



July 13, 1994

Mr. James R. White
Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear Mr. White:

On June 3, 1994 I forwarded to you a copy of a letter I had sent to Bob May of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation concerning the review of the draft of TM 0875-1, entitled Conceptual Development of Pumping and Siphoning Lake Cachuma Water Releases Over Bradbury Dam. A copy of TM 0875-1 was attached. On June 9, the TM was presented to the Central Coast Water Authority Operating Committee. Several representatives of the Cachuma Project Member Units raised concerns regarding the need to document our agreement on the project.

As you know, a separate effort is on-going to study fisheries issues in the Santa Ynez River. Cindy Chadwick of your organization has been working over the past several years with Member Units on these studies. A new Memorandum of Understanding on the subject has just been executed to continue these studies. In addition to that significant dedication of resources, the Member Units are incurring the substantial costs associated with the EIS/EIR that is being prepared for the purpose of renewing the contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for delivery of water from the Cachuma Project. A major part of the effort in developing that document will be the study of fisheries issues in the Santa Ynez River.

It is our understanding that DFG is concerned that if releases were to be made in the future into the Santa Ynez River, and if those releases contained State Water Project water, that the State water potentially may cause an "imprinting" problem for young steelhead trout if any are present. In my conversations with you last February and March, you developed a water mix criterion which is intended to avoid creating an impediment to future efforts under the MOU mentioned above. This criterion stated that no more than 50% of any release would consist of State Water Project water. This criterion was developed by DFG to allow the CCWA project to have maximum flexibility to meet any release criteria which might be developed in the future, when the final result of the fisheries studies are known. *

As discussed in the Bureau of Reclamation administrative Final EA/FONSI for the Santa Ynez Extension, and in particular the document entitled Potential Effects of State Water Project Discharges on Steelhead Trout prepared by SAIC, there is no evidence currently available to establish that the proposed pump/siphon project is currently necessary. No such mitigation project is recommended in the EA.

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Santa Ynez River Water
Conservation District,
Improvement District #1

Summerland County
Water District

Associate Member

La Cumbre Mutual
Water Company

1933 Cliff Drive
Suite 12

Santa Barbara
California 93109

805/962-3294

805/962-6934 FAX

CACHUMA MEMBER UNITS EXB. NO. 273

Page 2

Nevertheless CCWA has agreed with DFG that design flexibility must be maintained at this point in time so that if the MOU fisheries studies result in a finding that the imprinting concern is credible, the appropriate mixing criterion can be met after CCWA's project is completed.

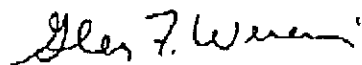
As a result of our initial study efforts, we selected the Pump/Siphon method as the conceptual method which allows the 50% criterion to be met, causes the least environmental impact and appears to have the lowest cost. In your April 28, 1994 letter to me you agreed with our assessment. As a result of this apparent consensus of opinion, we proceeded to prepare TM 0875-1 which develops the Pump/Siphon concept in some detail. The conceptual design was prepared to confirm that the Pump/Siphon is feasible, acceptable to the owner of the Dam and does not present any significant environmental effects. The Bureau of Reclamation will use TM 0875-1 to evaluate the concept. If approved by the Bureau of Reclamation, we envision rapid completion and approval of the EA/FONSI.

I believe we have agreement that if it is established through the fisheries studies that a mixing criterion is necessary, that criterion will be met. We agree that no further work needs to be done to implement the Pump/Siphon project until the MOU fisheries studies demonstrate a need to do so, at which time CCWA will be prepared to implement this release method or another release method which will not exceed the 50% mix criterion.

We would appreciate confirmation from DFG that the foregoing accurately reflects our agreement on this matter. In the absence of any communication from you to the contrary, we will proceed with our plan of action as outlined above.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter over the past several months. If you want to discuss this or any other matter relating to the CCWA project, please call me at (805) 962-3294.

Sincerely,



Glen F. Weien
Program Manager

GFW:gfw

cc: Dan Mashada