



June 10, 2013

Amber Villalobos
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Dear Ms. Villalobos:

This is being written regarding P.G. & E.'s environmental document and draft water quality certification for the re-licensing of their DeSabra-Centerville Hydroelectric Project in Butte County.

For the past 20 years many parties along Butte Creek have worked together to restore the spring run salmon in Butte Creek. No party has worked harder than P.G. & E. to revive the salmon run in Butte Creek. They were in a unique position to do so because of the water they divert from the West Branch of the Feather River and bring over to Butte Creek. This is accomplished by using a series of canals and flumes they maintain and manage at no small expense to their company. Without their efforts and Feather River water, the salmon in Butte Creek would never have recovered to the point where 20 years ago there were a hundred to a few hundred returning salmon and now there are annually eight thousand to fifteen thousand returning salmon. Butte Creek is looked as a model on how to successfully restore a salmon run. As I understand it all available spawning areas in Butte Creek are currently being used by the salmon and the system is at maximum carrying capacity. In other words even if there were more salmon they would not have a suitable place to spawn. There may not even be adequate or additional cool water to allow increased numbers of salmon to over-summer in larger groups in the heat and heat-storms of the Sacramento Valley without suffering very high mortality rates.

I am satisfied with the environmental documents and review and I encourage your Board to expedite P.G. & E.'s request for license renewal that allows them to continue to use their DeSabra-Centerville Hydro System in the way it was designed to be used. This system is proving necessary habitat for salmon and needed electricity for California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Les Heringer, Jr.', written over a large, oval-shaped blue ink stamp.

Les Heringer, Jr.
Manager

cc: Gretchen Umlauf
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

Tracy McReynolds
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife

