

VIA EMAIL 5-13-2011

To Whom It may concern : My Family has lived in Big Sur Since 1965. We owned Glen Oaks Restaurant from 1965-1975. We lived on Doris Fee's Property at Juan Higuera creek. I grew up living, breathing & loving the Big Sur River. I've seen it at it's Highest & Lowest, Fires & Drought. My total years living next to the River were from 1965-1998. My experience of Fishing, swimming, hiking, etc. is more than a week long study- this was from childhood to adulthood. There are some very unique quality's about this River. Over the years man has made a huge impact on the fisheries. From about a mile from the mouth, to up beyond the Gorge, is becoming a dead zone. The saving grace to this is why i am writing this letter- The lagoon & upstream at Molera. This habitat is what is keeping the few Salmon & Steelhead Species alive today. The Tides affect this area up to a half miles upstream. We have seen Perch feeding in the first part of the lagoon & Steelhead (late August ) Feeding at high tide in the Ocean. There is a year round population of Steelhead in the lagoon area. I believe endangered Frog species as well, Who need the brackish water to breed. If More Water was to be pumped from this aquifer, It could damage the year around flow of the River. Just South of Molera Station, there is a steep grade in the River bed. At the bottom of this to the mouth, the water could dry up, if the ground water were depleted. I think the El Sur Ranch has been doing fine with the water they all these years. In Addition the the Molera Pumphouse, They have two small year around creeks & a spring they have been using for Cattle. This is between Molera & Point Sur. Plus additional water from the Little Sur River Watershed. I acknowlege they have a lot of land. They have kept most of it Pristine, But i believe this is unacceptable. The only reason for this is future Development. My Brother Byron Caught quite a few Silver Salmon during the first rains. I have seen full grown Steelhead (8-10 lbs) come up the River with the first rains early September. & in the lagoon in the Summer. During the Drought in 76-77 the River came up 6-12 inches. We had steelhead stranded in every pool below the State Park. Not just a few.. Big Sur Campground had maybe 100 fish between the two pools. This would most likely be on record as several people were cited for snagging many fish. Also at Juan Higuera up to St. Francis Church at least another hundred. My point being there is a year around population & this intertidal zone is extremely important to 100 + miles of Big Sur River Watershed. A Truly unique & irreplaceable resource., please let it be !

Sincerly, Brett C. Shadwell