. Cobb, 1600 Program Supervisor  
Department of Fish and Game  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2314  
dcobb@dfg.ca.gov

For SQRCD:

Carolyn Pimentel  
District Manager  
Siskiyou Resource Conservation District  
P.O. Box 268  
Etna, CA 96027

#### VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is acknowledged that the purpose of this MOU is to set forth the roles and responsibilities of the Department and SQRCD with respect to the Program. This MOU does not affect SQRCD's rights and responsibilities under Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.*, and does not constitute a waiver of SQRCD's rights and responsibilities to implement or maintain conservation practices in areas outside the Department's permitting authority.

#### IX. ATTACHMENTS

The following documents are attached to this MOU and incorporated herein by reference:

Attachment 1. Master List of Terms and Conditions

Exhibit 1. Application Forms and Instructions

Attachment A: Water Right Verification Form

Attachment B: Right of Entry Agreement

Exhibit 2. Program Area

#### IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This MOU shall be effective immediately upon signature by the Department, which shall be after SQRCD's signature.

XI. SIGNATURE

SQRCD and the Department acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions of this MOU as evidenced by the following signatures of their duly authorized representatives.

**SISKIYOU RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Krum  
President

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Gary B. Stacey  
Regional Manager  
Northern Region



## ATTACHMENT 1

### MASTER LIST OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR STREAMBED ALTERATION AGREEMENTS ISSUED UNDER SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAM

#### I. OVERVIEW

This attachment identifies the activities that are eligible for coverage under the Streambed Alteration Agreement Program (“Program”) described in the attached Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the Department of Fish and Game (“Department”) and the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (“SQRCD”); the general terms and conditions that will apply in all instances; and the specific conditions that will apply to those activities as determined by the Department on a project-by-project basis.

##### A. Eligibility

As described in the MOU, the Program is limited to SQRCD and agricultural operators (defined below) in the Scott River watershed (each one a “participant”) that intends to conduct an activity that is described in Section III (Covered Activities) below and subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602. An activity is subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602 if it will result in or involve: 1) a substantial diversion or obstruction of the natural flow of a river, stream, or lake; 2) a substantial change to the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake; 3) the use of any material from the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake; and/or 4) the deposition or disposal of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake.

##### B. Procedure

Also as described in the MOU, to participate in the Program, each participant will need to complete a Program Application Notification Package (“Application”) ~~attached hereto~~ *which is included in as Exhibit 1, (“notification”) Application Form and Instructions for Incidental Take Sub-permit and Streambed Alteration Agreement*. It is the sole responsibility of the participant to fill out an Application notification. However, SQRCD will assist participants in completing the Application notification, ~~on an as-needed basis~~. If the activity is described in Section III below and is subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602 and the Department determines that the notification is complete, the Department will prepare a Streambed Alteration Agreement (“Agreement”) that includes all of the general conditions in Section IV below, and some of the specific conditions in

Section V below. The participant and the Department will comply with the procedure described in paragraphs B, C through J, G in Section III in the MOU, which are incorporated herein by reference.

### C. Term

The term of any Agreement issued under the Program may not exceed five (5) years. The Agreement may be extended, but only in accordance with Fish and Game Code section 1605(b) and 1605(d) through (f).

## II. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this attachment and the Program, the following definitions apply:

“Active diversion” is defined as a surface water diversion that has been operated at least one out of the last five years.

“Agricultural operator” is defined in the Program as any natural person or any partnership, corporation, limited liability company, trust, or other type of association, or any public agency, as defined in CEQA Guidelines, § 15379, who diverts water from a stream by means of an active diversion in the Program Area for an agricultural purpose, or is involved in an agricultural operation on property in the Program Area through which or adjacent to which a stream flows. ~~“Active diversion” is defined as a surface water diversion that has been operated at least one out of the last five years.~~

“Bedload” is defined as sand, gravel, boulders, or cobbles transported by water in a stream over time; the part of the load that is not continuously in suspension or solution.

“Coffer dam” is defined as a temporary watertight dam or barrier used to divert stream flow or to otherwise exclude water from an in-channel work area during construction. Coffer dams are fitted with a conduit that diverts the stream flow to the natural stream channel downstream of the work site.

“Covered activity” is defined as any activity described in Section III (Covered Activities) below.

“Feasible” means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social and technological factors.

“Gravel” is defined to include gravel, rock, cobble, and any other aggregate material. It does not include fine sediment such as sand, silt, and clay.

“Push-up dam” is defined as a temporary diversion structure created by using motorized equipment (for example loaders, backhoes, or excavators) to move bedload within the stream channel to form a flow barrier that seasonally diverts the flow of the stream.

“Other temporary diversion structure” is defined as any temporary structure (other than a push-up dam) used to seasonally divert water from a stream and is typically made with materials such as hay bales, hand-stacked rocks and cobble, tarps, wood, and/or a combination of these materials placed in the channel with or without the use of heavy equipment.

“Participant” is defined as SQRCD and any agricultural operator within the program area (defined below) who has chosen to participate in the Program because the activity the participant intends to complete is a covered activity that is subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602.

“Person” is defined as any natural person or any partnership, corporation, limited liability company, trust, or other type of association. (Fish & G. Code, § 67.)

“Program area” is defined as the Scott River watershed, including the Scott River and its tributaries, in Siskiyou County as shown in Exhibit 2 in this attachment.

“Project” is defined as any project described in Section III (Covered Activities) below.

"Qualified botanist" is defined as a person that has experience conducting floristic field surveys, knowledge of plant taxonomy and plant community ecology, familiarity with the plants of the area, including rare, threatened, and endangered species, familiarity with the appropriate state and federal statutes related to plants and plant collecting; and experience with analyzing impacts of development on native plant species and communities.

“Responsible party” is defined as any participant that enters into an Agreement under the Program.

“Special-status species” is defined as any species that meets the definition of “endangered, rare, or threatened species” in section 15380 in title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, also known as the “CEQA Guidelines.”

“Stream” is defined to include any stream or river, whether perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral.

“Vehicle” is defined as any self-propelled device by which any person or property may be propelled, moved, or drawn upon (whether on or off-road), including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, backhoes, bulldozers, excavators, and tractors.

“Waters of the state” is defined as “any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state.” (Wat. Code, § 13050(e).)

### III. COVERED ACTIVITIES

The Program covers the nine (9) categories of activities described below (see A-I) that are subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602.

#### A. Water Diversions

Water diversions covered under this category include only the diversion of water through a conduit or opening from streams, channels, or sloughs within the Scott River watershed by an agricultural operator for agricultural purposes in accordance with a valid water right, including one specified in the following court decree: Shackleford Creek #13775 (April 10, 1950), French Creek #14478 (July 1, 1958), and Scott River #30662 (January 30, 1980).

#### B. Water Diversion Structures

This category includes only the following activities relating to water diversion structures:

1. Ongoing management and/or maintenance of existing flashboard dams, including the placement of boards into concrete abutments across the wetted channel to build head to divert water, and the removal of the boards.
2. Ongoing maintenance, management, and repair of boulder weirs.
3. Installing, operating, maintaining, and removing push-up dams.
4. Installing, operating, maintaining, and removing other temporary diversion structures that are not push-up dams.
5. Installing or placing pumps and sumps and maintaining existing pumps and sumps within or adjacent to the active channel of a stream, which sometimes requires the use of large machinery within or adjacent to the active channel.
6. Installing headgates and measuring devices, *sized appropriately for the authorized diversion*, that meet the Department's *and/or the Department of Water Resources* standards on or in a diversion channel, which usually is done by excavating the site to proper elevation using large machinery, positioning the headgate and measuring weir *device* at the appropriate elevation, and installing

rock or other “armoring” around the headgate to protect the structure. During installation, the stream bank could be affected by the construction of concrete forms and other necessary construction activities.

### C. Fish Screens

This category includes only the installation, operation and maintenance of the types of fish screens described below, provided they meet the Department’s and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service’s (“NMFS”) criteria for steelhead fry as they exist at the time the screen is installed. Installing a fish screen usually includes site excavation, forming and pouring a concrete foundation and walls, excavation and installation of a fish bypass pipe or channel, and installation of the fish screen structure. Heavy equipment is typically used for excavation of the screen site and bypass. If the fish screen is placed within or near flood prone areas, typically rock or other “armoring” is installed to protect the screen. The average size of the bed, channel, and/or bank area affected by the installation of a bypass pipe or channel ranges from 40 to 100 square feet. Types of fish screens include:

1. Self-cleaning screens, including flat plate self-cleaning screens, and other self-cleaning designs, including, but not limited to, rotary drum screens and cone screens, with a variety of cleaning mechanisms, consistent with Department and NMFS screening criteria.
2. Non-self cleaning screens, including tubular, box, and other screen designs consistent with Department and NMFS screening criteria.

### D. Stream Access and Crossings

This category includes only the moving of livestock and vehicles across flowing streams or intermittent channels and/or the construction, maintenance, and use of stream crossings at designated locations where potential spawning gravel, incubating eggs, and fry are not present based on repeated site specific surveys. Factors considered when selecting a crossing location include the stream gradient, channel width, and the ability to maintain the existing channel slope. Generally, to construct a crossing, a boulder weir is placed on the downstream side of the crossing to maintain stream gradient and angular quarry rock is placed in the crossing location; the width of the crossing does not exceed 25 feet; the crossing spans the entire width of the channel; the crossing is “keyed” into the bank on each side; the approaches on both sides do not exceed a slope of 3:1; and bank armoring (usually using quarry rock) is added where needed.

### E. Fencing

This category includes only the installation and maintenance of livestock

exclusion fencing to protect riparian zones including the construction of fencing along livestock and vehicle crossings and livestock watering lanes.

#### F. Riparian Restoration and Revegetation

This category includes only the restoration, including revegetation of riparian areas, consistent with the methods specified in the most current edition of the Department's *Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*, or as otherwise approved in writing by the Department. The most current edition of the manual is available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/HabitatManual.asp>. Typically, riparian vegetation is planted within or adjacent to the active channel, and often in or near the wetted channel. Plantings include herbaceous perennials, emergent species, native grasses, trees, and shrubs. Planting methods vary by species, site, and size of material planted, ranging from hand planting to using a backhoe or excavator. For riparian trees, planting densities range from 130 to 300 plantings per acre, depending on the restoration goals (e.g., shading, sediment trapping, and bank stabilization), substrate, and hydrology. Trees and cuttings range in size from small rooted plugs to large diameter pole plantings. When installing pole plantings, heavy equipment may be used to excavate to or below water table depth. Maintenance activities include the occasional use of hand tools, portable pumps, pick-up trucks and/or water trucks in or near the bed, bank, or channel, for irrigation, debris removal, and replanting of restoration sites.

#### G. Instream Structures

This category includes only the installation, maintenance, and repair of the following instream structures consistent with the methods specified in the most current edition of the Department's *Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*, available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/HabitatManual.asp>:

1. structures to protect the bed and banks of streams;
2. bioengineered habitat structures;
3. deflectors;
4. boulder clusters;
5. boulder weirs for instream habitat or to replace flashboard dams, push-up dams, and other temporary diversion structures;
6. large woody debris; and
7. spawning gravel to enhance spawning habitat.

#### H. Stream Gages

This category includes the installation and maintenance of stream gages in the active stream channel, usually using pipe two (2) inches or greater in diameter. Typically, the pipe is secured to the bank by notching it into the bank and by then attaching it to the bedrock, a boulder, or a concrete buttress. Generally, heavy equipment is not needed to install and maintain stream gages.

#### I. Barrier Removal and Fish Passage Projects

The projects listed below are covered under this category, although the Department may add others to the list in the future. Each project will provide access to historic fish spawning and rearing habitat.

1. The installation and maintenance of a fish ladder at the Scott Valley Irrigation District diversion head
2. The installation and maintenance of two or more boulder weirs and improved head works at Farmers Ditch
3. The following barrier removal and fish passage projects on tributaries to the east fork of the Scott River:
  - a. Rail Creek fish barrier removal project
  - b. Grouse Creek low flow fish passage project
  - c. Big Mill Creek fish barrier and channel restoration projects
  - d. Shackleford Creek confluence gravel aggradation maintenance

#### IV. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COVERED ACTIVITIES

All of the general terms and conditions listed below (1-20 19) will be included in every Agreement the Department issues to a responsible party under the Program, regardless of the activity or activities the Agreement authorizes.

##### A. Administrative

1. The responsible party shall provide a copy of this Agreement to all persons who will be completing any part of the project or projects this Agreement authorizes, including, but not limited to, employees, contractors, and subcontractors. Copies of the Agreement and any amendments thereto shall be readily available at each work site at all times, and shall be presented to any employee of the Department or another governmental agency upon demand.

2. The responsible party shall notify the Department either by telephone or in writing (by e-mail, fax, or mail), at least five (5) days prior to initiation of any construction activities, unless this Agreement provides otherwise and at least five (5) days prior to completion of construction activities:

Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
Attn: Streambed Alteration Program

E-mail: R1Streambed@dfg.ca.gov  
Telephone: (530) 225-2367  
Fax (530) 225-0324

3. This Agreement authorizes only the project or projects described herein. The responsible party shall notify the Department in accordance with Fish and Game Code section 1602 before beginning any project subject to that section that is not described herein. Failure to do so could result in enforcement action against the responsible party.

B. Amendments

4. The Department may amend this Agreement if it obtains new information that shows the project or projects this Agreement authorizes could substantially adversely affect fish and wildlife resources that were not considered at the time of, or by the original terms of the agreement, notwithstanding responsible party's compliance with the Agreement.
5. The responsible party may amend this Agreement at any time, but only if the Department agrees to the amendment in writing.
6. Any amendments to this Agreement shall be made in writing, signed by the responsible party and the Department, and attached to this Agreement.
7. The responsible party may request one extension of this Agreement for the period to expire when the Resource Conservation District Incidental Take Permit expires, provided that the request is made in writing prior to the expiration of its original term. The Department shall grant the extension unless it determines that the Agreement requires modification because the measures contained in the Agreement no longer protect the fish



and wildlife resources that the activity may substantially adversely affect or there has been a substantial change in conditions. If the responsible party fails to request the extension prior to the Agreement's termination then the responsible party shall be required to submit a new Application notification and required information to the Department in order to complete a covered activity. Any activity conducted under an expired Agreement is a violation of Code section 1600 *et seq.*

C. Suspension and Revocation

8. The Department may suspend or revoke this Agreement at any time if any of the following occurs:
  - a. The Department determines that the responsible party is not in compliance with its terms and conditions, provided that the Department provides the entity written notice that explains the basis for the suspension or revocation and provides the entity an opportunity to correct any deficiency before the Department suspends or revokes the Agreement.
  - b. The Department and the responsible party do not reach agreement with any amendment proposed pursuant to condition 4 above within 30 days of receiving notification by the Department.
  - c. Department personnel are not allowed access to property necessary to verify compliance with, or the effectiveness of, the terms and conditions in this Agreement.
9. Any suspension or revocation shall take effect immediately upon receipt of such notice by the responsible party, or in accordance with the instructions contained in the notice.
10. At the discretion of the Department, any action to suspend this Agreement may be limited in scope to address the specific problem or problems resulting in the suspension. Hence, the Department may limit the suspension to specified work or specified areas. The Department may lift any suspension when it has determined that responsible party has adequately addressed the problem or problems resulting in the suspension and that reinstatement of the Agreement will not cause harm to fish and wildlife resources.
11. Nothing in this Agreement precludes the Department from pursuing an enforcement action against the responsible party instead of or in addition to suspending or revoking the Agreement.

12. Nothing in this Agreement limits or otherwise affects the Department's enforcement authority.

D. Liability

13. The responsible party agrees that it is responsible for ensuring compliance with the terms of this Agreement, and that it is not excused from responsibility for a violation of the Agreement that occurs as a result of an act or omission by any person acting on behalf of the responsible party, including its agents, officers, employees, and contractors. In the event that any person acting on behalf of the responsible party violates the Agreement, then the responsible party shall take the steps and incur the expense necessary to remedy the violation, if directed to do so by the Department or a court of competent jurisdiction. The responsible party's obligation to remedy the violation is intended for the benefit of the Department only, and shall be without prejudice to the responsible party's right to seek reimbursement, damages, or other relief from any person.
14. The responsible party agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Department, its agents, officers, and employees from and against any Claim. For purposes of this agreement, "Claim" means any claims, damages, losses, judgments, liabilities, expenses, and other costs, including litigation costs and attorney's fees that arise out of, result from, or are in connection with the performance of the project or projects that this Agreement authorizes by the responsible party or its agents, officers, or employees, and that involve actual or alleged personal injury, death, or damage or destruction to tangible or intangible property, including the loss of use caused in whole or in part by any act or omission of the responsible party, its agents, employees, supplier, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by any of them, or anyone for whose acts or omissions any of them may be liable. Claim does not include: (1) any claims, damages, losses, judgments, liabilities, expenses, or other costs, including litigation costs and attorney's fees, arising out of and due solely to the negligence or willful misconduct of the Department, its agents, officers, and employees or (2) any claims, damages, losses, judgments, liabilities, expenses or other costs, including litigation costs and attorneys fees, arising out of actions or proceedings against the Department based on the Department's actual or alleged failure to comply with or otherwise properly administer its responsibilities under the California Fish and Game Code, and the California Environmental Quality Act.

If any action or proceeding is brought against the Department, its agents, officers, or employees by reason of any Claim, the responsible party shall, at the election of and upon written notice from the Department, defend such action or proceeding by counsel reasonably acceptable to the Department or reimburse the Department for all reasonable charges incurred for services of the California Attorney General.

This indemnification shall not prohibit the responsible party from bringing any action against the Department, its agents, officers, and employees based on a right guaranteed by the state or federal Constitution.

15. This Agreement does not constitute the Department's endorsement of the project or projects this Agreement authorizes or the project design or an assurance by the Department that the project will be properly implemented.
16. All provisions of this Agreement shall remain in force throughout the term of the Agreement. After the Agreement expires, the responsible party shall remain responsible for implementing any mitigation or other measures specified in the Agreement to protect fish and wildlife resources, as required in Fish and Game Code section 1605(a)(2).

E. Access

17. By signing this Agreement, the responsible party shall provide non-enforcement Department personnel permission to access the project site described in this Agreement during normal business hours for the specific purpose of verifying compliance with, or the effectiveness of, the terms and conditions in this Agreement, provided the Department notifies the responsible party, whether verbally or in writing, at least 48 hours in advance of accessing the project site. If the project site is not located on the responsible party's property, the responsible party shall obtain permission from the landowner of the project site for Department personnel to access the site by providing the Department with an executed copy of the Right of Entry Agreement Form ~~attached hereto as Exhibit 3.~~

18. Sworn Peace officers may enter private lands if necessary for law enforcement purposes pursuant to Fish and Game Code 857.

F. Other Laws

19.48. This Agreement does not relieve the responsible party from

obtaining any other permits or authorizations that might be required under other federal, state, or local laws or regulations before beginning the project or projects this Agreement authorizes, such as a permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“ACOE”) pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act, authorization from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (“NCRWQCB”) pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a permit issued under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and authorization from NMFS or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the incidental take of a species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

~~20~~ 19. This Agreement does not relieve the responsible party from complying with provisions in the Fish and Game Code other than section 1600 *et seq.*, including, but not limited to authorization of “take” of a State threatened or endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 *et seq.*) and sections 5650, 5901, and 5937.

## V. SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

In addition to the General Terms and Conditions in Section IV above, the Department will include some of the specific conditions listed below (~~21-130~~ 20-110) in any Agreement it issues to a responsible party under the Program, depending on the type of project or projects the Agreement authorizes.

### A. Water Diversions

~~21~~ 20. This Agreement does not authorize the maintenance, construction, or replacement of any temporary or permanent dam, or diversion structure or the filling of any channel, except as described herein.

~~22~~ 21. All water diversion facilities that the responsible party owns, operates, or controls shall be operated and maintained in accordance with current law and applicable water rights, including any specified in the following court decree: Shackleford Creek #13775 (April 10, 1950), French Creek # 14778 (July 1, 1958), and Scott River # 30662 (January 30, 1980).

~~23~~ 22. The responsible party shall divert and use water in accordance with a valid water right, including any limitations on when water may be diverted and used, the purpose for which it may be diverted and used, and the location(s) where water may be diverted and used. For groundwater wells located within the interconnected zone as

defined in the Scott River decree, the property that may be irrigated from these wells shall be as identified in that decree.

- 24 23. The responsible party shall verify that the quantity of water the responsible party is diverting or using is in accordance with a valid water right. Verification shall be performed by the watermaster for diversions that are controlled by a watermaster. In the absence of a watermaster, verification shall be performed by some other reliable means as determined by the Department. The quantities diverted at each diversion shall be reported to the Department on at least a monthly basis in the form of a database or in some other form approved by the Department.
- 25 24. The responsible party shall install a locking headgate or valve sized appropriately for the authorized diversion, that can regulate flow, and a functional measuring device or flow meter on any structure or facility used to divert water, whether by pumping, through a ditch, pipe, or flume, or by some other means ("diversion") that meet Department criteria to facilitate better control and monitoring of water delivery within three years of the effective date of the Agreement. ~~on or in all water diversion structures identified in this Agreement.~~ The designs for headgates or valves and measuring devices in State Watermaster or Special Watermaster District Service areas shall be approved by DWR or said Special District, if applicable, in coordination with the Department. In areas where there is no watermaster service the designs shall be approved by the Department. All measuring devices and methods of water measurement shall be constructed and maintained to meet a ±5% measuring accuracy criteria.
- 26 25. Notwithstanding any right the responsible party has to divert and use water, the responsible party shall allow sufficient water to pass over, around, or through any dam the party owns or operates to keep in good condition any fish that may exist below the dam, as required by Fish and Game Code section 5937.
- 27 26. All water diversion facilities shall be designed, constructed, and maintained so they do not prevent, impede, or tend to prevent or impede the passing of fish upstream or downstream, as required by Fish and Game Code section 5901. This includes, but is not limited to, maintaining or providing a supply of water at an appropriate depth and velocity to facilitate upstream and downstream migration of juvenile and adult salmonids.
- 28 27. The responsible party shall provide volitional fish passage for both adult and juvenile salmonids, both upstream and downstream

within 5 years of the effective date of this Agreement at all diversions subject to this Agreement. Where such passage is inadequate, the responsible party shall submit plans to improve passage to the Department for review and approval. If the Department determines that engineered drawings are necessary, the responsible party shall submit such drawings to the Department for its review and approval prior to implementing the project.

29. *The responsible party shall notify the Department prior to closing a headgate or valve when fish stranding may occur in the diversion conduit.*

30 ~~28~~. The responsible party shall install fish screens on any unscreened diversion that is subject to this Agreement. Fish screens and flow velocities shall meet Department and NMFS screening criteria to ensure the screens do not harm fish at any life stage by, for example, being drawn into an intake or being impinged against the screen. Where necessary, a bypass pipe or channel acceptable to the Department and NMFS shall be installed and maintained to allow screened fish to be returned safely to the stream. Fish screens and bypass pipes or channels shall be in place and maintained in working order at all times water is being diverted.

31 ~~29~~. The responsible party shall regularly inspect all fish screens and bypass pipes or channels to verify that they are effectively protecting salmonids and other fish species in accordance with Department and NMFS fish screening criteria. When necessary, the responsible party shall clean and repair all fish screens and bypass pipes or channels. If a fish screen is removed for cleaning or repair, the responsible party shall ensure either that a replacement screen is installed immediately, or water is not flowing through the area where the screen is removed.

32 ~~30~~. When a bypass pipe is necessary, the bypass entrance(s) shall be installed and operated such that out-migrants (all life stages) can easily locate and enter them. All components of the bypass system, from entrance to outfall, shall be designed and operated to minimize the potential for debris blockage and must be sized to accommodate all life stages of fish and aquatic species which may be drawn into the diversion. Sufficient flow will be supplied from the diversion into a fish bypass to safely and efficiently return fish back to the stream. Bypass outfalls shall be designed and located so that there is sufficient depth and velocity to avoid injury and predation to all life stages of fish and aquatic life which may be directed into bypass pipe.

- 33 ~~34~~. All push-up and other temporary dams shall be constructed, operated, maintained, and removed using the Best Management Practices (“BMPs”) provided with this Agreement.
- 34 ~~32~~. Push-up dam construction activities shall commence no earlier than May 1, unless otherwise authorized by the Department in this Agreement.
- 35 ~~33~~. The responsible party may commence push-up dam construction activities prior to May 1 if the Department has provided written verification to the responsible party that the construction activities will not substantially adversely affect an existing fish or wildlife resources, including the redds of anadromous fish species. The responsible party shall notify the Department at least seven (7) days in advance of any dam construction proposed to occur prior to May 1 so that it can survey the area and determine if the proposed activities will result in any adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources.
- 36 ~~34~~. Push-up dam construction and removal shall be accomplished by the operation of a bucket attached to a loader, excavator, or backhoe that is situated outside of the wetted portion of the stream channel. The responsible party shall, at a minimum, do the following:
- a. check and maintain vehicles on a daily basis to prevent leaks of materials that could be deleterious to aquatic life, wildlife, or riparian habitat;
  - b. minimize disturbance to the stream bed and bank and keep turbidity of the water to a level that is not deleterious to aquatic life; and
  - c. allow the work area to “rest” to allow the water to clear after any activity that causes a plume of turbidity above background levels, resuming work only after the stream has reached the original background turbidity levels.
- 37 ~~35~~. Rock used for boulder weir construction shall be sufficient for the intended application, and sized to resist wash-out. The weir structure shall include a low point to maintain the thalweg of the stream. Weir elevations shall not create lifts in the stream channel that exceed twelve (12) inches. All engineered drawings shall be reviewed and approved by the Department Fisheries Engineering Team prior to the start of construction

- ~~38~~ 36. The responsible party shall contact the Department's fisheries program in Yreka at (530) 842-9322 at least five (5) days before installing any dam or instream structure that could result in stranding of fish, or before changing the operation of any existing dam or instream structure that could result in stranding of fish.
- ~~39~~ 37. Notwithstanding Fish and Game Code sections 6020–6028, where those statutes apply, the responsible party shall meet the requirements specified in conditions ~~30 and 31~~ 28 and 29 above.
- ~~40~~ 38. The following types of annual maintenance activities on push-up dams and other temporary diversion structures are authorized:
- a. the removal of up to two (2) cubic yards of bedload, sediment, debris, and vegetation that directly obstructs or otherwise interferes with the proper function and operation of existing diversion structures and devices, including intake openings, gates, weirs, gages, and fish passage facilities; and
  - b. the annual installation and removal of a culvert pipe (if applicable);
- ~~41~~ 39. In completing any annual maintenance described in condition ~~40~~ 38 above, the responsible party shall comply with the following requirements:
- a. vehicles shall only be used outside the wetted portion of the stream channel for annual maintenance;
  - b. bedload may only be removed to a depth that is needed to open water flows while maintaining the original thalweg for fish passage;
  - c. Where vehicles are used to remove bedload, sediment, debris, and vegetation that directly obstructs or otherwise interferes with the proper function and operation of existing diversion structures and devices, removal shall not extend more than ~~that~~ twenty-five (25) linear feet in total.
- ~~42~~ 40. No later than 5 years after the effective date of this Agreement, the responsible party shall replace their push-up dams with ~~vortex~~ boulder weirs or some other Department approved diversion method unless the Department determines that an alternative method is not feasible.



43 41. If rock/boulder weir(s) subject to this Agreement require the repair, realignment, or replacement of rock/boulder(s) to maintain proper operation the responsible party shall coordinate with the Department to determine the cause of the malfunction and shall submit plans for the proposed work to the Department for review and approval.

44 42. The responsible party may annually remove up to two (2) cubic yards of sediment or other instream material from an existing pump intake area to maintain the efficient operation of the pump

45 43. All push-up and other temporary diversion structures, including plastic, shall be removed no later than five (5) days after the end of the period during which water may be lawfully diverted, unless otherwise authorized by the Department in this Agreement. If the dam is utilized for stockwatering purposes the dam shall be removed from the channel prior to winter storm flows.

46 44. Within 2 years from the effective date of the Agreement, the responsible party shall have all other temporary diversion structures authorized under this Agreement assessed to determine whether the structure complies with the Fish and Game Code (Code). If the other temporary structure does comply with the Code, then the responsible party may use such structure, provided that any specific BMPs added to the Agreement to minimize dam-related impacts shall be implemented. If the Department determines that the other temporary diversion structure does not comply with the Code, the responsible party shall replace the other temporary diversion structure with a vortex weir or some other diversion method approved by the Department within five years of the date of such determination.

B. Riparian Restoration and Revegetation

47 45. Any habitat improvement projects shall be designed and implemented in accordance with the methods specified in the most current edition of the Department's *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*. The most current edition of the manual is available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/HabitatManual.asp>.

48 46. At least sixty (60) days before the responsible party intends to begin the restoration project, a restoration plan shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval. The plan shall be prepared by persons with expertise in northern California ecosystems and native plant re-vegetation techniques. The plan should include at

a minimum the following information: (a) the location of the restoration site(s); (b) the plant species to be used at each site; (c) a schematic depicting the site(s); (d) the time of year the plantings will be made; (e) a description of the irrigation methodology or techniques that will be used to maintain the plantings consistent with condition ~~51 400~~ below; (f) measures to control exotic vegetation on restoration site(s); (g) the success criteria to be employed; (h) a detailed monitoring program; and (i) contingency measures that will be implemented if the success criteria are not met.

~~49~~ 47. All restoration plantings shall have a success criterion of a minimum 80% survival rate after five (5) years. A final monitoring report shall be submitted to the Department that provides the data used to determine whether or not the survival criterion has been met.

~~50~~ 48. Plantings shall be installed between November 1, when there has been sufficient rainfall, and April 1 unless otherwise authorized by the Department in this Agreement.

~~51~~ 49. If the irrigation system will use water from a stream, the system shall meet NMFS's *Water Drafting Specifications* (August 2001). Restoration projects that are implemented within fish bearing streams also shall meet current Department and NMFS fish screening criteria for anadromous fish. When the plantings are sufficiently established, the irrigation system shall be removed.

~~52~~ 50. Large woody debris shall be left within the riparian zone to provide a source for future recruitment of wood into the stream.

~~53~~ 51. A final monitoring report shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval. The final report shall provide the data that shows that the success criteria have been met.

~~54~~ 52. The responsible party shall not be released from the maintenance and monitoring obligations described in this section until such time as the responsible party has requested and received written concurrence from the Department that the success criteria have been met.

C. Instream Structures

~~55~~ 53. Any instream structure shall be designed and implemented in accordance with the methods specified in the most current edition of the Department's *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*. The most current edition of the manual is

available at:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/HabitatManual.asp>.

56 54. Instream work shall occur only when salmonids are least likely to be present or affected by the project, July 1 through October 15 34.

57. *If weather conditions permit and the stream is dry or at its lowest flow, instream construction activities and equipment operations may continue after October 15, provided a written request is made to the Department at least five days before the proposed work period variance. Written approval from the Department for the proposed work period variance must be received by the responsible party prior to the start or continuation of work after October 15.*

58. *If work is performed after October 15 as provided above, the responsible party will do all of the following:*

a. *Monitor the 72 hour forecast from the National Weather Service. When there is a forecast of more than 30 percent chance of rain, or at the onset of any precipitation, the work shall cease; and*

b. *Stage erosion and sediment control materials at the work site. When there is a forecast of more than 30 percent chance of rain, or at the onset of any precipitation, implement erosion and sediment control measures.*

59 55. Significant fish habitat, such as pools, spawning sites, large woody debris structures, and shading vegetation, shall not be disturbed.

60 56. The responsible party may repair damage to any instream structure authorized by this Agreement, provided the responsible party notifies the Department prior to commencing any repair activities.

61 57. If the stream channel has been altered during the operation of a project or projects this Agreement authorizes, its low flow channel shall be restored without creating possible future bank erosion problems, a flat, wide channel, or a sluice-like area. The gradient of the streambed shall be returned to its pre-project grade, unless the gradient modification is intended as part of a restoration project, in which case the Department approval of the design must be obtained prior to project initiation.

62. *New and replacement instream structures including boulder weirs, angular rock for bank protection, bioengineered habitat structures, large woody debris, fish ladders, and other channel restoration or*

protection measures shall meet the following criteria:

- a. Sediment deposition upstream and erosion/scour and subsequent deposition downstream of these instream structures, during bankfull flow conditions, shall be avoided to the extent feasible, unless the intent of the particular structure is to facilitate such processes (e.g., gravel trapping);
- b. Instream structures shall not alter channel hydraulics such that the project reach can no longer move the imposed sediment load (e.g., upstream supply) with the available range of sediment-transporting flows; this criterion shall focus on the transport of bed-material load;
- c. Instream structures shall not lead to a permanent increase in the downstream transport of sediments that is outside the historical range of sediment flux; and
- d. Instream structures shall be designed to withstand a given range of flows (e.g., some structures are permanent, such as fish ladders, while other structures are "semi-permanent," such as placement of LWD). The range of flows that a particular structure will be designed to handle shall be quantified and rationalized.

63. All engineered structures such as fish ladders and boulder weirs designed for grade control, or for fish passage in proximity of a water diversion shall be designed by a qualified hydrologist, geologist, engineer, or other similarly qualified individual using methods and levels of rigor that have been established in the engineering and scientific community. If it is determined by the Department that the proposed structure would fail to meet the criteria identified in condition 62 or another performance standard identified by the Department, then the structure shall not be installed within that particular reach.

64 58. Chemically-treated timbers that could harm aquatic life shall not be used for grade or channel stabilization structures, bulkheads, or other instream structures.

65 59. Temporary instream structures that are not designed to withstand high flows and are constructed from materials that could be deleterious to aquatic life shall be removed from the project site prior to inundation by high flows.

66 60. The responsible party shall ensure that all livestock and vehicle crossing sites and livestock watering lanes, whether temporary or permanent, meet the following criteria:

- a. Crossing sites and livestock watering lanes shall not be located in the tails of pools, known spawning habitat, or identified, suitable spawning habitat;
- b. All approaches shall be sloped with clean angular base rock and no steeper than 3:1;
- c. Angular rock shall be applied to the crossing only between July 1 and October 15 ~~31~~. The diameter of the angular rock shall be defined in the Application ~~notification~~ and be specific for the site conditions. Designs shall be submitted to the Department for approval prior to project construction to eliminate the risk that the rock will become a grade control that would adversely affect channel conditions;
- d. In locations where the stream crossings occur on intermittent streams, the angular rock shall be added only when the stream channel is dry;
- e. No native soil may be pushed into the watercourse high flow channel. If grading of the road surface is required, all material shall be graded away from the watercourse;
- f. Constructed or re-constructed crossing or watering lanes shall have approaches treated to minimize sediment production and prevent tracking of soil into the crossing;
- g. Approaches shall be armored with durable compacted rock from the edge of the watercourse for a minimum of fifty (50) feet, or to the nearest water bar or point where road drainage does not drain toward the crossing; and
- h. Livestock and vehicles shall not cross flowing streams between October 15 ~~31~~ and July 1 except on designated lanes where measures to prevent spawning have been taken, or where a Department fisheries biologist or Department approved spawner surveyor verifies that redds are not present and/or will not be damaged. Survey findings shall be submitted to the Streambed Alteration Program for review and approval.

67 64. Spawning gravel used for restoration projects shall be clean, pre-washed, uncrushed natural river rock. Gravel must be washed at least once and have cleanliness value of 85 or higher (California Test No. 227). Particle size shall be graded with at least 98% passing a 3-inch screen, 60-80% passing a two (2) inch screen, and 0-5% passing a half (½) inch screen (% by dry wt) or approved by the Department. Gravel must be completely free of oils or any other petroleum based material, clay, debris, and other types of organic matter. Gravel may be stockpiled near the injection site, but mixing with any earthen material is prohibited.

D. Habitat and Species Protection

68 62. Except as specified in this Agreement, the disturbance, trimming, or removal of vegetation from the streambed or streambanks is prohibited without prior written approval from the Department.

69 63. All work areas described in this Agreement shall be flagged or fenced with temporary fencing to prohibit unauthorized and unnecessary disturbance of vegetation.

70 64. Any herbicide shall be handled and applied by a licensed applicator in accordance with all applicable, federal, state, local laws, regulations, procedures, and guidelines.

71. *The permissible work window for individual work sites shall be further constrained as necessary to avoid the nesting or breeding seasons of special-status birds and terrestrial animals for which the Department determines impacts could be significant. At work sites with the potential for significant impacts to nesting special-status birds work shall be conditioned to start after July 31 when the young have typically fledged, potential impacts will be avoided, and no surveys will be required.*

72. *Where work after July 31 will still have the potential to significantly impact nesting special-status birds, work shall not begin until the potential for impacts no longer exists. The Department may advance the work window at individual work sites if:*

*a. There is no suitable habitat present. "Suitable habitat" varies between species and shall be determined by a qualified biologist in coordination with the Department;*

*b. Surveys completed by a qualified biologist determine nesting birds will not be affected, either because the animals are not*

present or the nests are safely distant or otherwise screened from the activity;

- c. To prevent impacts to bank swallows (*Riparia riparia*) nesting areas, no fencing or planting action shall be allowed to change the cross-sectional profile of the stream (e.g., lay a cutbank back to an angle of repose for riparian planting) until after a survey is conducted by a qualified biologist that establishes that bank swallows are not using the area to be affected. No area supporting bank swallows shall be manipulated in any way;
- d. To avoid potential impacts to sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) nesting and rearing activities, surveys for active nests shall be performed by a qualified biologist prior to the start of a project when a known sandhill crane nesting territory is located within 0.5 mile of the project site and the activity will occur during the typical nesting and rearing season (March 1 to August 15). If active nests are found, a no-disturbance buffer radius of up to 0.5 mile shall be required around the nest. The actual size of the buffer may be modified based on an evaluation by a qualified biologist of the sensitivity of the birds to the level of project disturbance and approved by the Department. The no-disturbance buffer may be lifted prior to August 15, if it is determined safe to do so by a qualified biologist and approved by the Department in writing;
- e. To avoid potential impacts to Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) nesting and rearing activities, surveys for active nests within 0.5 miles of a project site shall be performed by a qualified biologist when a project will occur in known Swainson's hawk nesting territory during the typical nesting and rearing season (March 15 to August 15). If one or more active Swainson's hawk nests are present within the 0.5 mile survey area, the active nest(s) shall be monitored by a qualified biologist prior to and during project activities. If, in the professional opinion of the qualified biologist, the nesting pair's behavior suggests agitation or disturbance by project activities, all activities in the area shall immediately stop pending consultation the Department. Following a review of the breeding pair's behavior, both as reported by the biologist and independently verified by the Department, the Department will determine whether the project may continue during the nesting season and, if so, the conditions under

which they may continue. The no-disturbance buffer may be lifted prior to August 15, if it is determined safe to do so by a qualified biologist and approved by the Department in writing. If, during the non-breeding season, a Swainson's hawk nest is present in the project area and has been used within the past breeding season, the nest site shall not be disturbed pending consultation with the Department; and

f. To avoid potential impacts to willow flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii*) during the typical nesting and rearing season (May 15 to August 30), no project related activities shall occur within 300 feet of potential nesting habitat. A project may be performed within the 300-foot buffer zone if surveys for active nests are performed prior by a qualified biologist prior to the start of the project and no active nests are present.

E. Use of Vehicles in Wetted Portions of Streams

73 ~~65~~. Vehicles shall not be operated within the wetted portion of the stream channel unless specifically authorized in this Agreement.

74 ~~66~~. Vehicle operation in the wetted portion of a stream is authorized when salmonids are least likely to be present (July 1 through October 15 ~~31~~).

75 ~~67~~. When operating vehicles in wetted portions of the stream channel or where wetland vegetation, riparian vegetation, or aquatic organisms may be destroyed, the responsible party shall, at a minimum, do the following:

- a. check and maintain vehicles on a daily basis to prevent leaks of materials that, if introduced to water, could be deleterious to aquatic life, wildlife, or riparian habitat;
- b. minimize the number of passes through the stream to avoid increasing the turbidity of the water to a level that is deleterious to aquatic life; and
- c. allow the work area to "rest" after each individual pass of the vehicle that causes a plume of turbidity above background levels, resuming work only after the stream has reached the original background turbidity levels.

F. Pollution Control

76 ~~68~~. Vehicles driven and/or operated adjacent to the stream channel



shall be checked and maintained on a daily basis to prevent leaks of materials that could be deleterious to aquatic life, wildlife, or riparian habitat.

77 ~~69~~. For all activities performed in or near a stream, where there is a potential for an accidental spill of deleterious substances, absorbent materials designated for spill containment and clean-up shall be present and available for use at the project site. Clean-up of all spills shall begin immediately. The responsible party shall notify the State Office of Emergency Services at 1-800-852-7550 and the Department immediately after any spill occurs, and shall consult with the Department regarding clean-up procedures.

78. *The responsible party shall prepare a standard Hazardous Substance Discovery Plan that shall include provisions that would be implemented if any subsurface hazardous materials are encountered during construction. Provisions outlined in the Plan shall be followed by the responsible party and shall include immediately stopping work in a contaminated area and contacting appropriate resource agencies, including the Departments designated monitor, upon discovery of subsurface hazardous materials. The plan shall include the phone numbers of county and state agencies and primary, secondary, and final cleanup procedures. The Hazardous Substance Discovery Plan shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval prior to the commencement of Program construction activities.*

79 ~~70~~. Where they exist, the work site shall be accessed using roads and access ramps.

80 ~~74~~. The use or storage of petroleum-powered equipment shall be accomplished in a manner to prevent the potential release of petroleum materials into waters of the state.

81 ~~72~~. Stationary equipment such as motors, pumps, generators, and welders that contain deleterious materials, located within or adjacent to a stream shall be positioned over drip pans.

82 ~~73~~. All refueling of machinery and handling or storage hazardous materials shall be done no less than one hundred and fifty (150) feet away from the edge of any river, stream or lake. All unused or left over materials shall be transported offsite and properly disposed of.

83 ~~74~~. Staging and storage areas for machinery, equipment, and materials shall be located a minimum of thirty-five (35) feet beyond the banks

of any stream or outside of the normal high-water mark whichever is further.

84 75. No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, spoils, sawdust, rubbish, cement, or concrete or washings thereof; asphalt, paint, or other coating material; oil or petroleum products; or other organic or earthen material from any construction or associated activity of whatever nature shall be allowed to enter into, or placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into, waters of the state. When operations are completed, any excess materials or debris shall be removed from the work area and disposed of in a lawful manner.

#### G. Erosion and Sediment Control

85 76. The responsible party shall prevent the discharge of sediment, and/or muddy, turbid, or silt-laden waters, resulting from the project, into the stream channel. Where necessary to prevent such discharge, the responsible party shall properly install and maintain sediment barriers (including, but not limited to, filter fabric fencing, fiber mats, weed free straw, or fiber wattles or rolls) capable of preventing downstream sedimentation/turbidity. Such devices shall be cleaned of all trapped sediment as necessary to maintain proper function. Recovered sediment shall be disposed of where it shall not return to any river, stream, or lake. Such devices shall be completely removed from the channel, along with all temporary fills, upon completion of operations.

86 77. Silt catchment basins shall be designed, located, and constructed to preclude any spills into a stream or lake during periods of high water levels.

87 78. Silt catchment basins located within the stream shall be constructed of materials that are free of mud and silt. Upon completion of the project, all silt catchment basin materials along with the trapped sediments shall be removed from the stream in such a manner that sediment is not discharged into the stream.

88 79. If the Department determines that turbidity/siltation levels resulting from a project or projects this Agreement authorizes constitute a threat to aquatic life, all activities associated with the turbidity/siltation shall cease until effective Department-approved sediment control devices are installed and/or abatement procedures are implemented.

89 80. Downstream turbidity levels shall not exceed the standards identified in the NCRWQCB's "Water Quality Control Plan for the

North Coast Region.”

90 ~~84~~. Soils exposed by project operations shall be mulched to prevent sediment runoff and transport. Mulches shall be applied so that not less than 90% of the disturbed areas are covered. All mulches, except hydro-mulch, shall be applied in a layer not less than two (2) inches deep. Where appropriate, all mulches shall be kneaded or tracked-in with track marks parallel to the contour, and tackified as necessary to prevent excessive movement. All exposed soils and fills, including the downstream face of the road prism adjacent to the outlet of culverts, shall be reseeded with a mix of native grasses common to the area, free from seeds of noxious or invasive weed species, and applied at a rate which will ensure establishment.

91 ~~82~~. If necessary to prevent mobilization of loose soils, fiber mats shall be laid over loose soils prior to mulching and tracking.

92 ~~83~~. Soils adjacent to the stream channel that are exposed by project operations shall be adequately stabilized before rainfall is expected during construction, and immediately upon completion of construction, to prevent the mobilization of such sediment into the stream channels or adjacent wetlands. The responsible party shall monitor National Weather Service forecasts to determine the chance of precipitation.

93 ~~84~~. All exposed soil or areas stripped of vegetation shall be restored with native vegetation local to the area.

#### H. Bank Stabilization

94 ~~85~~. For bank stabilization work, slopes shall not be steeper than 2:1 unless they are armored and the Department has approved the plans. Armoring shall consist of rock and/or native vegetation. Bank stabilization material shall extend up to the normal high-water mark.

95 ~~86~~. Rock slope protection (“RSP”) and energy dissipater materials shall consist of clean rock appropriate for its intended application and sized and properly installed to resist washout. RSP slopes shall be supported with properly sized boulders “keyed” into a footing trench with a depth sufficient to properly seat the footing course boulders and prevent instability.

96 ~~87~~. No rock, rip-rap, or other RSP shall be placed in areas where native vegetation can become established or where bio-engineered bank stabilization can be accomplished, unless approved in advance by the Department.

97 88. Native riparian plant species shall be used to stabilize banks.

I. Dewatering

98 89. Any equipment work within the stream channel shall be performed in isolation from the flowing stream.

99 90. Dewatering activities shall be implemented in accordance, and otherwise consistent with the most current edition of The Department's *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*. The most current edition of the manual is available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/HabitatManual.asp>.

100 94. A coffer dam or other flow barrier, approved by the Department, shall be constructed to temporarily divert the flow around the project site.

101 92. Measures shall be taken immediately downstream of the work site to capture suspended sediment. Silt catchment fences shall be installed or a filter berm of clean river bedload shall be constructed. Silt fences and other non-native materials shall be removed from the stream following completion of the project. Berms constructed out of native bedload may be left in place after breaching, provided they do not impede the stream flow or fish passage.

102 93. The location of diversion points shall be approved by the Department prior to initiating the project.

103 94. Construction of the flow barrier and/or the new channel shall begin in the downstream area and continue in an upstream direction, and the flow shall be diverted only when construction of the diversion is completed. Channel bank or barrier construction shall be adequate to prevent seepage into or from the work area. Diversion berms shall be constructed of onsite bedload of low silt content, inflatable dams, sand bags, or other materials approved by the Department. Barriers shall not be made of earth or other substances subject to erosion unless first enclosed by sheet piling, rock rip-rap, or other protective material. The enclosure and the supportive material shall be removed from the work site when the work is completed, and removal shall proceed from downstream in an upstream direction. Clean bedload may be left in the stream, but the barrier must be breached to return the stream flow to its natural channel and to provide fish passage.

104 95. The intake pipe used to divert flow around the work site, either by

pump or gravity flow, shall be fitted with a fish screen meeting Department and NMFS criteria to prevent entrainment or impingement of small fish.

105 ~~96~~. Any turbid water pumped from the work site shall be disposed of in an upland location where it will not drain directly into any stream channel.

106 ~~97~~. Dewatering shall be done in a manner that prevents the discharge of material that could be deleterious to fish, plant life, or bird life into any river, stream, or lake and maintains adequate flows to downstream reaches during all times natural flow would have supported aquatic life. Such flows shall be of sufficient quality and quantity to support fish and other aquatic life above and below the diversion. Normal flows shall be restored to the affected stream immediately upon completion of work at that location.

107 ~~98~~. Dewatering activities shall be conducted in such a manner so as to minimize downstream sedimentation and turbidity, and to minimize channel disturbance. The responsible party shall incorporate frequent equipment resting periods of no less than thirty (30) minutes to allow flows to clear.

108 ~~99~~. The following measures shall be taken to minimize harm and mortality to salmonids resulting from fish relocation and dewatering activities:

- a. Fish relocation and dewatering activities shall only occur between July 1 and October 15 ~~31~~ of each year.
- b. The responsible party shall minimize the amount of wetted stream channel that is dewatered at each individual project site to the fullest extent possible.
- c. All electrofishing shall be performed by a qualified fisheries biologist and conducted according to the NMFS *Guidelines for Electrofishing Waters Containing Salmonids Listed under the Endangered Species Act* (June 2000) and the Department shall be contacted prior to any electrofishing.

J. Ground-Disturbing Activities

109 ~~100~~. Prior to ground-disturbing activities described in this Agreement, work sites shall be surveyed for special-status plant species by a qualified botanist. Special-status plant surveys shall be conducted following the *Guidelines for Assessing Effects of Proposed Projects*

on *Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities* (Department 2000). The guidelines may be obtained from the Department or at: [www.dfg.ca.gov/bdb/pdfs/guideplt.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/bdb/pdfs/guideplt.pdf). The survey report, including the methodology and survey findings, shall be provided to the Department for review and approval prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

110 404. If any special-status plant species are identified at a work site the Department shall identify one or more of the following protective measures, but not limited to these measures, to be implemented at the project site before work may proceed:

- a. fencing to prevent accidental disturbance of special-status plants during construction;
- b. on-site monitoring by a qualified botanist during construction to assure that special-status plants are not disturbed; and/or
- c. redesign of proposed work to avoid disturbance of special-status plant species.

111 402. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities described in this Agreement, the responsible party shall contract or otherwise obtain the services of at least one qualified archaeologist and paleontologist to: *The archaeologist/paleontologist shall:*

- a. *Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for a Sacred Lands File check and a list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site and, if necessary, to assist with the development of mitigation measures;*
- b. *Determine whether the area has had an adequate archaeological survey by a professional archaeologist and whether any historic or prehistoric sites have been recorded within a ¼-mile radius of the project area. This records review may be conducted at NE/CHRIS on a case-by-case basis for each project. Alternatively, a professional archaeologist will be contracted to conduct a watershed-wide records search at NE/CHRIS and prepare a map showing the previous surveys and recorded sites. An update of this information would then be prepared at least every two years. This map, which will show the locations of archaeological sites, would be considered confidential and made available only to individuals on an as-needed basis; and*

- c. Complete cultural and paleontological resource surveys to identify any previously recorded and unknown historical resources or unique archeological resources (i.e., cultural resources as described in CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21083.2) and the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064.5)) or unique paleontological resources, using standard protocols. The survey report, including the methodology and survey findings, shall be provided to the Department for review and approval prior to any ground disturbing activities.

112 403. If potentially significant historical resources, unique archeological resources and/or paleontological resource sites are identified at the work site described in this Agreement, the Department, in consultation with the consulting archeologist or paleontologist, shall identify one or more of the following protective measures, but not limited to these measures, to be implemented at the project site before work may proceed:

- a. redesign of proposed work to avoid disturbance of cultural or paleontological resources;
- b. fencing to prevent accidental disturbance of cultural or paleontological resources during construction; and/or
- c. on-site monitoring by a cultural and/or paleontological resource professional during construction to assure that cultural and/or paleontological resources are not disturbed.

113. *If none of the protective measures described in MLTC Condition 112 can be implemented, then an archaeological data recovery program (ADRP) shall be implemented, unless the professional archaeologist determines that the archaeological resource is of greater interpretive use than research significance and that interpretive use of the resource is feasible. The project archaeologist and the Department shall meet and consult to determine the scope of the ADRP, and the project archaeologist shall prepare a research design for the project which shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval. This document shall identify how the proposed data recovery program would preserve the significant information the archaeological resource is expected to contain. The document will specifically identify the scientific/historical research questions being asked, the archaeological resources' expected data classes, and how the expected data classes would address the applicable research questions. Following approval of the plan by the Department, the*

ADRP shall be implemented and a report prepared.

Data recovery, in general, should be limited to the portions of the historical property that could be adversely affected by the proposed project. Destructive data recovery methods shall not be applied to portions of the archaeological resources if nondestructive methods are practical. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be, as necessary, subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and a report shall be prepared by a qualified archaeologist according to current professional standards. If the recovered artifacts are from a prehistoric site, the local Native American groups will be consulted relative to the disposition of these materials.

114. If built historical resources (e.g., structures, buildings, or similar) that qualify for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources (CEQA Guidelines, § 15064.5) are identified through the implementation of measure MLTC Condition 111c and cannot be avoided through implementation of measure MLTC Condition 112, the responsible party will comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Standards) which would, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines, § 15064.5(b)(3), reduce potential impacts associated with the alteration or modification of a historical resource (including historic districts and individually eligible resources) to a less-than-significant level.

115. If both avoidance and compliance with the Standards are infeasible, the project in question shall be changed or not pursued, such that the historical resource is not destroyed or altered. Activities that would result in such disturbance are not authorized under the Program because responsible party would be unable to mitigate the impact to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur.

116 ~~104~~. The responsible party shall report any previously unknown historical resources or unique archeological resources, and paleontological remains discovered at the site to the Department and other appropriate agency(s).

117 ~~105~~. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources such as lithic debitage, ground stone, historic debris, building foundations, or bone are discovered during a ground disturbing activity, work shall cease within twenty (20) meters (sixty-six (66) feet) of the discovery, as the CEQA Guidelines require (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064.5, subd. (f)). Work near the archaeological



finds shall not resume until a professional archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (36 CFR Part 61) has evaluated the materials and offered recommendations for further action.

118. *In the event of an unanticipated paleontological discovery during ground-disturbing activities, the following measure shall be implemented:*

a. *Temporarily halt or divert work within 20 meters (66 feet) of the find until the discovery is examined by a qualified paleontologist (per Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards which may be found at: <http://www.vertpaleo.org/society/ethics.cfm>);*

b. *Document the discovery as needed, evaluate the potential resource, and assess the significance of the find under the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines, § 15064.5;*

c. *Notify the appropriate agencies to determine procedures that would be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find; and*

d. *If the Department determines that avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall prepare an excavation plan for mitigating the effect of the project on the qualities that make the resource important, and such plan shall be implemented. The plan shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval.*

119 ~~406~~. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of human remains during project construction, work shall cease within twenty (20) meters (sixty-six (66)) of the discovery location, and any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains (see Pub. Resources Code, § 7050.5). The county coroner shall be contacted to determine if the cause of death must be investigated. If the coroner determines that the remains are of Native American origin, the responsible party shall comply with state laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission ("NAHC") (Pub. Resources Code, § 5097). The coroner will contact the NAHC.

120 ~~407~~. The responsible party shall ensure that the immediate vicinity where Native American human remains are located, according to generally accepted cultural or archeological standards or practices,

is not damaged or disturbed by further ground disturbing activity until the responsible party has discussed and conferred with the most likely descendants regarding their wishes, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains, as provided in Public Resources Code section 5097.98. Work may resume if NAHC is unable to identify a descendant or the descendant fails to make a recommendation.

121. Water tanks and/or fire extinguishers shall be present at project construction sites and shall be available for fire protection during the fire season (approximately late spring to early fall). All construction vehicles shall have fire suppression equipment and construction personnel shall be required to park vehicles away from dry vegetation. The responsible party shall contact and coordinate with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) to determine the minimum amounts of fire equipment to be carried on the vehicles and appropriate locations for the water tanks/fire extinguishers. The responsible party shall submit verification of its consultation with CALFIRE and the Department.

122 408.The responsible party shall instruct all persons who will be completing any ground disturbing activity at a worksite to comply with the conditions set forth in this Agreement and shall inspect each work site before, during, and after completion of any ground-disturbing activity at the work site.

123 409.All temporary construction roads shall be decommissioned and recontoured, unless the Department specifies otherwise in this Agreement. In addition, road surfaces shall be de-compacted and revegetated.

124. The responsible party is encouraged to fuel all diesel equipment, including pumps, vehicles, and construction equipment, with a minimum 20 percent biodiesel (maximum 80 percent conventional diesel) blend (B-20).

125. The responsible party is encouraged to use renewable energy sources such as photovoltaic or wind power to power pumps.

K. Monitoring

126 440.The responsible party shall conduct project monitoring prior to and after implementation to track the status of Agreement conditions and to verify that the measures required by the Agreement are being implemented as specified.

127 414. The responsible party shall complete all checklists and data sheets provided by the Department with this Agreement.

128 412. The responsible party shall conduct photo monitoring pursuant to the methodology and format provided by the Department with this Agreement and incorporated into this Agreement by reference.

129 413. The responsible party shall provide to the Department a draft Annual Monitoring Report by January 30 each year that covers the period of time from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year for each year the Agreement is effective. The responsible party shall submit a final report to the Department within thirty (30) days of approval of the draft annual report.

130 414. The annual monitoring report shall include at the minimum:

- a. agreement number;
- b. type of covered activity the project addresses;
- c. project name (if appropriate);
- d. purpose and summary of covered projects completed;
- e. project implementation start and end-dates;
- f. whether the project is on-going or completed;
- g. detailed description of the results of monitoring completed;
- h. summary of problems encountered and proposed modifications in project implementation to correct them; and
- i. all monitoring data, copies of data sheets, checklists, digital images, photographs, and other monitoring information in digital and hardcopy format.



**Exhibit 1**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**SHASTA AND SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE**  
**PERMITTING PROGRAM**



**Application Forms and Instructions**  
**for Incidental Take Sub-permit and**  
**Streambed Alteration Agreement**

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**CONTENTS**

**PART I: FISH AND GAME CODE .....2**  
**PART II: APPLICATION FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS.....2**  
**PART III: INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM .....3**  
**PART IV: PROCESSING THE APPLICATION.....7**  
**PART V: CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA).....8**  
**PART VI: APPLICATION FORMS.....8**  
**PART VII: COVERED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS .....9**

**These instructions apply only to the Application Form for the Shasta and Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Programs**

**PART I: FISH AND GAME CODE**

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**STREAMBED ALTERATION AGREEMENT**

Fish and Game Code (FGC) section 1602 requires any person, state or local governmental agency, or public utility to notify the Department of Fish and Game (Department) before beginning any activity that will do one or more of the following:

1. Substantially obstruct or divert the natural flow of a river, stream, or lake.
2. Substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake.
3. Use the material from the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake.
4. Deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it can pass into a river, stream, or lake.

FGC section 1602 applies to all perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral rivers, streams, and lakes in the state.

**INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT**

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (FGC section 2050 *et seq.*) prohibits "take"<sup>1</sup> of any candidate species or species listed as threatened or endangered under CESA unless the take is authorized by the Department. The Department may authorize take through the issuance of an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to FGC section 2081(b) and (c) in CESA. The Department may only issue an ITP if certain criteria are met. For example, the take must be incidental to an otherwise lawful activity and minimized and fully mitigated. To obtain an ITP, an application must be submitted to the Department.

**PART II: APPLICATION FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

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**APPLICATION PACKAGE**

These application forms and instructions are specifically for the issuance of a Streambed Alteration Agreement (Agreement) and Incidental Take Sub-permit (Sub-permit) that authorizes activities covered under the Shasta and Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Programs (Programs). These activities, referred to as Covered Activities under the Programs, are listed below and described in greater detail in Part VII:

1. The diversion of water from streams, channels, or sloughs for irrigation or watering of stock by any means, including instream pumps.
2. The installation, operation, maintenance, and removal of devices and structures used to divert water.
3. The installation, operation, and maintenance of fish screens.

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<sup>1</sup>Take is defined in FGC section 86 as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill."

4. The movement of livestock and vehicles across flowing streams and the construction and use of livestock and vehicle crossings and livestock watering lanes.
5. The installation and maintenance of riparian exclusion fencing.
6. Riparian restoration or revegetation activities.
7. The installation, maintenance, and repair of instream habitat improvement structures.
8. The installation and maintenance of stream gages.
9. Barrier removal and fish passage projects.
10. The grazing of livestock within the bed, bank, or channel of a stream under specified conditions.
11. Water management, water monitoring, and watermastering activities.
12. Activities associated with the implementation of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures required by the Permit or any sub-permit.
13. Activities associated with monitoring efforts required by this Permit or any sub-permit.
14. Activities associated with conducting research on coho salmon.

Activities that are not specifically covered under the Program will require authorization from the Department through the regular permitting processes for an Agreement and ITP.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

To apply for an Agreement and a Sub-permit under one of the Programs for any of the Covered Activities listed above, you must complete the following steps:

**Step 1:** Complete the application form (SSWWPP 2023). The Siskiyou Resource Conservation District or Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District will provide assistance in completing the application form and any required enclosures and attachments.

**Step 2:** Submit the completed application form, with all required enclosures and attachments to the Department's Northern Region office:

Northern Region  
Shasta-Scott Permitting Programs  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

**Note:** If you have any questions about the application process, required enclosures or attachments, or the status of your application, please contact Staff Environmental Scientist, Mike Harris, at (530) 225-2306 or [mrharris@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:mrharris@dfg.ca.gov).

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## **PART III: INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM**

Instructions to complete the application form are outlined below. "Activity" means a Covered Activity under the Programs.

## **1. APPLICANT PROPOSING ACTIVITY**

Provide the name, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address of the person or business proposing the Activity.

If the applicant is a business or local governmental agency, provide the name of the applicant's authorized representative above the name of the applicant.

## **2. CONTACT PERSON**

Provide the name, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address of the person the Department should contact regarding the Activity, *if* different from the applicant or applicant's representative.

## **3. PROPERTY OWNER**

Provide the name, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address of the owner of the property where the Activity will take place, *if* different from the applicant. If the Activity will be taking place on property owned by someone other than the applicant, the Right of Entry Agreement enclosed with this Application Form as Attachment A must be completed (see item 6 below).

## **4. LOCATION OF COVERED ACTIVITY**

### **A. Address**

Provide the street address where the Activity will take place (describe the location if there is no street address) and driving directions from the nearest major road or highway, known landmarks, access roads, and any other information that would allow a person not familiar with the area to find the Activity site. Enclose a 1:24,000 scale topographic map of the area covered by the application that is labeled to show the location of all Activities, diversion locations and waterbodies affected by the Activities with a reference to the nearest city or town, and provide driving directions from a major road or highway.

### **B. River, Stream, or Lake**

Provide the names of the rivers, streams, or lakes in which or near where an Activity will take place. If the watercourse or waterbody is not named, write "unnamed tributary" in this box.

### **C. Tributary**

Provide the name of the watercourse or waterbody to which the rivers, streams, or lakes specified in Box 5.B (above) are a tributary.

### **D. Covered Activity**

Provide the name of each Activity from the map specified 4.A (above) in the boxes.

### **E. USGS 7.5 Minute Quad Map Names**

Provide the name of the USGS 7.5 quadrangle map(s) that includes the property where the Activity will take place. The following Department website provides a link to the names of all the quadrangle maps:

[http://imaps.dfg.ca.gov/viewers/cnddb\\_quickviewer/app.asp](http://imaps.dfg.ca.gov/viewers/cnddb_quickviewer/app.asp)

## **F – H. Township, Range, and Section**

Provide the township, range, section and ¼ section numbers of the property where the Activity will take place. Many county and city websites provide the township, range, section, and ¼ section numbers.

## **I. Coordinates**

Provide either a centralized latitude and longitude or the UTM coordinates of the property where the Activities will take place and specify the datum to be used. Latitude and longitude information can be obtained using a Global Positioning System (GPS) or from the following website: <http://bios.dfg.ca.gov>.

## **J. Project Located Above Lake Shastina.**

If the Activity is in the Shasta River watershed and is located above Lake Shastina (Dwinnell Dam), check “yes.” If it is not, check “no.”

## **5. COVERED ACTIVITY**

For each Activity described in the application fill in the work period term and identify the Activity category by checking the applicable box(es).

## **6. PROPERTY ACCESS AND SITE INSPECTIONS**

In order to validate the information contained in the application, and to identify the measures that must be incorporated into the Agreement and Sub-permit to protect fish and wildlife resources, the Department will need to conduct a site visit.

**Box A.** Check this box if the Activity is located entirely on the applicant’s property. Check the appropriate sub-box for site visit notification.

**Box B.** Check this box if the Activity is located partially or entirely on another person’s property. If this box is checked, the Right of Entry Agreement enclosed with this Application Form as Attachment A must be completed, signed by the landowner, and submitted with the application.

## **7. DESCRIPTION OF COVERED ACTIVITY**

### **A. Describe the Activity**

See the instructions on the application form and include all the specified enclosures.

### **B. Equipment**

List all of the equipment and machinery that will be used to complete the Activity. If lubricants, solvents, chemicals, or other materials not normally found on construction sites will be present in the Activity area, list those materials in addition to the equipment and machinery that will be used to complete the Activity.

### **C. Water Presence**

Check the applicable box. If “yes” is checked, complete Box 7.D. If “no” is checked, skip to Box 8.



#### **D. Work in Wetted Channel**

Check the applicable box. For some new, replacement, or repair/maintenance construction activities a plan to divert water around (i.e., to dewater) the construction site *may be required* which specifies the method of diversion or the drafting and the volume, and the timing of water diversion or drafting.

### **8. IMPACTS OF COVERED ACTIVITY**

#### **A. Modification to River, Stream or Lake**

Describe the effects of the Activity on the natural flow, bed, channel, or bank of the river, stream, or lake. Quantify the effects and impacts in the Activity vicinity by noting the type, volume and dimensions of material displaced or other forms of site alteration. Also include any impacts to the riparian zone on or adjacent to the channel floodplain. The riparian zone is the area that surrounds a channel or lake and supports (or can support) riparian vegetation that is dependent on surface or subsurface water. Include the effects of the Activity to this zone at least to the outer (landward) edge of the line of the riparian vegetation.

#### **B. Vegetation**

Check the applicable box. If “yes” is checked, complete the following tables by specifying the type of vegetation (i.e., trees such as oak, willow, or sycamore, and plant communities, such as, freshwater marsh, wet meadow, willow thicket, riparian woodland, willow riparian woodland, desert wash scrub, alkali sink scrub, oasis, vernal pool, bog, non-native, or ornamental) that will be affected temporarily and/or permanently both in linear feet and total acres.

If trees will be removed as part of the Activity, specify the species of trees to be removed and (if available) the estimated number of trees of that species that will be removed and the range of trunk diameters measured at breast height. Trees can be grouped into size classes, for example, four oak trees approximately 10 to 20 inches in diameter. Attach a tree survey, if available.

#### **C. Special Status Species**

If special status species<sup>2</sup> are known to be present at or near the location of the Activity check the applicable box. If “yes” is checked, list each species and/or describe the habitat that will be affected.

#### **D. Source**

Identify the source or sources of information that were used to conclude that special status animal or plant species or habitat that may support such species are, or are not, present on or near the Activity site.

#### **E. Biological Assessment or Study**

Check the applicable box. If “yes” is checked, the biological assessment or study must be enclosed with the application. ***If “no” is checked or the biological assessment or***

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<sup>2</sup> Special Status Species are endangered, rare or threatened animals or plant species as defined in CEQA Guidelines section 15380 (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15380) available online at [http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env\\_law/ceqa/guidelines/art20.html](http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/art20.html).

***study enclosed with the application is inadequate, the Department may require the applicant to complete a biological study to evaluate the Activities potential impacts on biological resources before accepting the application as complete.***

#### **F. Hydrological Assessment or Study**

Check the applicable box. If “yes” is checked, the hydrological study or survey must be enclosed with the application. ***If “no” is checked or the hydrological assessment or study enclosed with the application is inadequate, the Department may require the applicant to complete a hydrological study or provide other information on site hydraulics (e.g., flows, channel characteristics, and/or flood reoccurrence intervals) to evaluate the Activities potential impacts on hydrology before accepting the application as complete.***

### **9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INCIDENTAL TAKE SUB-PERMIT**

This section has been completed for the applicant in order to meet the information requirements for an application for an incidental take permit under the Department’s CESA regulations.

### **10. SIGNATURE**

If the applicant is a person, that person must sign the application in order for it to be valid. If the applicant is a business or local government agency, only a person who is an authorized representative of the business or agency may sign the application in order for it to be valid. ***Under no circumstances should any other person sign the application.*** If that occurs, the Department may determine the application is invalid and return it to the applicant.

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## **PART IV: PROCESSING THE APPLICATION**

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Within 15 days of receiving the application, the Department will determine whether the Activities described in the application are Covered Activities. If the Department determines that the Activity is not a Covered Activity the applicant will be informed in writing, and the applicant will need to apply for an Agreement outside the Program.

If the Department determines that an Activity or Activities are Covered Activities, within 30 days of making that determination, the Department will determine whether the application is complete. If the application is incomplete, the Department will describe the information the applicant will need to provide to make it complete in writing. An application will only be complete if each of the following applies:

1. Each field in the application form has been completed, unless otherwise indicated.
2. As much detail as possible is provided so the Department can properly evaluate the Activity to determine whether an Agreement and/or a Sub-Permit is required.
3. All required enclosures are submitted with the application form, including but not limited to the Water Right Verification Form and Right of Entry Agreement, if applicable.
4. The application form is properly signed.

If during its review of the application the Department determines that a biological or hydrological study will be necessary in order to make a determination that the application is complete, the Department will notify the applicant.

If the Department determines that the application is complete, the Department will contact the applicant by telephone to schedule a site visit and begin preparation of an Agreement and a Sub-permit. The Department may suspend processing a complete application if the applicant or the owner of the property where the Activity will take place (if different from the applicant) refuses to allow Department to enter the property for a site inspection or if the applicant has requested to be present during the site visit and is unable to schedule a date for the inspection.

### **Agreement**

If the Department determines that an Agreement is required, the Department will make every effort to issue a draft Agreement to the applicant within 45 days of receiving a complete application. FGC section 1607 allows for the extension of the standard 60-day time period the Department normally has to issue a draft Agreement under FGC section 1602(a)(4)(D). However, by signing the application form, the applicant agrees that the Department may extend the 60-day time period to issue a draft Agreement pursuant to FGC section 1607.

The draft Agreement will include those measures from the Master List of Terms and Conditions (MLTC) for the Programs that apply to the Activity described in the application. Additional conditions not included in the MLTC may be required to protect fish and wildlife resources based on field review. Upon receipt of the draft Agreement, the applicant will have 30 days to sign and return the draft Agreement.

### **Sub-permit**

The Department will make every effort to issue a Sub-permit within the same time period that it takes to issue an Agreement (above). In some instances, the issuance of an Agreement may be delayed until the Sub-permit has been prepared.

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## **PART V: CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

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The Department must comply with CEQA before it may issue an Agreement or Incidental Take Permit. As the lead agency under CEQA for the Programs, the Department prepared and certified an Environmental Impact Report for each Program. As a result, it is unlikely that the Department will need to take further action under CEQA before issuing an Agreement and Sub-permit. In any case, the Agreement and Sub-permit will not be valid until the Department receives a signed copy of the draft Agreement and Sub-permit from the applicant and the Department executes both.

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## **PART VI: APPLICATION FORMS**

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The following forms are enclosed:

1. Shasta and Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Programs Application Form (Form SSWWPP 2023)
2. Attachment A: Water Right Verification Form
3. Attachment B: Right of Entry Agreement

Complete one application form for all proposed activities. For a proposed activity that includes the diversion of water, the Water Right Verification Form must also be completed. If the activity will not occur on the applicant's property, a Right of Entry Agreement must also be completed.

## **PART VII: COVERED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**

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The Programs cover the following (14) categories of activities, referred to as Covered Activities:

### 1. Water Diversions

Water diversions covered under this category include only the diversion of surface water through a conduit or opening from streams, channels, or sloughs within the Scott and Shasta River watersheds, by an agricultural operator for agricultural purposes in accordance with a valid water right, including one specified in the one of the following court decrees: Shackleford Creek (1950), French Creek (1958), Scott River (1980) and Shasta River (1932).

### 2. Water Diversion Structures

This category includes only the following activities relating to water diversion structures:

- a. Ongoing management and/or maintenance of existing flashboard dams, including the placement of boards into concrete abutments across the wetted channel to build head to divert water, and the removal of the boards.
- b. Ongoing maintenance, management, and repair of boulder weirs.
- c. Installing, operating, maintaining, and removing push-up dams. "Push-up dam" is defined as a temporary diversion structure created by using loaders, backhoes, or excavators to move bedload within the stream channel to form a flow barrier that seasonally diverts the flow of the stream.
- d. Installing, operating, maintaining, and removing other temporary diversion structures that are not push-up dams. "Other temporary diversion structure" is defined as any temporary structure to divert water seasonally from a stream and is typically made with hay bales, hand-stacked rocks and cobble, tarps, wood, and/or a combination of these materials placed in the channel without the use of heavy equipment.
- e. Installing or placing pumps and sumps and maintaining existing pumps and sumps within or adjacent to the active channel of a stream, which sometimes requires the use of large machinery within or adjacent to the active channel.

- f. Installing headgates and measuring devices, sized appropriately for the authorized diversion, that meet the Department and/or Department of Water Resources standards on or in a diversion channel, which usually is done by excavating the site to proper elevation using large machinery, positioning the headgate and measuring device at the appropriate elevation, and installing rock or other “armoring” around the headgate to protect the structure. During installation, the stream bank could be affected by the construction of concrete forms and other necessary construction activities.

### 3. Fish Screens

This category includes only the installation, operation, and maintenance of the types of fish screens described below, provided they meet the Department’s and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service’s (“NMFS”) criteria for steelhead fry as they exist at the time the screen is installed. Installing a fish screen usually includes site excavation, forming and pouring a concrete foundation and walls, excavation and installation of a fish bypass pipe or channel, and installation of the fish screen structure. Heavy equipment is typically used for excavation of the screen site and bypass. If the fish screen is placed within or near flood prone areas, typically rock or other “armoring” is installed to protect the screen. The average size of the bed, channel, and/or bank area affected by the installation of a bypass pipe or channel ranges from 40 to 100 square feet. Types of fish screens include:

- a. Self-cleaning screens, including flat plate self-cleaning screens, and other self-cleaning designs, including, but not limited to, rotary drum screens and cone screens, with a variety of cleaning mechanisms, consistent with Department and NMFS screening criteria.
- b. Non-self cleaning screens, including tubular, box, and other screen designs consistent with Department and NMFS screening criteria.

### 4. Stream Access and Crossings

This category includes only the moving of livestock and vehicles across flowing streams or intermittent channels and/or the construction of stream crossings at designated locations where potential spawning gravels, incubating eggs, and fry are not present based on repeated site specific surveys. Factors considered when selecting a crossing location include the stream gradient, channel width, and the ability to maintain the existing channel slope. Generally, to construct a crossing, a boulder weir is placed on the downstream side of the crossing and angular quarry rock is placed in the crossing location; the width of the crossing does not exceed 25 feet; the crossing spans the entire width of the channel; the crossing is “keyed” into the bank on each side; the approaches on both sides do not exceed a slope of 3:1; and bank armoring (usually using quarry rock) is added where needed.

## 5. Fencing

This category includes only the installation and maintenance of livestock exclusion fencing to protect riparian zones including the construction of fencing along livestock and vehicle crossings and livestock watering lanes.

## 6. Riparian Restoration and Revegetation

This category includes only the restoration, including revegetation of riparian areas, consistent with the methods specified in the most current edition of the Department's *Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*, or as otherwise approved in writing by the Department. The most current edition of the manual is available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/index.html>. Typically, riparian vegetation is planted within or adjacent to the active channel, and often in or near the wetted channel. Plantings include herbaceous perennials, emergent species, native grasses, trees, and shrubs. Planting methods vary by species, site, and size of material planted, ranging from hand planting to using a backhoe or excavator. For riparian trees, planting densities range from 130 to 300 plantings per acre, depending on the restoration goals (e.g., shading, sediment trapping, and bank stabilization), substrate, and hydrology. Trees and cuttings range in size from small rooted plugs to large diameter pole plantings. When installing pole plantings, heavy equipment may be used to excavate to or below water table depth. Maintenance activities include the occasional use of hand tools, portable pumps, pick-up trucks and/or water trucks in or near the bed, bank, or channel, for irrigation, debris removal, and replanting of restoration sites.

## 7. Instream Structures

This category includes only the installation, maintenance, and repair of the following instream structures consistent with the methods specified in the most current edition of the Department's *Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*, available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/index.html>:

- a. structures to protect the bed and banks of streams;
- b. bioengineered habitat structures;
- c. deflectors;
- d. boulder clusters;
- e. boulder weirs for instream habitat or to replace flashboard dams, push-up dams, and other temporary diversion structures;
- f. large woody debris; and
- g. spawning gravels to enhance spawning habitat

## 8. Stream Gages

This category includes the installation and maintenance of stream gages in the active stream channel, usually using pipe 2" or greater in diameter. Typically, the pipe is

secured to the bank by notching it into the bank and by then attaching it to the bedrock, a boulder, or a concrete buttress. Generally, heavy equipment is not needed to install and maintain stream gages.

#### 9. Barrier Removal and Fish Passage Projects

This category includes the modification, removal and replacement of fish passage barriers in order to provide volitional fish passage for both adult and juvenile salmonids both upstream and downstream of the barrier. Typically these projects are engineered and the designs require Department review and approval.

The projects listed below are covered under this category, although the Department may add others to the list in the future. Each project will provide access to historic fish spawning and rearing habitat.

- a. The installation and maintenance of a fish ladder at the Scott Valley Irrigation District diversion head.
- b. The installation and maintenance of two or more boulder weirs and improved head works at Farmers Ditch.
- c. The following barrier removal and fish passage projects on tributaries to the east fork of the Scott River:
  - i. Rail Creek fish barrier removal project;
  - ii. Grouse Creek low flow fish passage project;
  - iii. Big Mill Creek fish barrier and channel restoration projects; and
  - iv. Shackleford Creek confluence gravel aggradation maintenance.
- d. Araujo Dam Demobilization and Water Quality Improvement Project
- e. Shasta River Water Association's Dam Demobilization and Water Quality Improvement Project
- f. Grenada Irrigation District Fish Barrier Removal Project

#### 10. Grazing livestock

Grazing of livestock adjacent to the channel or within the bed, bank, or channel, of the Shasta Scott River or its tributaries in accordance with a grazing management plan approved by the Department. The grazing plan shall address the timing, duration, and intensity of livestock grazing within the riparian zone and shall explain how the proposed management plan will result in improved riparian function and enhanced aquatic habitat.

## 11. Water Management

Covered activities include water management, water monitoring, and watermastering (either State or private) activities; including the operation of head gates in conjunction with measuring devices to assure that each diversion is operated in compliance with the associated water right or adjudicated volume; the ongoing management and/or maintenance of existing flashboard dams, including the placement of boards into concrete abutments across the wetted channel to build head to divert water, and the removal of the boards; actions related to water diversion construction; operation, repair, minor alteration, replacement, and removal; the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, minor alteration, replacement, and removal of headgates and measuring devices on or in a diversion channel; the installation, operation, repair, minor alteration, removal, replacement and maintenance of stream gages in the active stream channel. Water management activities infrequently require moving equipment or vehicles across flowing streams or intermittent channels and/or the construction of stream crossings at designated locations where potential spawning gravels, incubating eggs, and fry are not present based on repeated site specific surveys.

## 12. Permit Implementation

Other activities associated with the implementation of avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures required by this Permit or a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

## 13. Monitoring

Activities associated with the determination of whether or not the terms and conditions of this ITP, each sub-permit, or a SAA are being fulfilled and are effective.

## 14. Research

Activities associated with conducting studies to improve our understanding of salmonid distribution, natural history, population dynamics, etc. in the Scott and Shasta River watersheds.



FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
Date Received	Notification No.	Sub-permit No.	Water Right Verification	Entry Agreement.	Watershed
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Shasta <input type="checkbox"/> Scott



**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**SHASTA AND SCOTT RIVER**  
**WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAMS**  
**Application for Incidental Take Sub-permit and**  
**Streambed Alteration Agreement**



**Complete EACH field unless otherwise indicated, following the enclosed instructions and submit ALL required enclosures. Attach additional pages, if necessary.**

**1. APPLICANT**

Name			
Business/Agency			
Street address			
City, State, Zip			
Telephone		Fax	
Email			

**2. CONTACT PERSON** *(Complete only if different from applicant)*

Name			
Street address			
City, State, Zip			
Telephone		Fax	
Email			

**3. PROPERTY OWNER** *(Complete only if different from applicant)*

Name			
Street address			
City, State, Zip			
Telephone		Fax	
Email			

**4. LOCATION OF COVERED ACTIVITY**

<p>A. Address or description of where each Covered Activity will occur. <i>(Include a 1:24,000 scale topographic map of the area covered by the application that is labeled to show the location of all Activities, diversion locations and waterbodies affected by the Activities with a reference to the nearest city or town, and provide driving directions from a major road or highway.)</i></p>				
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Continued on additional page(s)</i>				
<p>B. Rivers or streams affected by each Covered Activity</p>				
<p>C. What water body are the rivers or streams tributary to?</p>				
<p>D. Covered Activity <i>(use the label from the maps)</i></p>	<p>E. USGS 7.5 Minute Quad Map name</p>	<p>F. Township</p>	<p>G. Range</p>	<p>H. Section and ¼ Section</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Attached or continued on additional page(s)</i>				
<p>I. Coordinates <i>(If available, provide at least one centralized latitude/longitude or UTM coordinates and check the appropriate boxes.)</i></p>				
<p>Latitude/Longitude</p>	<p><i>Latitude:</i></p>		<p><i>Longitude:</i></p>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Degrees/Minutes/Seconds		<input type="checkbox"/> Decimal Degrees	
<input type="checkbox"/> Decimal Minutes				
<p>UTM</p>	<p><i>Easting:</i></p>		<p><i>Northing:</i></p>	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Zone 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Zone 11	
<p>Datum used for Latitude/Longitude or UTM</p>			<input type="checkbox"/> NAD 27 <input type="checkbox"/> NAD 83 or WGS 84	
<p>J. If the location of the Covered Activity is in the Shasta River watershed, is it above Lake Shastina?</p>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**5. COVERED ACTIVITY AND TERM** (Check each box that applies.)

COVERED ACTIVITY/ACTIVITY CATEGORY	WORK PERIOD TERM		ONGOING OPERATION	NEW CONSTRUCTION	REPLACE EXISTING STRUCTURE	REPAIR/ MAINTENANCE EXISTING STRUCTURE
	BEGINNING (YEAR OR MONTH)	ENDING (YEAR OR MONTH)				
Water Diversion*			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Diversion Structures			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish Screens			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stream Access and Crossings			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fencing			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riparian Restoration and Revegetation			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instream Structures			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stream Gages			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barrier Removal and Fish Passage Projects			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grazing Livestock in Riparian Exclusion Zone			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Management			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permit Implementation			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*If a box in the Water Diversion row is checked, the Water Right Verification Form must be filled out and submitted with this application form.

**6. PROPERTY ACCESS AND SITE INSPECTION** (Check each box that applies.)

A.  The proposed Covered Activity is on my property and:

I hereby authorize a Department representative to enter my property during normal business hours in order to evaluate the site where the Activity described in this application will take place and hereby certify that I am authorized to grant the Department such entry.

I request the Department to first contact (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_ at (insert telephone number) \_\_\_\_\_ to schedule a date and time to enter the property where the Covered Activity described in this application will occur. I understand that this may delay the Department's determination as to whether a Streambed Alteration Agreement or an Incidental Take Sub-permit is required and/or the Department's issuance of a draft Agreement and Sub-permit pursuant to this application.

B.  The proposed Covered Activity is not on my property. You must complete the enclosed **Right of Entry Agreement** for the property where the Covered Activity is located for your application to be complete.

**7. DESCRIPTION OF COVERED ACTIVITY**

Describe each Covered Activity in detail below, including any structures that will be placed, built, or completed in or near the river or stream identified in Box 5.B above, and the type and volume of materials that will be used. Also:

- Provide an overview of the entire activity area (i.e., “bird’s-eye view”) showing the location of each structure and/or activity and significant area features.
- For construction projects enclose diagrams, drawings, and/or plans that provide all of the following: site specific construction details; the dimensions of each structure and/or extent of each activity in the bed, channel, bank or floodplain; photographs if available; and where the equipment/machinery will enter and exit the activity area.

Continued on additional page(s)

**B. Specify the equipment and machinery that will be used to complete the Covered Activity.**

Continued on additional page(s)

**C. Will water be present during the proposed work period specified in Box 5 in the rivers or streams specified in Box 4.B?**

Yes     No (*Skip to box 8*)

**D. Will the proposed Covered Activity require construction work in the wetted portion of the channel? (*new, replacement or repair/ maintenance construction activities may require a plan divert water around work site*)**

Yes     No

**8. IMPACTS OF COVERED ACTIVITY**

A. Describe the impacts to the bed, channel, and bank of the river or stream and associated riparian habitat. Specify the dimensions of the modifications in length (linear feet) and area (square feet or acres) and the type and volume of material (cubic yards) that will be moved, displaced, or otherwise disturbed, if applicable.

Continued on additional page(s)

B. Will the Covered Activity affect any vegetation?  Yes (Complete the tables below.)  No

Vegetation Type	Temporary Impact	Permanent Impact
	Linear feet: _____ Total area: _____	Linear feet: _____ Total area: _____
	Linear feet: _____ Total area: _____	Linear feet: _____ Total area: _____

Tree Species	Number of Trees to be Removed	Trunk Diameter (range)

Continued on additional page(s)

C. Are any special status animal or plant species, or habitat that could support such species, known to be present on or near the activity site?

Yes (List each species and/or describe the habitat below)  No  Unknown

Continued on additional page(s)

D. Identify each source of information that supports a “yes” or “no” answer above in Box 8.C.

Continued on additional page(s)

E. Has a biological assessment or study been completed for the activity site?

Yes (Enclose the biological study)  No

**Note:** A biological assessment or study may be required to evaluate potential Activity impacts on biological resources.

F. Has a hydrological assessment or study been completed for the activity or activity site?

Yes (Enclose the hydrological study)  No

**Note:** A hydrological assessment or study or other information on site hydraulics (e.g., flows, channel characteristics, and/or flood recurrence intervals) may be required to evaluate potential activity impacts on hydrology.

**9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INCIDENTAL TAKE SUB-PERMIT**

- A. The species to be covered by the incidental take sub-permit is limited to coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), which is listed as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. The additional information that must be in an incidental take permit application under Department regulations (Cal. Code Reg., tit. 14, § 783.2) is included in the incidental take permit applications submitted by the Scott and Shasta Valley Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) for the Scott River (2081-2005-027-01) and Shasta River (2081-2005-026-01) Watershed-wide Permitting Programs, respectively. Those permit applications and the Department’s jeopardy analysis for each of the Watershed-wide Permitting Programs are incorporated herein by reference.
- B. A detailed monitoring plan has been developed for both the Shasta and Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Programs. The purpose of these plans is to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures developed for the Covered Activities.
- C. Each RCD has submitted to the Department financial security in the principal sum of \$100,000. The security allows the Department to draw on the principal sum if the Department, in its sole discretion, determines that a Program participant is failing to comply with any of the avoidance, minimization, mitigation, or monitoring measures required by the Watershed-wide Permitting Program(s).

**10. SIGNATURE**

I certify that the information submitted in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statement herein may subject me to suspension or revocation of any Streambed Alteration Agreement or Incidental Take Sub-permit issued pursuant to this application and to civil and criminal penalties under the laws of the State of California.

I understand that this application applies only to the Covered Activity or Activities described herein.

By signing this application, I agree to waive the 60-day time period the Department has to issue a draft Streambed Alteration Agreement under Fish and Game Code section 1602(a)(4)(D).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Activity Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT A**

**SHASTA AND SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAMS  
WATER RIGHT VERIFICATION FORM**

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All applicants requesting authorization under a lake or streambed alteration agreement to divert surface water must demonstrate to the Department that they have a legal right to divert water by completing this attachment and submitting all required documentation. Applicants that have water rights that have been specified in a court or State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) decree or have a copy of a permit or license on file with SWRCB are required to complete Section I of this document. **Applicants who divert water based on a riparian water right that is not subject to adjudication under a decree must document their right to divert by completing Section II of this attachment.**

**Section I. Adjudicated and/or Appropriative Water Rights**

A. Check the appropriate boxes below that describe your water right and include the appropriate documentation.

- Adjudicated water right: Provide evidence that the water right has been adjudicated under a court or SWRCB decree as specified in Section B below.
- Post-1914 appropriative water right, including diversion for immediate use or storage that is not included in an adjudication. Attach a copy of the permit or license issued by the SWRCB.

B. Complete the diversion information table below. For diversion rate, use gallons per day (gpd) if rate is less than 0.25 cubic feet per second (cfs) (approximately 16,000 gallons per day). If the water right(s) has (have) been adjudicated in a decree, provide the required information and attach a copy of the adjudication or decree page(s) specifically describing your water right(s) and the adjudication map. If the parcel has been split, the ownership has changed since the adjudication, or the water right has been amended in any way, submit all materials illustrating these changes. Each water right should be entered into the table below (stock water rights, irrigation season rights, etc.). Use additional sheets if necessary. Additionally, include the most recent Statement of Water Diversion and Use that has been filed with the SWRCB for each water right identified. **The Department will not accept a Statement of Water Diversion and Use unless it has been filed with the SWRCB.**<sup>1</sup>

WATER RIGHT INFORMATION		PURPOSE OF USE	DIVERSION RATE (cfs or gpd)	SEASON OF DIVERSION	
NAME OF DECREE OR LICENSE OR PERMIT NUMBER	DECREED DIVERSION NUMBER			BEGINNING DATE (month/day)	ENDING DATE (Month/day)

<sup>1</sup> A copy of the Statement of Water Diversion and Use may be downloaded from this website: [http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/forms/updated\\_statement\\_062907.pdf](http://www.waterrights.ca.gov/forms/updated_statement_062907.pdf) or by contacting the SWRCB at (916) 341-5300


**Section II. Riparian Water Rights That Are Not Adjudicated**

For riparian water rights that are not adjudicated by a court or SWRCB decree, provide the additional information described below. Attach additional sheets as necessary to provide the required information. This information is essential for substantiating the beneficial use of riparian water rights. Additionally, attach the most recent Statement of Water Diversion and Use that has been filed for the subject water rights with the SWRCB. ***The Department will not accept a Statement of Water Diversion and Use unless it has been filed with the SWRCB.***

- A. Attach a detailed map that depicts the place of use, the boundaries of each parcel, each stream or river from which the water is diverted, and the location of each point of diversion on the stream or river. Number and label features on the map including each diversion point. Use the numbers and labels from the map when completing the tables below.
- B. Complete the table below indicating the average volume of water (in acre feet) diverted and applied at the place of use each month during the period of use at each point of diversion.

				Average Volume of Water ( In Acre Feet)											
DIV. #	DIVERSION RATE (cfs or gpd)	PLACE OF USE		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			Diverted												
			Applied												
			Diverted												
			Applied												
			Diverted												
			Applied												
			Diverted												
			Applied												
			Diverted												
			Applied												

- C. Include with this attachment the average irrigation requirements for the crops and/or pasture land at each place of use. Note the parcel number where the crops and/or pasture land is located, along with the requirements. Information regarding average irrigation requirements may be available from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.C. Extension, or in the Department of Water Resource’s Bulletin 113.
- D. Complete the table on the next page indicating the number of acres irrigated and average amount of water (in acre feet) applied per acre (“duty of water”) each month for each parcel and the place of use shown in the map. Indicate the method(s) used to apply the water to the crops and/or pasture land at the place of use. Duty of water can be calculated by dividing the



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

flow (in acre feet) at the place of use into the number of acres irrigated. Attach on a separate sheet all data, calculations, and any other information used to estimate the duty of water.

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 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

PARCEL NUMBER	PLACE OF USE	ACREAGE	DUTY OF WATER												METHOD OF APPLICATION
			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	

B-67

## ATTACHMENT B

### SHASTA AND SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED-WIDE PERMITTING PROGRAMS

#### RIGHT OF ENTRY AGREEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF A THIRD PARTY

This Right of Entry Agreement (“Entry Agreement”) is made by and among the Department of Fish and Game (“Department”), **[name]** Resource Conservation District (“RCD”), and **[name of landowner]** (“Landowner”).

**WHEREAS**, Landowner understands that **[name of participant]** (“Program Participant”) has submitted, or will be submitting to the Department an application for a Streambed Alteration Agreement (“Agreement”) and Incidental Take Sub-permit (“Sub-permit”) under the Shasta or Scott River Watershed-Wide Permitting Program;

;

**WHEREAS**, Landowner understands that non-enforcement Department employees (“Department employee”) will need to access Landowner’s property (“Property”) for the specific purpose of verifying that Program Participant has met the terms and conditions in Program Participant’s Agreement and Sub-permit;

**WHEREAS**, Landowner understands that RCD employees and contractors will need to access the Property for the specific purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the terms and conditions in Program Participant’s Agreement and Sub-permit; and

**WHEREAS**, Landowner understands that Program Participant’s Agreement and/or Sub-permit might require Program Participant and/or **[his/her]** employees, contractors, and/or agents to complete certain activities on the Property;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Landowner hereby grants to Department employees, RCD employees and contractors, and Program Participant and **[his/her]** employees, contractors, and/or agents permission to enter the Property for the limited purposes set forth above subject to the following provisions:

1. The Property to which this Entry Agreement applies is located on **[name of waterbody]**, tributary to the **[name of waterbody]**, in the County of Siskiyou, State of California, in Section **[number]**, Township **[number]** North, Range **[number]** West, MDB&M, Assessor’s Parcel Number **[number]**.
2. Department employees may enter the Property only during normal business hours for the specific purpose of verifying that Program Participant has met the terms and conditions in Program Participant’s Agreement and Sub-permit. Department employees may not enter the Property for any other purpose or use without obtaining Landowner’s written consent.

## ATTACHMENT B

3. RCD employees and contractors may enter the Property only during normal business hours for the specific purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the terms and conditions in Program Participant's Agreement and Sub-permit. RCD employees and contractors may not enter the Property for any other purpose or use without obtaining Landowner's written consent.
4. Program Participant and/or **[his/her]** employees, contractors, and/or agents may enter the Property for the purpose of fulfilling the obligations in Program Participant's Agreement and/or Sub-permit, such as installing a headgate, gage, and/or fish screen on a water diversion structure or replacing a gravel push up dam or other temporary diversion structure ("obligations"). Such access shall be limited to the minimum extent necessary to accomplish Program Participant's obligations. Further, such access shall be contingent upon the following conditions below.
  - a. Landowner shall be provided an opportunity to review the Program Participant's Agreement and Sub-permit prior to signature by Program Participant.
  - b. Landowner shall be provided an opportunity to review and approve any contractor or sub-contractor hired to fulfill an obligation.
  - c. Landowner shall be provided an opportunity to review and approve any engineered drawings and construction schedule specific to any obligations that will be fulfilled on the Property.
  - d. Landowner approval shall not be unreasonably withheld and shall be provided within 15 days of review.
5. The Department and RCD shall notify Landowner and Program Participant, whether verbally or in writing, at least 48 hours in advance of entering the Property. Landowner is entitled to be present or have a representative present at any time a Department employee or RCD employee or contractor is on the Property.
6. Department employees and RCD employees and contractors shall limit their access to those portions of the Property where Department employees and RCD employees and contractors will perform their requisite evaluations ("requisite monitoring site") and those portions of the Property that Department employees and RCD employees and contractors must traverse to reach each site. Requisite monitoring sites shall be limited to the specific locations where activities expressly covered within Program Participant's Agreement and Sub-permit will be performed or have an effect over or sites otherwise specifically addressed in the Agreement and Sub-permit.

## ATTACHMENT B

7. Department employees and RCD employees and contractors shall make every effort to avoid causing any damage to the Property while they are on the Property.
8. The Department and RCD shall be liable for any damage to the Property or to any personal property due to the negligence or willful misconduct of a Department employee or RCD employee or contractor while on the Property.
9. Landowner shall not be liable for any loss or damage to Department or RCD property or for the injury to or death of any Department employee or RCD employee or contractor that occurs when the employee or contractor is on the Property, unless the loss, damage, injury, or death is due solely to Landowner's negligence or willful misconduct.
10. The Department and RCD separately and independently agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Landowner from and against all claims, damages, losses, judgments, liabilities, expenses, and other costs, including litigation costs and attorney's fees ("Claim" and, collectively, "Claims") arising out of, resulting from, or in connection with any act or omission by a Department employee or RCD employee or contractor while on the Property, except that this indemnification shall be inapplicable to Landowner with respect to a Claim due in part or solely to the negligence or willful misconduct of Landowner.
11. Landowner may revoke the permission for entry granted by this Entry Agreement at will, by providing revocation notice to the Department, RCD, and Program Participant in writing at least 30 days prior to the termination date specified in the notice. Such revocation shall be effective after 30 days or upon such later time, if any, that is specified in the revocation notice. Within 15 days of notification to all parties of Landowner's desire to revoke the permission for entry, all parties shall meet to identify and find a mutually acceptable solution if possible, provided that Landowner shall be under no obligation to agree to such a solution. No revocation shall take effect while there is potential for environmental degradation to occur as a result of an inability of the Department, RCD, or Program Participant to complete work begun prior to the notice of revocation. In such cases where completion of work is necessary to eliminate the potential for environmental degradation<sup>1</sup>, work shall be completed as promptly as is reasonably possible, and revocation shall take effect upon completion of the work. In such cases where Program Participant's Agreement identifies

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this Right of Entry Agreement environmental degradation is the deterioration of the quality of the natural environment resulting from the incomplete implementation of projects required by the Program participants Agreement and Sub-permit

## ATTACHMENT B

- terms and conditions necessary to minimize the potential for environmental degradation, the Program Participant shall be responsible for continuing to implement the terms and conditions that the Entry Agreement requires until the Department determines that the potential for environmental degradation is eliminated, except that under no circumstances will the potential for environmental degradation extend the access allowed under this Entry Agreement for more than 180 days beyond the date the Landowner gives written notice of revocation to the Department, the RCD, and Program participant. Absent prior revocation by Landowner, this Entry Agreement shall expire upon expiration of Program Participant's Agreement and Sub-permit or when the mitigation measures and all requisite monitoring specified in the Agreement and Sub-permit have been successfully completed, whichever date is later, except that under no circumstances will the access allowed under this Entry Agreement extend more than 180 days after the Agreement and Sub-permit have expired.
12. The Department shall provide Landowner a copy of the fully executed Entry Agreement. Any amendment to this Entry Agreement shall be of no force and effect unless it is in writing and signed by the Department, RCD, and Landowner.
  13. By signing this Entry Agreement, Landowner hereby warrants and represents that **[he/she]** has the authority to give the Department and its employees, the RCD and its employees and contractors, and Program Participant and **[his/her]** employees, contractors, and/or agents permission to enter the Property in accordance with the provisions herein.
  14. Landowner's consent granted by this Entry Agreement is limited to entry by Department employees; RCD employees and contractors; and Program Participant and **[his/her]** employees, contractors, and agents and shall not be assigned. Any attempt by the Department, RCD, or Program Participant to assign this Entry Agreement shall automatically terminate it. No legal title, easement, or other interest in the Property is created or vested in the Department, RCD, or Program Participant by this Entry Agreement, and this Entry Agreement shall not be recorded against title.
  15. This Entry Agreement shall become effective upon the Department's signature, which shall be after Landowner's and RCD's.

**ATTACHMENT B**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, Landowner, RCD, and the Department have executed this Entry Agreement as set forth below.

**LANDOWNER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**[NAME]**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[Add telephone number for notice above]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[Add mailing address for notice above]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**[NAME] RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**[NAME]**  
RCD

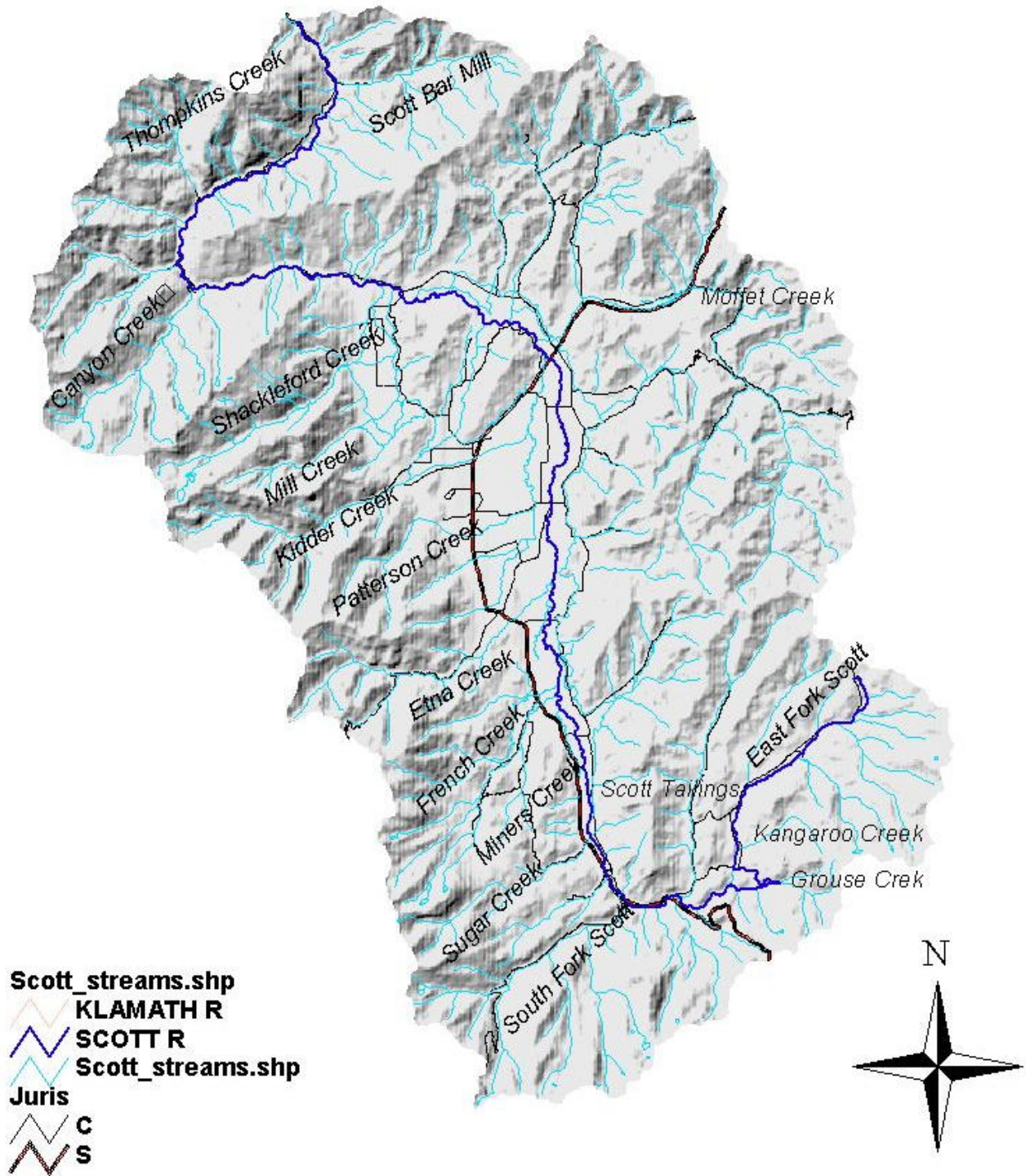
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**GARY B. STACEY**  
Regional Manager  
Northern Region

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Exhibit 2 PROGRAM AREA





## **APPENDIX C**

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# Memorandum of Understanding Between the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Game on Procedures for Watermasters on the Scott and Shasta River Systems to Coordinate Actions to Avoid the Take of Coho Salmon

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**JUN 06 2002**

Mr. Rod McInnis  
Acting Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

Dear Mr. McInnis:

The Department of Water Resources currently provides watermaster service on the Shasta River and on five creeks in the Scott River watershed from April through September. This service was initiated by various court decrees beginning in 1958 for the Scott River and 1932 for the Shasta River.

DWR and the Department of Fish and Game have developed a Memorandum of Understanding to allow DWR to watermaster while protecting coho salmon. Attached is a copy of the MOU. To ensure full compliance with this MOU, DWR has appointed one of our senior managers, William J. Bennett, former Chief of DWR's Northern District, to work full-time on this and other Klamath and Scott and Shasta river issues. Further, we are extending our watermaster service for all 12 months. This will help ensure watermastered diversions do not exceed those specified in the decrees.

In addition to the MOU, there are many ongoing efforts to protect and restore the fisheries resource in the Scott and Shasta watersheds. Between the period of 1990-2000, nearly \$5 million from State and federal funding has been spent on anadromous fish restoration efforts within the Scott Rivers and Shasta River watersheds. In the year 2001, nearly \$3 million has been spent or funding obligated for additional restoration. DFG expects this funding level to continue or increase for the next 10 years as an integral part of a much larger focused Klamath River Basin Restoration Program.

The kind of restoration projects being implemented include fish screening, improved efficiency in water delivery systems, dedication of water to the stream for fish, erosion control through road decommissioning and stream crossing removal or repair, conservation easements to protect streamside buffers, riparian fencing, riparian plantings, construction of fish friendly seasonal diversion facilities, and improved fish passage over permanent diversion dams.

DWR and DFG are fully committed to working with all federal, Tribal, State, and local agencies and other stakeholders to reach a long-term solution to water issues in the entire Klamath Watershed including recovery of endangered species. We look forward to working with you to identify and develop an appropriate administrative mechanism or approach to help in the recovery of coho salmon in those watersheds and yet allow for beneficial use of water by local diverters.

Mr. Rod McInnis

Page 2 **JUN 06 2002**

We appreciate the opportunity to coordinate with the National Marine Fisheries Service on these matters. If you have any questions, you may contact Jonas Minton, DWR's Deputy Director, at (916) 653-8045, or Don Koch, DFG's Regional Manager, at (530) 225-2363.

Sincerely,

(sgd) Thomas M. Hannigan

**Original Signed by  
Robert C. Hight**

Thomas M. Hannigan, Director  
Department of Water Resources

Robert Hight, Director  
Department of Fish and Game

**Attachment**

Dwight Russell:Lori Miles:Janiene Friend:Pat Separovich  
C:\NMFS Draft-Itr-Im-0206042

**Memorandum of Understanding Between  
the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Game  
on Procedures for Watermasters on the Scott and Shasta River Systems  
to Coordinate Actions to Avoid the Take of Coho Salmon**

**Recitals**

1. Pursuant to Water Code Section 4000 et seq., the California Department of Water Resources provides watermaster service to water users on the Scott River and the Shasta River in Siskiyou County. These services involve the diversion and serving of water to water right holders pursuant to judicial decrees. In carrying out its watermaster services, DWR will conform with the existing judicial decrees including to hold diversions to the limits specified in those decrees. This task is complicated, however, by the fact that diversion facilities on these rivers vary from modern, screened and measured to unscreened, unmeasured diversions and turnouts. DWR watermasters will use their best efforts to carry out their duties in compliance with the decrees.
2. Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2050 et seq., the California Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the administration of the California Endangered Species Act. DFG is also the trustee agency for the State of California with jurisdiction over the conservation, protection and management of fish, wildlife, native plants and habitat necessary for the biologically sustainable population of those species.
3. The Scott and Shasta rivers are spawning and rearing areas for Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus Kisutch*), which is a candidate for listing under CESA.
4. Between the period of 1990-2000, nearly \$5 million from State and federal funding has been spent on anadromous fish restoration efforts within the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. In the year 2001, nearly \$3 million has been spent or funding obligated for additional restoration. DFG expects this funding level to continue or increase for the next 10 years as an integral part of a much larger focused Klamath River Basin Restoration Program. The kinds of restoration projects being implemented include fish screening, improved efficiency in water delivery systems, dedication of water to the stream for fish, erosion control through road decommissioning and stream crossing removal or repair, conservation easements to protect streamside buffers, riparian fencing, riparian plantings, construction of fish friendly seasonal diversion facilities, and improved fish passage over permanent diversion dams.
5. DWR and DFG would like DWR to continue to provide watermaster service to the decreed right-holders, to assist water users in a manner that avoids the take of Coho salmon.
6. The purpose of this MOU is to coordinate actions between DFG and DWR on the Scott and Shasta rivers.

### Agreement

1. The Department of Water Resources provides watermaster service on the Shasta River and on five creeks in the Scott River watershed. DWR will provide the Department of Fish and Game information on streamflow, diversions, and stream conditions, obtained and summarized from the watermasters' daily field logs, as described in Attachment A. This information will be conveyed by DWR to the person designated below by 9 a.m. of the day following.
2. DWR will otherwise cooperate with DFG in providing hydrologic and hydraulic information on the Scott and Shasta relevant to the needs of Coho salmon.
3. DWR's Northern District Chief, its Branch Chief over watermaster services, its Supervising Watermaster, and DFG's Regional Manager, its Fisheries Program Manager, and its Senior Fisheries Biologist will meet either in person or via weekly conference call to assure appropriate communication under this MOU.
4. DFG will timely inform DWR watermasters, by FAX, of any and all imminent or foreseeable take occurrences resulting from diversions under the control of the watermasters. The DFG Senior Fisheries Biologist below is responsible for informing DWR watermasters for this purpose.
5. DFG will advise DWR on the needs of the fishery in order to assist DWR to identify actions to implement reductions or cessation in diversions or changes in the timing or manner of the diversions as necessary to avoid the take of Coho Salmon.
6. DWR will implement the reductions or cessation in diversions or changes in the timing or manner of diversions subject to DWR Watermaster Service under the decrees as necessary to avoid the take of Coho Salmon.
7. As soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after the fact, DWR will notify DFG of all reductions it has implemented to avoid take of Coho Salmon.
8. DWR reserves its unconditional right to terminate watermaster service on any and all creeks or streams subject to this MOU. DWR will give DFG 24 hours notice of its intention to do so.
9. DFG's designee for the purposes of this Agreement is: Senior Fisheries Biologist (530) 225-2866 or (530) 225-2381 fax. In the event the Senior Fisheries Biologist is unreachable, DFG's after hours dispatch is (916) 445-0045.
10. DWR's designee for the purposes of this Agreement is: Supervising Watermaster (530) 529-7369 or (530) 529-7322 fax. In the event the Supervising Watermaster is unreachable, DWR's after hours page should be used (916) 592-7332.

(sgd) Thomas M. Hannigan

Thomas M. Hannigan, Director  
Department of Water Resources  
Date:           JUN 06 2002          

Original Signed by  
Robert C. Hight

Robert Hight, Director  
Department of Fish and Game  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **APPENDIX D**

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# Shasta and Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Programs Application Process



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## Shasta and Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Programs

### Application Process

#### Introduction:

The following steps describe the process by which an agricultural operator<sup>1</sup> (Applicant) may submit an Application for an Incidental Take Sub-permit and a Streambed Alteration Agreement (Application) to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) through the Shasta and Scott River Watershed-wide Permitting Programs (Programs). To begin the application process the Applicant will complete an *Interest to Participate Form* (Interest Form) and pay an application fee. Completing the Interest Form (or the Application) does not commit any applicant to participate in either Program. The Applicant will be given the opportunity to withdraw from the process prior to signing a Incidental Take Sub-permit (Sub-permit) or Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) issued by DFG pursuant to either Program.

#### Step 1: Interest to Participate

1. Applicants who are interested in participating in the Programs shall complete the Interest Form and a *Property Information Form* (Property Form) for each applicable property (i.e. farm or ranch). In addition, each Applicant will be required to pay an application fee.
2. Applicants may obtain the Interest and Property Forms in the following ways:
  - From the RCDs Offices
  - From the RCD websites
    - Shasta Valley – [www.svracd.org](http://www.svracd.org)
    - Scott Valley – [www.sisqracd.org](http://www.sisqracd.org)
3. All forms and an application fee shall be submitted to the appropriate Resource Conservation District (RCD) to begin the application process.

For the Scott River Watershed  
Siskiyou RCD  
450 Main Street  
Etna, CA 96027  
Phone (530) 467-3975  
Fax (530) 467-5617

For the Shasta River Watershed  
Shasta Valley RCD  
215 Executive Court, Suite A  
Yreka, CA 96097  
Phone: (530) 842-6121 ext 106  
Fax: (530) 842-1027

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<sup>1</sup> “agricultural operator” is defined as any natural person or any partnership, corporation, limited liability company, trust, or other type of association or any public agency, as defined in CEQA Guidelines, §15379, who diverts water from a stream by means of an active diversion in either Program Area for an agricultural purpose, or is involved in an agricultural operation on property in either Program Area through which or adjacent to which a stream flows

## **Step 2: Program Administration File Development**

1. Upon receipt of the Interest and Property Forms, the RCD staff will:
  - a. Create a file that includes a copy of the Interest and Property Forms
  - b. Enter information into the Client Tracking Database
  - c. Process the application fee using Quickbooks and deposit the fee into a separate account maintained by the Siskiyou County Auditor.
  - d. Enter information into the fee calculation tool – at the end of the 60-day enrollment period the annual fees will be determined and landowners will be notified in writing (see Step 6 for details regarding the fee collection).

## **Step 3: Application Assistance**

1. Upon receipt of the Interest and Property Forms RCD staff will contact the Applicant to schedule an appointment. During the appointment the RCD staff member shall provide the Applicant with an Application and assist them in filling out the form. In addition, RCD staff will assist the Applicant in filling out the Water Right Verification Form and the Right of Entry Agreement, if applicable.

2. The Applicant will complete and sign the Application and other forms, as necessary, and mail or deliver the original(s) to DFG at the below address:

Shasta/Scott Watershed-wide Permitting Program  
Northern Region  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

## **Step 4: Application Processing**

1. DFG staff will assign a tracking number and enter the information from the Application into the DFG Project Tracking database.
2. DFG staff will send the tracking number to the appropriate RCD to notify them of the receipt of an Application.
3. DFG staff will review the Application for completeness.
4. If the Application is incomplete, DFG staff will contact the Applicant in writing (with a copy to the appropriate RCD) to request the necessary information.
5. When DFG staff determines that the Application is complete, the Applicant will be notified in writing and a PDF of the complete Application will be e-mailed to the appropriate RCD.
6. Upon receipt of the completed Application, RCD staff will complete the necessary database entry for each file and review to ensure database consistency.

## **Step 5: Site Visit**

1. DFG staff will contact the Applicant to set up a site visit that will include the RCD staff.
2. During the site visit the following tasks will be performed:

- a. DFG staff and the RCD staff will identify the avoidance and minimization measures that will be required of the Applicant.
  - b. DFG staff will confirm that the information on the Application is valid.
  - c. DFG staff will explain the format of the Sub-permit and SAA to the Applicant.
  - d. DFG staff and RCD staff will fill out the pre-project implementation checklists for water diversion, fish passage and livestock and vehicle crossings, if applicable.
3. A PDF of any pre-project implementation checklist completed during the site visit will be e-mailed to the appropriate RCD by the DFG.

**Step 6: Draft and Final Sub-permit Issuance**

1. DFG will send three unsigned hard copies of the draft Sub-permit to the Applicant for review and signature, and e-mail a PDF version to the appropriate RCD. Applicants are not required to sign the draft Sub-permit until after they have been notified of their annual fee and they sign a *Notice to Proceed*.
2. Each RCD will determine the first year annual fee for each Applicant at the end of the 60-day enrollment period. The RCD will send a letter to each Applicant informing them of their annual fee, minus the credit for their application fee. Included with the letter will be a *Notice to Proceed* form for the Applicant to confirm their interest in participating in the Permitting Program, to request consultation, or to withdraw their application.
3. If interested in participating in the Permitting Program after reviewing the annual fee, the Applicant will fill out and sign the *Notice to Proceed* form and send it, along with a check to cover their first year annual fee, to the RCD.
4. Upon receipt of the *Notice to Proceed* and a check in the amount of the annual fee, the RCD will deposit the check into the account maintained by the Siskiyou County Auditor and provide written verification to DFG that the fee has been paid.
5. The Applicant will sign the three hard copies of the Sub-permit and provide them to the RCD for signature.
6. The RCD will sign the three copies of the Sub-permit.
7. The RCD will return all three hard copies of the signed Sub-permit to DFG.
8. DFG will execute the three copies of the Sub-permit, retain one original, and send one original each to the Applicant and the RCD for their records.

**Step 7: Draft and Final Streambed Alteration Agreement Issuance**

1. DFG will send two unsigned hard copies of the draft SAA to the Applicant for review and signature.
2. The Applicant will sign the two copies of the draft SAA and return them to DFG.
3. Upon receipt of the signed copies of the SAA (from the Applicant), the DFG will execute the SAA, retain one and send one to the Applicant.