

April 20, 2005

Honorable Michael Chrisman
Secretary, The Resources Agency
State of California
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Schwarzenegger Administration Policy, Restoration of California Salmonids

Dear Mr. Chrisman:

Thank you for making the time available for us to meet with you May 10:00 at 1:30 P.M. Our purpose with this letter is to inform you of the names of participants from our organizations and to summarize the goals we have for this meeting. In order to facilitate your staff's preparation I have enclosed a copy of our letter of April 11. Please call if you need additional documentation.

Meeting participants will be Brian Stranko, Executive Director, California Trout; David Katz, California Director, Trout Unlimited; Phil Greenlee, President, Northern California Council, Federation of Fly Fishers, Tom Weseloh¹, North Coast Manager, California Trout and Charles Bucaria, past Conservation Vice President, NCCFFF.

Throughout our continuous attempts to resolve our concerns at the Department of Fish and Game level there has been the time imperative of NOAA Fisheries publication date. The Federal Register notice of NOAA Fisheries review of 27 West Coast ESU's was dated June 14, 2004. That agency generally publishes its determinations within one year of initial notice publication. We therefore hope for rapid and responsive action toward meeting the following goals.

1. Immediate rescission of the DFG - NOAA letter.
2. That DFG restate to NOAA its historic support of the "threatened" designation for Central Valley ESU naturally-reared steelhead under the Federal Endangered Species Act ; or, in the alternative, request that they be designated "endangered."

(A perhaps unintended result of failure to modify the present stance of DFG will inevitably be increased litigation. If their NOAA letter stands we can count on every water litigator in California to seize upon the Department's new position as a basis for causing mischief.)

3. The State guarantee that its reaction to any future Sacramento-San Joaquin ESU water-related construction or proposed flow regimen changes, either by federal agencies or the State itself, shall be to protect, enhance and "double" native steelhead populations in accordance with "The State Steelhead Plan" adopted by Governor Wilson in 1996.

¹ Mr. Weseloh is a member of DFG's Salmon and Steelhead Advisory Committee.

4. In the future that DFG will invite sport fisheries groups, including those we represent, to review and comment on major policy change proposals such as this one *before* their adoption and promulgation.

Our overall objective is to understand whether the Department of Fish and Game's letter of November 12 represents Schwarzenegger Administration salmonid restoration policies in California? Additionally, we would like to know whether the State will take prompt action to correct what we view as a dishonest and destructive position? The failure of DFG to communicate the rationale for its scientifically unsupportable position has brought us to you seeking assistance.

We hope you will be able to help correct the record and clarify that this administration does not stand for extirpation of native Central Valley steelhead, or any other of California's salmonoids.

Sincerely,

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Acting For:

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David Katz
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Enclosure

cc: L. Ryan Broddrick, Director, Department of Fish and Game
Senator Sheila Kuehl
Interested Parties