

# State Water Resources Control Board



**Linda S. Adams**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

## Executive Office

**Tam M. Doduc, Board Chair**  
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**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

October 8, 2008

Mr. Mike Chrisman, Chair  
Ocean Protection Council and  
Secretary, California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Chrisman:

### LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME'S INSTREAM FLOW PROPOSAL

I would like to offer the support of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for the California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) proposal to the Ocean Protection Council entitled *Identification of Instream Flow Needs for Coho Salmon and Steelhead in California Coastal Streams*. The proposed instream flow studies will be used by DFG to develop instream flow recommendations on priority coastal streams.

The State Water Board updated its Strategic Plan on September 2, 2008. The Strategic Plan lays out the State Water Board's goals and strategic actions for the period 2008 to 2012. Goal 3.3 of the Strategic Plan is:

*Ensure that adequate stream flows are available for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat while meeting the need for diversions of water for other uses.*

As specified in the strategic actions for that goal, the State Water Board is committed to working with DFG and other watershed partners to initiate the development of one minimum streamflow proposal to be brought before the State Water Board for consideration by December 2010 and up to two additional proposals by 2012. DFG has specified to the State Water Board those priority streams for which DFG will set streamflow recommendations.

**California Environmental Protection Agency**

Mr. Mike Chrisman

-2-

October 8, 2008

Should you or your staff have any questions in this matter, please contact me or Victoria Whitney, State Water Board Deputy Director for Water Rights, at (916) 341-5302, or [VWhitney@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:VWhitney@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Dorothy Rice  
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Craig J. Wilson, Manager  
State Water Planning Program  
California Department of Fish and Game  
830 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

✓ Mr. Robert W. Holmes  
Water Branch  
Instream Flow Program  
California Department of Fish and Game  
830 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Ms. Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for Environmental Protection  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
1001 I Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Cindy Tuck  
Undersecretary  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
1001 I Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

***California Environmental Protection Agency***



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>  
RMPD/Water Branch  
830 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811



November 10, 2008

Mr. Mike Chrisman, Chair  
Ocean Protection Council and  
Secretary, California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR INSTREAM FLOW PROPOSAL

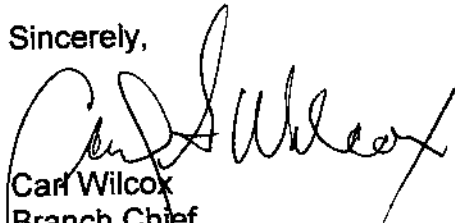
Dear Mr. Chrisman:

Department of Fish and Game (Department) staff will coordinate development and implementation of the four stream flow projects identified in the "In-stream Flow Assessments" proposal of the Ocean Protection Council Staff Recommendation dated November 20, 2008. The Department intends to use the technical data reports developed from each stream flow study to develop flow recommendations to protect fish and wildlife.

The Department will transmit the flow recommendations to the State Water Board, consistent with the Department's obligations pursuant to Public Resources Code 10000-10005 and pursuant to commitments made in the April 2008 Settlement Agreement between Coastkeeper and the Department.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (916) 445-1231 or Robert Holmes, Instream Flow Coordinator, Water Branch, at (916) 324-0838.

Sincerely,



Carl Wilcox  
Branch Chief  
Water Branch

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISH, AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
FAX: (530) 752-4154

ONE SHIELDS AVENUE  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8751

September 30, 2008

Drew Bohan, Executive Policy Officer,  
California Ocean Protection Council,  
1416 Ninth Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Sacramento, California 95814.

Dear Mr. Bohan:

I would like to offer my support for the concept proposal being submitted to COPC entitled *Identification of Instream Flow Needs for coho salmon and steelhead in California Coastal Streams*. The proposed work will provide much needed information on these declining salmonids. The coho salmon in particular is on the verge of extinction in large parts of its native range. I can appreciate the importance of this work because I am currently completing a major status report for all California salmonids, which includes review of literature, reports, and opinions on the status and biology of salmon and steelhead. I am also involved in a study of the Shasta River which is very compatible with study in the proposal. Basically, there is a need to develop a scientifically supported flow regime for all rivers on the state from which there are major diversions, which if, of course, most of our rivers. I think this study will be a major step in the right direction, by not only developing flow regimes for some key rivers but by developing information that will be transferable to developing flow regimes for other rivers.

Sincerely,

Peter B Moyle  
Professor, Fisheries



October 16, 2008

Mike Chrisman, Chair  
 Ocean Protection Council  
 Resources Agency  
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
 Sacramento, California 95814.

Dear Mr. Chrisman:

The undersigned groups are writing to offer our support for the proposal being submitted to the California Ocean Protection Council titled *Identification of Instream Flow Needs for Coho Salmon and Steelhead in California Coastal Streams*. The proposed work will provide much needed information on flow conditions and enable informed restoration planning for these anadromous salmonids, particularly for river systems like the Santa Maria, Sisquoc, and Cuyama rivers that are suffering from inadequate streamflow regimes and a lack of information about historic and current migration flow conditions.

Our organizations are dedicated to improving flow regimes and steelhead passage in the Santa Maria River system. Specifically, we are concerned that current water releases from dams and groundwater extraction do not provide adequate streamflows for steelhead migration to and from the Sisquoc River, a Santa Maria River tributary in the Los Padres National Forest. Without enough water at the right time, it is difficult or impossible for steelhead to migrate upstream from the ocean to prime spawning habitat in the Sisquoc River.

We think this study will provide the data critical to reestablishing adequate flow regimes for this watershed, and others like it in our region. It is a necessary step to restore steelhead runs to a watershed that likely has one of the greatest potentials to restore a large, self-sustainable run of wild steelhead south of San Francisco. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

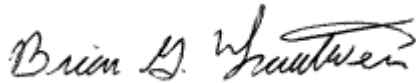
[signature page follows]



Jeff Kuyper, Executive Director  
Los Padres ForestWatch  
PO Box 831  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102  
(805) 617-4610  
jeff@LPFW.org



Brian J. Johnson, Director & Staff Attorney  
California Water Project  
Trout Unlimited  
1808B 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
bjohnson@tu.org  
(510) 528-4772



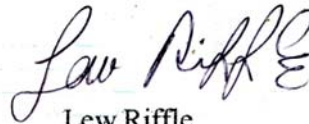
Brian Trautwein, Environmental Analyst  
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Gordon R. Hensley, San Luis Obispo  
COASTKEEPER  
Environment in the Public Interest  
EPI-Center, 1013 Monterey St., Suite 202  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
(805) 781-9932



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605  
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In Reply Refer To:

OCT 14 2008

Mike Chrisman, Chair  
Ocean Protection Council  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Chrisman:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office would like to offer our support for the concept proposal being submitted to the California Ocean Protection Council entitled *Identification of Instream Flow Needs for coho salmon and steelhead in California Coastal Streams*. The proposed work will provide much needed information on these anadromous salmonids. Our office has been developing information for developing flow regimes on Central Valley rivers, but there is also a need to develop scientifically supported flow regimes for coastal streams. We think this study will be a major step in the right direction, by not only developing flow regimes for some key rivers but by developing information that will be transferable to developing flow regimes for other rivers.

Sincerely,

*Acting for*   
M. Kathleen Wood  
Assistant Field Supervisor

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IN AMERICA 



PO Box 3156, Fremont, CA 94539  
(510) 770 9764 [www.cacoastkeeper.org](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org)

Humboldt  
Baykeeper

November 12, 2008

Inland Empire  
Waterkeeper

Mike Chrisman, Chair and Members  
California Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Klamath  
Riverkeeper

Monterey  
Coastkeeper

**VIA EMAIL:** [COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov](mailto:COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov)

Orange County  
Coastkeeper

**Re: OPC Meeting, November 21, 2008, Item #9: In-Stream Flow Assessments**

Russian  
Riverkeeper

Dear Chair Chrisman and Council Members:

San Diego  
Coastkeeper

The California Coastkeeper Alliance (CCKA or Alliance) and its 12 member Waterkeepers work to protect the health of the California coast from the Oregon border to San Diego. On behalf of the Alliance, I am writing in strong support of the proposed OPC expenditures for four in-stream flow assessments in three coastal rivers.<sup>1</sup> As is noted in the staff report, CCKA took legal action over the past two years to ensure that the state conducts long-overdue stream flow assessments in accordance with Public Resources Code Sec.s 10000 *et seq.* This information is critical to protecting the health of salmonid populations, which have been crashing in recent years due to increasing stress on our coastal waterways. In addition to helping develop flow regimes for some key rivers, the proposed studies also will develop information that will be transferable to developing flow regimes for other coastal rivers.

San Luis Obispo  
Coastkeeper

Santa Barbara  
Channelkeeper

Santa Monica  
Baykeeper

CCKA suggests that, if it is possible while the flow assessments are being conducted, that the researchers also consider investigating key water quality issues that might need attention in the named rivers. For example, the Big Sur State Park Sewage Treatment Plant, and/or contributions from septic tank leach fields close to the Big Sur River, may be contributing to waterway health problems in the Big Sur that could potentially be identified along with flows.

Ventura  
Coastkeeper

The funding proposal is fully consistent with the OPC's draft 2009-10 Program Priorities and will provide much needed information to reverse the trend of rapidly declining salmonid populations. We commend the OPC's actions to protect salmon populations, and urge your approval of this item. Thank you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Sheehan".

Linda Sheehan  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> [http://resources.ca.gov/copc/11-20-08\\_meeting/09\\_In%20Stream%20Flow/0811COPC\\_04%20Instreamflow.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/copc/11-20-08_meeting/09_In%20Stream%20Flow/0811COPC_04%20Instreamflow.pdf).