

EDWARDS RANCH

13038 HIGHWAY 99-E  
RED BLUFF, CALIFORNIA 96080

Board Members  
State Water Resources Control Board  
PO Box 2000  
Sacramento, Ca 95812-2000

January 8, 2016



Dear Board Members:

I understand that you will consider the possible re-adoption of emergency regulations mandating minimum base flow and pulse flow requirements on Antelope Creek at your upcoming January 19, 2016 meeting.

Please consider the lack of beneficial results from the 2014 and 2015 curtailments, as well as the detrimental impacts of depriving the irrigation of 2000 acres of productive farm land.

Please find enclosed memorandums from California Department of Fish & Wildlife:

1. May 28, 2015: 80 degree water temperature in Antelope Creek
2. July 16, 2015: Final population estimate and counts from 1997-2015
3. December 2, 2015: Video fish counts
4. August 18, 1997: No sustaining population

I would like to emphasize that Antelope Creek, Mill Creek and Deer Creek are separate streams with individual characteristics and habitats. I can only reiterate what has been said so many times before: Antelope Creek is a low elevation, warm water creek not suitable for anadromous fish and does not have a "natural" spring run salmon sustainable population.

Over the years, fish screens and fish ladders have been built to improve fish passage on Antelope Creek. There are ongoing efforts to improve these facilities. We have DFW personnel traveling through our residences and working areas 6 times a week to check fish video recorders, fish ladders and fish screens. It is obvious that very few endangered fish populate Antelope Creek.

In view of this information, I request that the SWRCB delay consideration of the Regulations until the March 2016 meeting. The delay in re-adoption of the Regulations will provide an opportunity to better assess hydrology and whether the Regulations are actually needed again in 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. James Edwards".

W. James Edwards

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
SACRAMENTO  
2016 JAN 11 PM 1:05

State of California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO


2016 JAN 11 PM 1:06

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
SACRAMENTO

## Memorandum

Date: May 28, 2015

To: Ms. Barbara Evoy, Deputy Director  
Division of Water Rights  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-200

From: Neil Manji, Regional Manager   
Region 1 – Northern

Subject: Presence of Juvenile Salmonids in Lower Antelope Creek

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has been conducting weekly snorkel surveys in lower Antelope Creek below Edwards Diversion Dam since April 20, 2015 to determine the presence and relative abundance of juvenile salmonids utilizing this stream section. The Department's latest survey conducted May 27, 2015 showed a significant decrease in salmonid abundance relative to previous surveys. Water temperatures recorded at Cone Grove Park (river mile 2.5) show maximum daily water temperature readings exceeding 80°F beginning May 24, 2015.

Drought conditions have resulted in uncharacteristically low flows and high water temperatures in Antelope Creek and may no longer support juvenile salmonids.

If you have any questions, please contact Northern Region Fisheries Program Manager Curtis Milliron at (530) 225-2280.

cc: Ms. Barbara Evoy and Mr. Daniel Schultz  
Division of Water Rights, State Water Resources Control Board  
[Barbara.Evoy@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Barbara.Evoy@waterboards.ca.gov)  
[Daniel.Schultz@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Schultz@waterboards.ca.gov)

Mr. Howard Brown  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
[Howard.Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:Howard.Brown@noaa.gov)

Mss. Sandra Morey, Nancee Murray, Paige Uttley and Patricia Bratcher  
Messrs. Scott Cantrell, Stafford Lehr, Curtis Milliron, Jason Roberts  
and Matt Johnson  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
[Sandra.Morey@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Sandra.Morey@wildlife.ca.gov), [Nancee.Murray@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Nancee.Murray@wildlife.ca.gov),  
[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov), [Patricia.Bratcher@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bratcher@wildlife.ca.gov),  
[Scott.Cantrell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Cantrell@wildlife.ca.gov), [Stafford.Lehr@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Stafford.Lehr@wildlife.ca.gov),  
[Curtis.Milliron@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Curtis.Milliron@wildlife.ca.gov), [Jason.Roberts@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jason.Roberts@wildlife.ca.gov),  
[Matt.Johnson@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Johnson@wildlife.ca.gov)

2016 JAN 11 PM 1:07

DIV OF WATER RIGHTS  
SACRAMENTO

## Memorandum

Date: December 2, 2015

To: Jason Roberts  
Fisheries Supervisor  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

From: Matt Johnson  
Environmental Scientist

Subject: **Draft Antelope Creek Video Station Counts October 31, 2015 through November 21, 2015**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife operates a video fish counting station on Antelope Creek, Tehama County, located at the Edwards Dam (river mile 4). This memo is intended to provide interested parties with an update on preliminary adult steelhead and Chinook salmon counts obtained at the video station. Sufficient flow for adult salmonid passage was restored to lower Antelope Creek downstream of Edwards Dam on October 31, 2015. Between October 31, 2015 and November 21, 2015 a draft total of 0 fall-entry steelhead and 0 fall-run Chinook salmon have been counted at the video station. Attachment A includes draft daily steelhead and Chinook salmon video counts, estimated daily average stream discharge (unimpaired Mill Creek flow multiplied by 0.3924), and daily minimum and maximum water temperature measured upstream of Cone Grove Park for the period October 31, 2015 through November 21, 2015.

*This draft data has not yet undergone any quality control process by CDFW to confirm or otherwise verify its accuracy. As a result, this draft data should not be used, relied upon, or referenced in any way until finalized by CDFW. Upon data finalization by CDFW, the draft data will be superseded and should be deleted. This draft data may not be released to any other entity without the express written permission of CDFW*

**Attachment A-** Draft adult steelhead and Chinook salmon counts obtained at the Antelope Creek video station, draft estimated daily average stream discharge, and daily minimum and maximum water temperature recorded upstream of Cone Grove Park for the period October 31, 2015 through November 21, 2015.

DATE	Steelhead	Chinook	AVG Stream Flow	Min Water Temp	Max Water Temp
10/31/2015	0	0	29	56	61
11/1/2015	0	0	30	57	60
11/2/2015	0	0	36	57	61
11/3/2015	0	0	34	54	58
11/4/2015	0	0	31	51	56
11/5/2015	0	0	30	49	54
11/6/2015	0	0	30	48	54
11/7/2015	0	0	30	48	53
11/8/2015	0	0	31	49	51
11/9/2015	0	0	42	47	50
11/10/2015	0	0	38	46	51
11/11/2015	0	0	33	46	50
11/12/2015	0	0	32	45	50
11/13/2015	0	0	32	45	50
11/14/2015	0	0	32	45	50
11/15/2015	0	0	39	47	50
11/16/2015	0	0	40	46	49
11/17/2015	0	0	34	45	48
11/18/2015	0	0	33	45	50
11/19/2015	0	0	33	46	51
11/20/2015	0	0	33	47	53
11/21/2015	0	0	32	48	52
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			

State of California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Memorandum

Date: July 16, 2015

To: Jason Roberts  
Fisheries Supervisor  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

From: Matt Johnson  
Environmental Scientist

Subject: **Antelope Creek (Tehama Co.) 2015 Central Valley Spring Run Chinook Salmon Final Population Estimate**

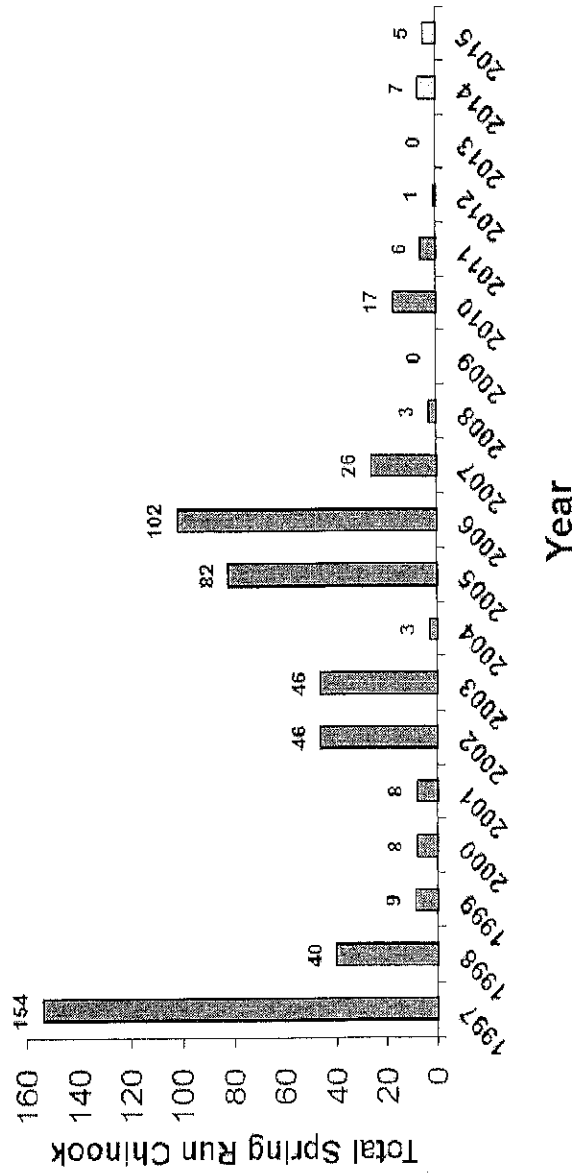
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife operates a video fish counting station on Antelope Creek, Tehama County located at Edwards Diversion Dam (river mile 4). Using video counts at obtained at Edwards Dam, a final population estimate of **5** Central Valley spring run Chinook salmon (spring run) returned to Antelope Creek in 2015. These spring run were observed passing Edwards Diversion Dam between April 13 and April 27. Attachment A provides annual Antelope Creek spring run population estimates 1997 through 2015. Between 1997 and 2013 Antelope Creek spring run population estimates were based on snorkel survey counts. Spring run population estimates in 2014 and 2015 are based on video counts.

Attachment A.

Annual Antelope Creek Central Valley spring-run Chinook population estimates 1997 through 2015.

ec: Messrs. Curtis Milliron and Daniel Kratville  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
[Curtis.Milliron@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Curtis.Milliron@wildlife.ca.gov), [Daniel.Kratville@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Kratville@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Attachment A.** Antelope Creek Central Valley spring run Chinook salmon population estimates for years 1997 through 2015. Population estimates for 2014 and 2015 (light bars) are based on video counts obtained at Edwards Diversion Dam. Population estimates prior to 2014 (dark bars) were based on counts obtained during annual snorkel surveys.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Memorandum

To: Files

Date: August 18, 1997

From: Department of Fish and Game - Inland Fisheries Division

Subject: 1997 Antelope Creek Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Survey


On 30 July 1997 Antelope Creek was snorkel surveyed for holding adult spring-run chinook salmon. Sections surveyed include: north fork from McClure Place to south fork confluence; south fork from Round Mountain Creek to north fork confluence; main stem from north and south fork confluence to 2 miles downstream of Paynes Creek crossing.

Participants included: John Sutliff, DFG; Colleen Harvey, DFG; Julie Kelley, Sierra Pacific; Robert Compton, USFS; Howard Brown, USFS; Andrew Jensen, USFS; Rob Miller, USFS.

No adult spring-run salmon were observed. Visibility was excellent in riffles and pools. The road crossing over Antelope Creek at Paynes Place appeared passable to adult salmon. Participants were also asked to look for steelhead/rainbow trout more than 16 inches total length. No trout in this size class were observed. Two small mouth bass were observed in the reach below Paynes Creek crossing. Yellow legged frogs were observed in the south fork and in the main stem sections.

The Department of Fish and Game has been conducting spring-run salmon surveys in Antelope Creek since 1989. The past nine years of salmon counts suggests that Antelope Creek does not have a self-sustaining population of spring-run chinook salmon.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Spring-run counted</u>
1997	0
1996	1
1995	7
1994	0
1993	3
1992	0
1991	0
1990	1
1989	2
88	4
87	0
86	1

  
Colleen D. Harvey  
Associate Fishery Biologist