

7441 Center Parkway  
Sacramento, CA 95823

June 18, 2005

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Central Valley Steelhead Trout

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Steelhead trout are a Public Trust resource in our State. And yet our recent experience with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) raises a question as to whether we have a fox guarding the Public Trust hen house here. We view this matter to be of enough importance that we bring it to your attention as a last resort. We ask that your administration take a public position in favor of protection and enhancement of natural occurring Central Valley sea-run Steelhead Trout.

We have been assured that the November 12, 2004 letter from DFG to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries) does not represent your Administration's salmonid restoration policies in California. In that letter the Department requests that Central Valley Steelhead be removed from Federal Endangered Species Act protection; and, further, suggests that NOAA Fisheries study what impacts might result if the naturally occurring sea-run Steelhead in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers were to become extinct.

The Director of the Department, Mr. Ryan Broddrick, has obdurately refused to modify the Department's stance in spite of peer review studies which show that the basis for the DFG delisting recommendation is scientifically unsupportable. Our concern is great enough that we have corresponded with and met your Resources Agency Secretary, Mr. Mike Chrisman on this matter. Enclosed with this letter is concurrent correspondence to Secretary Chrisman asking for a response to requests which we have made of him.

The State has known for years that its salmon and steelhead stocks have been badly damaged by dams and water exports. The legislature enacted the Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act in 1988. That year the Annual Report of the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout stated, "A reasonable goal would be to double statewide production by 2010... This doubling would strengthen the state's economy by generating 85000 new jobs and increasing business revenues by \$150 million a year." The Honorable C. George Deukmejian was Governor in 1988.

In his *Water Policy Statement* of 1992 Governor Pete Wilson pointed to the urgent need for a long-term, comprehensive water policy that includes safe, reliable water supplies for cities and

farms *and sufficient water to restore fish and wildlife resources* (italics added). In February 1996 the Department of Fish and Game published its "Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan for California," which was consistent with Governor Wilson's initiative.

Governor, the fishery problems are no better than they were under prior governors, and are arguably worse. Action on your part supporting protection and enhancement of all California steelhead trout is needed to offset the misleading position advocated by your Department of Fish and Game. Such action would be consistent with prior State policy and the supportive actions of two of our last three governors.

We have enclosed the significant correspondence and pertinent documents on the issues we have briefly sketched for you here. We would be pleased to respond to questions you or your staff may have regarding our requests. We would appreciate a written response. This is a matter in which the public deserves to understand your views.

Sincerely,

---

Charles P. Bucaria, Sr.

Acting For:

Brian Stranko  
Executive Director  
California Trout

David Katz  
California Director  
Trout Unlimited

Phil Greenlee  
President  
Northern California Council  
Federation of Fly Fishers

cc: Honorable Mike Chrisman  
L. Ryan Broddrick  
Senator Sheila Kuehl  
Interested Parties

Enclosures