CALIFORNIA OCEAN
PROTECTION COUNCIL

Staff Recommendation
June 10, 2005

Klamath River Sediment Study

Developed By: Michael Bowen

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration of the Klamath River Sediment Study, and possible: 1) determination that it is a high priority project, and 2) authorization for the Council's Secretary to take actions needed to provide for its implementation.

OCEAN or COASTAL LOCATION: The Klamath-Trinity River system is the second largest river system in California, and enters the Pacific Ocean at the town of Klamath, located along the border of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

The Klamath River Hydroelectric Project, subject of this proposal, is located on the Upper Klamath River in north-central California. The purpose of the study is to provide information essential to the development of management recommendations for the Klamath River that are consistent with the recovery of habitat for anadromous fish and other aquatic species found in the watershed.

AGENCY OR ENTITY RECOMMENDING PROJECT: State Coastal Conservancy; National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Game, State Water Resources Control Board, County of Humboldt, American Rivers, and others.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Project Location and Site Maps

Exhibit 2: Letters of Support

RESOLUTION:

"The Ocean Protection Council finds pursuant to Sections 35600 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code that the Klamath River Sediment Study, as herein described, is of high priority for ocean conservation and authorizes its Secretary to take actions necessary for its planning or implementation, including the allocation of up to $350,000 of ocean protection funds reserved by the Coastal Conservancy for use in this study."

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the proposed sediment study is to assist with current efforts to thoroughly assess the risks and benefits of various habitat enhancement efforts associated with the reclicensing of the Klamath River Project, a hydroelectric development comprised of seven mainstem Klamath dams and one tributary dam, all of which are located on the upper Klamath River.

The Klamath River used to be one of the most productive salmon rivers in the Pacific Northwest. The historic range of salmon abundance for the Klamath-Trinity River system is estimated at 650,000 to one million fish. This fishery sustained thousands of fishing jobs in northern California and southern Oregon, and supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they are also part of a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have fallen to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, with devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of salmon return this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council recently cut harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay, California to Coos Bay, Oregon because of the precarious state of Klamath salmon stocks. These cuts could cause a loss of more than $100 million to the commercial fishing industry, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

The Klamath River Project dams, owned by PacifiCorp, block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic habitat in the upper basin. The possibility of removing Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydro developments and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

The environmental review will take into consideration a variety of project alternatives including ranging from no action to the addition of fishways at the dams and likely full decommissioning of the project altogether. As part of the relicensing process, Pacificorp has hosted a stakeholders forum to discuss project management alternatives, including the installation of fishways and decommissioning of the project.

However, the consideration of alternatives is hampered by the lack of a clear understanding of the nature of the sediment found behind the dams, or of alternatives to the current operating regime of the Klamath River Project. While the quantity of sediment is generally known, the particle size and composition of the sediment is not as well understood. These factors would significantly affect possible water quality impacts of various alternatives, as well as costs associated with alterations to the existing infrastructure of the Klamath River Project.

The proposed sediment study would expedite the collection of information essential to the development of management recommendations for the Klamath River that are consistent with the recovery of habitat for anadromous fish and other aquatic species found in coastal watersheds. The State Coastal Conservancy would fund and manage the study to provide information to the stakeholder forum that is essential to the consideration of management alternatives for the Klamath River dams.

PROJECT FINANCING

Possible Funding Sources:	
Coastal Conservancy	$350,000
NOAA (in kind)	50,000
Total Project Cost	**$400,000**

On May 18, 2005, the State Coastal Conservancy reserved up to $5,000,000 of its available funds to be expended in concert with the Council for programs and projects that the Council finds to be of high priority, and that are also consistent with the Coastal Conservancy's project criteria, priorities, and funding sources. Conservancy staff is recommending consideration at the Conservancy's next public meeting on June 16 of funding authorization that would provide for professional consulting services to study deposits behind Klamath River dams, and to obtain additional information needed to evaluate relicensing alternatives for the Klamath River Project. NOAA has also committed substantial in-kind support for the project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CALIFORNIA'S OCEAN ACTION STRATEGY: The proposed project is consistent with action item 13 in that it addresses restoration of threatened habitats, water quality and other impacts from development (see Action Strategy pg. 32).

CONSISTENCY WITH OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL'S INTERIM PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

Mandatory Criteria

1. **Furthers the following statutory purposes and policies of the Ocean Protection Act:**
   - **Improves management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems:** The Klamath basin is 10,040,354 acres, approximately half of which flows through California to its confluence with the Pacific Ocean at the town of Klamath. **T**he aquatic resources and habitat quality of river and stream channels within the basin are inextricably linked. Barriers to fish passage affect coastal resources such as salmon regardless of barrier location within the watershed. The anadromous fish populations that spend part of their life history at sea, and part within the upper watershed reside for extended periods outside of the coastal zone, and therefore depend upon free passage within a watershed to fulfill their life history. Just as these resources could be enhanced by project modifications, such as the provision of fishways or decommissioning, so, too, could aquatic resources be threatened by the unanalyzed or unplanned release of sediments into the aquatic environment.
   - **Encourages those activities and uses that are consistent with sustainable, long-term protection and conservation of ocean and coastal resources:** The collapse of the Klamath River salmon fishery has devastated tribal fisheries and coastal dependent industries, such as commercial fishing fleets. The recovery of Klamath River salmon populations will provide a sustainable, long-term ocean resource that in turn supports a

sustainable, coastal dependent commercial fishing industry in California, as well as Tribal fisheries throughout the Klamath watershed.

- **Promotes aesthetic, educational and recreational uses of the coast and ocean**: Sport and commercial fishing provides an important social and economic benefit to the State of California, and contributes nearly $6 billion to the State economy annually.
- **Improve monitoring, data gathering, and advances in scientific understanding of the ocean and coastal environment:** The very purpose of this proposal is to improve our understanding of possible water quality effects on the riverine, estuarine, and ocean environments resulting from a variety of enhancement measures at the Klamath River dams.
- **Improves the health of fish and fosters sustainable fisheries in ocean and coastal waters:** Providing salmon access to high quality, but previously truncated habitat is the most effective way to recolonize lost habitat and restore healthy populations. Investigating the sediment located behind the Klamath dams will help determine the feasibility of providing access to quality habitat located above the dams, now inaccessible to salmon and steelhead.
- **Helps to integrate and coordinate the state's laws and institutions responsible for protecting and conserving ocean and coastal resources:** The widespread support for this study is the best indication that the overall health of the watershed is the domain and concern of many agencies, institutions, and organizations. Providing this basic information will assist all of these entities in their efforts to participate more effectively in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission proceeding, thereby coordinating their foundation for exercising their respective authorities.
- **Helps to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific data:** Many State interests have expressed the desire to obtain this information. By leading the effort to collect the data, the Conservancy will ensure a coordinated and unbiased data collection effort on behalf of the Klamath River Project Stakeholders Process.

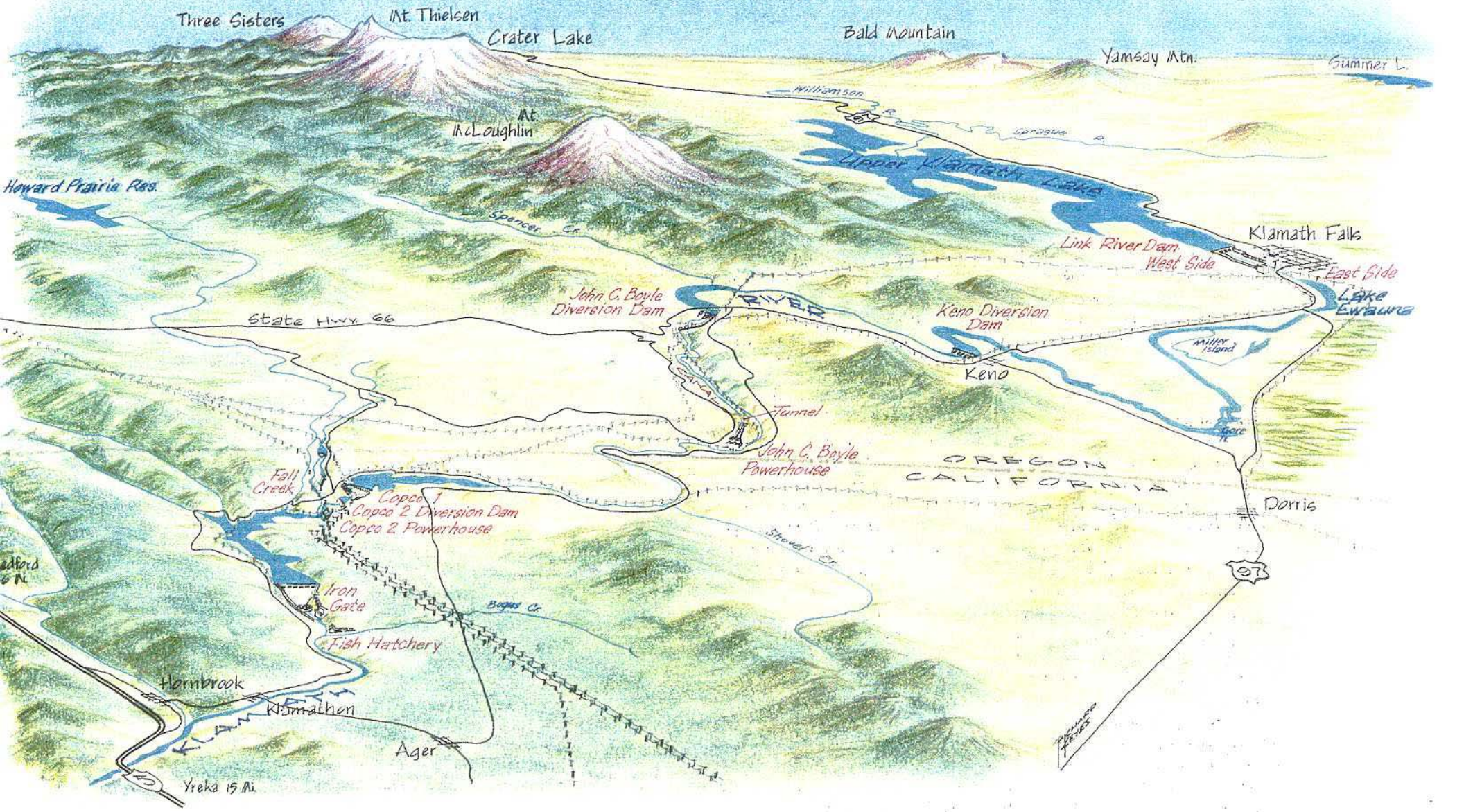
2. **Consistent with the purposes of the funding source:** See Project Financing Section above.
3. **Has demonstrable support from the public:** The project is broadly supported by elected officials, local government, State and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and others. Letters of support are attached as Exhibit 2.
4. **Relates directly to the ocean, coast, associated estuaries, and coastal-draining watersheds:** This project will take place in the upper portions of California's second-largest coastal draining watershed, and will concern the study of sediment deposits that have a high potential to affect California's nearshore coastal waters, depending on the outcome of the current FERC proceeding
5. **Has greater-than-local interest:** The public trust value of California's salmon and steelhead populations is of international interest, and is a natural legacy too precious to lose.

Additional Criteria

1. **Helps implement the California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy and other priorities of local, state or federal advisory groups, or scientific or policy reports, adopted by the council**: See Consistency with California's Ocean Action Strategy, above.
2. **The project has an element of urgency (there is an immediate threat to a coastal/ ocean resource from development or natural or economic conditions, a pressing need, or a fleeting opportunity):** The future health of the coastal-draining Klamath River depends upon the outcome of the current FERC relicensing proceeding. Similarly, the ongoing FERC proceeding, and development of an adequate Environmental Impact Statement, depends upon the thorough collection of information and consideration of possible project management alternatives. Since this proceeding is expected to be completed within one year, and since no sediment study has been conducted, the provision of such information will fulfill an urgent need in the proceeding.
3. **The project helps resolve more than one issue:** The development of any preferred alternative in the FERC proceeding depends on the results of the sediment study. In addition, the protection of the lower Klamath Basin water quality and the nearshore waters from massive and potentially catastrophic sediment inputs also depends on this information.
4. **The project is ready to implement (grantee or contractor will start and finish the project in a timely manner):** Conservancy staff expects that contractor selection and completion of work can occur prior to 2006.
5. **The project involves a combination of local, state, or federal agencies or is a public/private partnership:** While the Conservancy is the primary funder, the entire Klamath River Project Stakeholder Group, which includes state and federal agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and others, has contributed to the development of a proposed scope of work now under consideration by Conservancy staff.

KLAMATH RIVER PROJECTS - PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

VIEW LOOKING NORTHEASTERLY



M. Bowen

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

June 13, 2005

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
Attention: Mr. Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Avenue, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The U.S. Department of the Interior is writing to recommend that the California Coastal Conservancy support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams. Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath Basin. The Department is participating in relicensing proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and in confidential discussions on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed.

The Department has made working towards long-term solutions in the Klamath Basin a priority, and committed significant resources to that effort. In 2002, President Bush created the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group, which includes the Secretaries of the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce, and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. In 2004, the Department joined with the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, and the States of California and Oregon in signing the Klamath River Watershed Coordination Agreement, which targeted efforts to address complex environmental, tribal, and agricultural Klamath Basin issues. Recent presidential budget initiatives have led to unprecedented investments in habitat restoration and water management and improvement projects and programs for the Klamath River Basin to help Klamath communities restore their watershed and avoid future water supply crises.

By funding the proposed study, the California Coastal Conservancy would be providing key information on sediments and helping fill an important information gap. These, in turn, will aid in basin-wide decision making. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED
JUN 16 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

William D. Bettenberg
Director, Office of Policy Analysis

MIKE THOMPSON
1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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(202) 225-3311

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June 15, 2005

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the California Coastal Conservancy proposal to study the composition of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams operated by PacificCorp.

The PacificCorp hyrdro power project is undergoing relicensing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The hydropower dams they operate on the lower Klamath River block access to over 300 miles of historic spawning habitat for salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish. Removal of the dams could have a significant impact on anadromous fisheries. Because decision makers in the FERC proceeding lack the information necessary to determine whether removing the dams are feasible, the proposed sediment study would provide extremely valuable information. The study would assess the character of the sediments and help to determine how to manage the sediments following dam removal.

The Klamath River was formerly one of the most productive salmon rivers in the Pacific Northwest. The FERC proceeding presents an historic opportunity to review the impact of dam removal. Confidential negotiations among the key stakeholders are underway to help reach a settlement agreement on whether or not the hydropower project should be re-licensed. The Coastal Conservancy sediment study would provide essential information at a critical juncture in the negotiations.

The proposal enjoys widespread support and I urge the Conservancy's favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

MT:lm

STANDING COMMITTEES:
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW, CHAIR
AGRICULTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICES
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California State Senate

SENATOR
WESLEY CHESBRO
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BUDGET, CHAIR
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COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS & OUTREACH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES & MENTAL HEALTH, CHAIR
MOBILE & MANUFACTURED HOMES

June 8, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As the Senator for California's Second Senate District, I am writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to actively support the proposed study of sediments trapped by the dams on the Klamath River.

Once, one of the most productive salmon rivers in the lower 48 states, the Klamath River sustained thousands of fishing jobs in Northern California and Southern Oregon. The Klamath salmon harvests also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they are also part of a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have fallen to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, with devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities.

PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic habitat in the upper basin. The possibility of removing Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. I understand that FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

I believe strongly that decision-makers in the FERC proceeding do not have adequate information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap in understanding the issue is the physical and chemical nature of the reservoir sediments. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

WESLEY CHESBRO
State Senator, Second District

WC:zg

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Assembly
California Legislature

PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
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APPROPRIATIONS
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WATER, PARKS & WILDLIFE

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CALIFORNIA PORTS
CALIFORNIA WINE
COASTAL PROTECTION
EARTHQUAKE SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS
ELDER ABUSE
RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

June 9, 2005

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, I am writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support the proposed study of sediments trapped by the dams.

The Klamath River used to be one of the most productive salmon rivers in the Pacific Northwest. The historic range of salmon abundance for the Klamath-Trinity River system is estimated at 650,000 to one million fish. This fishery sustained thousands of fishing jobs in northern California and southern Oregon, and supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they are also part of a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have fallen to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, with devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of salmon return this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council recently cut harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the precarious state of Klamath salmon stocks. These cuts could cause a loss of more than $100 million to the commercial fishing industry, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

The Klamath River Project dams, owned by PacifiCorp, block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic habitat in the upper basin. The possibility of removing Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will

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Assembly
California Legislature

PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

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JOINT COMMITTEE:
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COASTAL PROTECTION
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ELDER ABUSE
RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

assess retiring some or all hydro developments and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding do not have adequate information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap in understanding the issue is the physical and chemical nature of the reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what sediment management approach would be required, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving all key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is highly likely this information would never be developed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patty Berg

Patty Berg, Assembly member
1st District

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

June 7, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway Avenue, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

ATTN: Michael Bowen

Dear Chair Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceedings for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, urges the California Coastal Conservancy to support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers in the Pacific Northwest and has sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. As anadromous fish, Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In contrast to the Sacramento River's projected record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay, California to Coos Bay, Oregon because of the precarious state of Klamath salmon stocks. These cuts represent an economic loss of more that $100 million to the Northcoast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams, operated by PacifiCorp, block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath Basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) current relicensing proceedings. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric developments and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceedings lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what sediment management approach would be required, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations through the PacifiCorp Klamath Project Settlement Negotiation Group, involving key stakeholders in the Klamath basin, are underway. Their goal is to reach a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. Funding by the Coastal Conservancy of the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Roger Rodoni

Roger Rodoni, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

RR/kr

YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548

June 9, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a Tribal government participating in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, I am writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support the proposed study of sediments trapped by the dams.

Klamath salmon have supported the health, culture and livelihoods of the Yurok Tribe since time immemorial. Today, Klamath salmon populations have fallen to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, with devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, this year in the Klamath, the allocation for the tribal fishery is far from meeting the subsistence needs of the Yurok people and *no* tribal commercial harvest is expected.

PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic habitat in the upper basin. The possibility of removing Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydro developments and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding do not have adequate information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap in understanding the issue is the physical and chemical nature of the reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what sediment management approach would be required, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

As you are likely aware, the Coastal Conservancy and the Yurok Tribe have enjoyed an innovative and productive partnership since 1996. As part of the Lower Klamath River Partnership, the Conservancy, Yurok Tribe, Green Diamond Resources (formerly Simpson) and a host of other federal and state agencies have conducted extensive planning, assessment and

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restoration of the Lower Klamath coastal tributaries. We feel that in order for this effort to continue producing positive results into the future, the Conservancy should take this opportunity to support this multi-stakeholder effort in addressing solutions for the mainstem Klamath. The Tribe would also like to emphasize the time-critical importance of the proposed study. The FERC is scheduled to make its decision by next year. We would strongly urge that the Conservancy, should it decide to fund this critical study, expedite its contracting process with as little administrative burden as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Howard McConnell

Howard McConnell
Chairperson, Yurok Tribe

Hoopa Valley Tribal Council

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE

Regular Meetings on the First and Third Thursday of Each Month

P.O. Box 1348 • HOOPA, CALIFORNIA 95546 • Phone 625-4211 • Fax 625-4594

Clifford Lyle Marshall
Chairman

June 7, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, a federally recognized sovereign Indian Tribe is writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers on the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the vulnerable Klamath salmon stocks mix in the ocean with populations from other rivers. These cuts represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is highly unlikely this information would ever be developed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chairman Clifford Lyle Marshall
Hoopa Valley Tribal Council

Karuk Tribe of California

Department of Natural Resources
Post Office Box 282
Orleans, CA 95556
(530) 627-3446 Fax (530) 627-3448

Administrative Office
Post Office Box 1016
Happy Camp, CA 96039
(530) 493-5305 Fax (530) 493-5322

Karuk Tribal Health Clinic
Post Office Drawer 249
Orleans, CA 95556
(530) 627-3452 Fax (530) 627-3445

June 3, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Although the Karuk Tribe is considered a stakeholder in the on going Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicencing proceedings, we are a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe; therefore, we consider our participation and involvement in Klamath River issues to be more than that of a stakeholder, but rather as a Federal Trust Responsibility. As you may know the Karuk Tribes Ancestral Territory is locate directly down river from Iron Gate Dam and as a result has suffered greatly from operations of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project. The Karuk Tribe has been an active participant in the traditional FERC relicencing proceedings and has taken a strong position regarding the need for dam decommissioning. Although we firmly believe that decommissioning is an essential component of the restoration of Klamath River fisheries, we also believe that our position must be grounded in sound science. In order to provide a key scientific component to validate our position, we are writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River once supported the third largest salmon run in North America. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of the Karuk, Yurok, Hoopa and Klamath Tribes. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. The Klamath River salmon sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Today, Klamath River Fall Chinook salmon populations have plunged to less than 8 percent of historic numbers, and Coho Salmon are only 1 percent of pre-dam populations; this loss in the salmon population has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities.
In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay, California to Coos Bay, Oregon because of the vulnerable Klamath salmon stocks mix in the ocean with populations from other rivers. These cuts

represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the FERC relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is highly unlikely this information will ever be developed.

The Karuk Tribe would appreciate the California Coastal Conservancy to support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams. Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have and questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at (530) 627-3446 ext. 13 or stripp@karuk.us.

Sincerely,

Sandi R. Tripp

Sandi R. Tripp
Director of Natural Resources
and Environmental Policy

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802- 4213

JUN 9 2005

150304SWR02SR8505:DKW

Douglas Bosco
Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This concerns the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath Hydroelectric Project dams. An important goal of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service is to ensure that the processes of negotiation, public disclosure and environmental review will result in decisions that provide for full and adequate protection, mitigation and enhancement of anadromous fish and other resources affected by the Klamath Hydroelectric Project. Accordingly, I am writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support the proposed study of sediments trapped by the dams.

The Klamath River was formerly one of the most productive salmon rivers in the lower 48 states and sustained thousands of fishing jobs in northern California and southern Oregon. Estimates put the historical range of salmon abundance for the Klamath-Trinity River system at 650,000 to 1 million returning adults. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they are also part of a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have fallen to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, with devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, the Pacific Fishery Management Council recently cut harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay, California to Coos Bay, Oregon because of the precarious state of Klamath salmon stocks.

PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic habitat in the upper basin. The possibility of removing Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydro developments and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding do not have information for a full consideration of relevant resource issues associated with removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap in understanding these issues is the physical and chemical nature of the reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what sediment management approach would be required, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed

study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information to assist in determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving all key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the California Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide important information for reaching agreement at a critical point in the negotiations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Valerie L. Chambers
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA -- THE RESOURCES AGENCY Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
45 FREMONT STREET, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200

June 6, 2005

Mike Chrisman, Secretary
Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

I am writing to urge the California Ocean Protection Council to support the proposed study of sediments trapped by the dams on the Klamath River.

The Klamath River used to be one of the most productive salmon rivers in the lower 48 states and sustained thousands of fishing jobs in northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they are also part of a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have fallen to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, with devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of salmon return this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council recently cut harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the precarious state of Klamath salmon stocks. These cuts could cause a loss of more than $100 million to the commercial fishing industry, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic habitat in the upper basin. The possibility of removing Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) re-licensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydro developments and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a re-licensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding do not have adequate information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap in understanding the issue is the physical and chemical nature of the reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what sediment management approach would be required, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving all key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is highly likely this information would never be developed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Hansch, Chief Deputy
for

PETER DOUGLAS
Executive Director

CC: Doug Bosco, California Coastal Conservancy
Sam Schuchat, California Coastal Conservancy
Michael Bowen, California Coastal Conservancy
Bob Merrill, California Coastal Commission

State of California The Resources Agency

Memorandum

To: Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway Avenue, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

ATTENTION Mr. Michael Bowen

Date: June 8, 2005

From: **L. RYAN BRODDRICK**, Director
Department of Fish and Game
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Memorandum of Support, Proposed Sediment Study, Within and Downstream of PacifiCorp's Klamath River Hydroelectric Project

I am writing to express the California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) support for the timely funding and implementation of the proposed sediment study within and downstream of PacifiCorp's Klamath River Hydro Electric Project.

PacifiCorp owns and operates a major hydroelectric project on the Klamath River in Northern California and Southern Oregon which includes 5 dams and 5 reservoirs on the main stem Klamath River. Currently, the DFG is consulting with PacifiCorp and numerous other stakeholders in an effort to craft balanced conditions for a new project license. In addition, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on the future of the Klamath hydropower project, confidential negotiations involving all key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway. A fundamental step in the relicensing and negotiation process is gathering site specific information to document current impacts of the hydroelectric project and predict the likely consequences of various alternatives.

One critical data gap that has not been addressed to date involves the quantity and quality of sediment stored behind the hydroelectric dams. The character of the stored sediments will dictate future sediment management options and could dramatically affect the costs of any alternatives involving dam decommissioning. Throughout this relicensing process the DFG has emphasized the importance of seriously considering decommissioning some or all of the PacifiCorp dams to benefit the anadromous fish resources of northern California and southern Oregon. DFG's analysis of existing information indicates that decommissioning PacifiCorp's facilities would reestablish access to hundreds of miles of habitat for salmon and steelhead. However, decision makers currently do not have adequate information to evaluate the feasibility of removing some or

all of the Klamath dams. The proposal to characterize the physical and chemical nature of sediments trapped behind PacifiCorp's dams would provide invaluable data for State and Federal resource agencies responsible for restoring and enhancing native anadromous species.

In conclusion, the information gained from the proposed sediment studies would provide essential guidance in developing responsible alternatives for restoring the anadromous fishery of the Klamath River while minimizing environmental risks and uncertainties. Without funding from the California Coastal Conservancy, this information may never be developed and dam removal as a salmon restoration strategy may never receive adequate consideration. Therefore DFG urges the California Coastal Conservancy to support the proposed study of sediments trapped by the PacifiCorp dams.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum of support, please contact Mr. Donald B. Koch, Regional Manager, Northern California North Coast Region, (530) 225-2300.

cc: Mr. Donald B. Koch, Regional Manager
Ms. Anne Manji, Environmental Scientist
Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights
1001 I Street, 14th Floor ♦ Sacramento, California 95814 ♦ 916.341.5300
P.O. Box 2000 ♦ Sacramento, California 95812-2000
Fax: 916.341.5400 ♦ www.waterrights.ca.gov

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

JUN - 9 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

KLAMATH HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT SEDIMENT STUDY

The Klamath Hydroelectric Project (Project) is currently undergoing relicensing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). PacifiCorp cannot obtain a new license from the FERC until they obtain water quality certification (section 401 of the Clean Water Act) from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). Issuance, or denial of water quality certification is important to protecting the beneficial uses of the Klamath River. The Klamath River was one of the most productive salmon rivers in the Pacific Northwest. The historic range of salmon abundance for the Klamath-Trinity River system is estimated at 650,000 to one million fish. This fishery sustained thousands of fishing jobs in northern California and southern Oregon, and supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Declines in the Klamath River fishery can be linked to water quality impairments, including blockage of access to over 300 miles of historic fish habitat upstream of Iron Gate Dam.

The State Water Board will be required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act prior to taking action on water quality certification. The State Water Board will be evaluating a range of alternatives during the environmental review process for the Project including dam removal. The information generated from the proposed sediment study is critical to evaluating the impact of a dam removal alternative. At the current time State Water Board staff do not have adequate information to determine the feasibility of removing Project dams. The most significant gap is the quantity and physical and chemical nature of the reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what sediment management approach would be required, and whether dam removal is feasible.

Furthermore, confidential negotiations involving all key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath Hydropower Project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, this information may never be developed, or will be developed too late to support settlement.

Please contact me at (916) 341-5341 if you need more information.

RECEIVED
JUN 13 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Sincerely,

Russ J. Kanz
Staff Environmental Scientist

Bowe

825 N.E. Multnomah St.
Portland, OR 97232

PACIFICORP

June 14, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

It is my understanding that the Conservancy is considering studying the removal of PacifiCorp's dams on the Klamath River. I thought it might be helpful if the Conservancy understood PacifiCorp's position on the proposed dam decommissioning study plan.

PacifiCorp, the owner and operator of the 151-megawatt Klamath Hydroelectric Project, is one of the West's leading investor-owned utilities, serving 1.5 million customers in six Western states. The Klamath Project is a valuable source of clean, renewable power for our customers. As such, we have a vested interest in the proposed study.

As you may be aware, PacifiCorp is engaged with stakeholders in settlement negotiations as part of the process of obtaining a new operating license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Relicensing participants have indicated they believe the results of the proposed decommissioning study are critical to inform their decision-making. Relicensing participants also recognize there are many other important questions not addressed in this study plan that would need to be answered to fully evaluate the benefits and costs of dam removal. It is important to note that no decision with respect to removal of any of the Klamath dams has been made.

PacifiCorp is not endorsing the study. However, we understand and appreciate other parties' interest in the study. It is important to us that the study is conducted as objectively and completely as possible. Therefore, we hope you will consider our request to participate actively and fully in all aspects of any study effort that might move forward. Given our special status as project owner, we would like to review the evolving work plans and study results, with access to data and split samples as they're collected. We look forward to reviewing and providing comments on study conclusions and recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration of the parties' request. We hope this information has been helpful. Please don't hesitate to call me at (503) 813-5535 or Toby Freeman at (503) 813-6208, if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Robin Furness
Vice President, PacifiCorp

BRINGING RIVERS TO LIFE

American Rivers
FOUNDED 1973

June 7, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, American Rivers urges the California Coastal Conservancy to fund the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers on the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the vulnerable Klamath salmon stocks mix in the ocean with populations from other rivers. These cuts represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack some important information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and

1025 VERMONT AVENUE, N.W. • SUITE 720 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3516
(202) 347-7550 • (202) 347-9240 FAX • www.americanrivers.org

chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is unlikely this information would ever be developed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Fahlund
Vice President for Protection & Restoration

June 08, 2005

Submitted via Facsimile

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

World Wildlife Fund, the globe's largest conservation organization with over 1.2 million members in the United States alone, has been a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams since 2001. We are writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to strongly consider providing the necessary funding for a proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers on the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fishing jobs and the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. In addition to the sociao-economic benefits these fish have provided the region both historically and recently, these fish bring large quantities of nutrients from the ocean to rivers and streams, sustaining many terrestrial and aquatic species, including riparian forests. However, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to 10 percent of their historic numbers, having devastating consequences for the ecosystem, tribes, and coastal fishing communities. The socioeconomic reach of these poor salmon runs in the Klamath River extends to the entire north coast of California and southern Oregon as fish management regulations are formulated to protect the weakest stock that swims in those waters—in this case, Klamath River fish. As a consequence, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon with an estimated economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commercial fishing industry.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other migratory fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. The potential for removing of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some

World Wildlife Fund
116 Lithia Way, Suite 7 Ashland, OR 97520
Tel: (541) 482-4878 Fax: (541) 482-4895
www.worldwildlife.org
Affiliated with World Wide Fund for Nature

or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap in the process is an understanding of the physical and chemical nature of accumulated reservoir sediments behind each structure. The character of the sediments will determine the sediment management approach, the single issue that drives dam removal costs. The study, under review for funding by the Coastal Conservancy, would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is highly unlikely that this information will ever be developed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Barr

Brian R. Barr
Program Officer, Wildlands Restoration
World Wildlife Fund, Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion

Charlton H. Bonham
Trout Unlimited
828 San Pablo Avenue, Suite 208
Albany, CA 94706

June 7, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, Trout Unlimited is writing to respectfully request that the California Coastal Conservancy support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers on the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the vulnerable Klamath salmon stocks mix in the ocean with populations from other rivers. These cuts represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable. In addition, as with many FERC relicensings, settlement is often the outcome. Thus, it is possible that stakeholders in this relicensing could reach a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. The proposed study would produce information useful for that possibility as well. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is highly likely this information would never be developed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Charlton H. Bonham
California Counsel
Trout Unlimited

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

915 20th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
916/442-3155 • FAX: 916/442-3396 • E-mail: info@friendsoftheriver.org • www.friendsoftheriver.org

June 6, 2005

CALIFORNIA'S STATEWIDE RIVER CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservanc y
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholde r in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp' s Klamath River dams, Friends of the River is writing to urge the California Coastal Conservanc y to support funding for the propos ed study of sediments trapp ed by Klamath River da ms.

The Klamath River w as one of the most producti ve salmon rivers on the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fi shing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, cultur e and livelihoods of Native Americ an tribes from the coast to the upp er Klamath basin, some 2 50 miles inland. B ecause Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the oc ean, they contribute to a health y ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunge d to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has ha d devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a r ecord number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council redu ced harvest levels for all salmon b y up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because the vulnerable Kl amath salmon stocks mix in the ocean wi th populations from other rivers. These cuts represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commer cial fishing industry alone, and the National Oc eanic and Atmospheric Administration is consid ering declaring an economic disaster as a r esult.

Klamath River dams ope rated by PacifiCorp bloc k salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from rea ching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klam ath River dams as a m eans of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consider ation in the F ederal Energy Regulatory Commission (F ERC) relicensing proceeding since 2000. FERC has completed scopin g for its Environmental Impact Statement for the proje ct, which will assess retirin g some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational ch anges, and ex pects to issue a relic ensing decision in Decemb er 2006.

Decision-make rs in the FERC proceedin g lack su fficient information to det ermine the feasibilit y of removing Klamath dams. The most sig nificant gap is determi ning the physical and chemic al nature of the ac cumulated res ervoir sediments. The cha racter of the sediments will determine what app roach is requir ed to mana ge sediments, which coul d dramaticall y affect the potential costs of dam removal. Th e proposed study directly addresses this gap and provides de cision-makers inform ation that is critical to determinin g whether removing Klamath dams is advisab le.

CALIFORNIA TROUT

KEEPER OF THE STREAMS

June 3, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, California Trout is writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers on the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the vulnerable Klamath salmon stocks mix in the ocean with populations from other rivers. These cuts represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would

the Northcoast Environmental Center

7 June 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy, ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, the Northcoast Environmental Center is writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to grant funding to study sediments trapped behind the Klamath River dams.

The Klamath-Trinity River was once the third–most productive salmon river on the West Coast, providing many thousands of fishing jobs on North Coast of California and Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported Indian tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, more than 250 miles upstream. Because these fish spend up to three years in the ocean, they also contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Klamath salmon populations, now however, have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, adversely affecting tribes and coastal fishing communities. The Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon this year to protect weak Klamath stocks. The move represents an economic loss of more than $100 million to the North Coast commercial fishing industry alone and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon and other anadromous fish from reaching some 350 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations is a serious topic of consideration in thePacifiCorp Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding.. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

As well, PacifiCorp has convened confidential negotiations among key Klamath baisn stakeholders in the Klamath basin to achieve an agreement as to what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study could provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tim McKay, executive director

TM/me
CC: Congressman Mike Thompsen, Senator Wes Chesbro, Assemblymember Patty Berg

575 H STREET ~ ARCATA, CA 95521
(707) 822-6918 – Fax (707) 822-0827 ~ email: tim@yournec.org

WATERWATCH

PROTECTING NATURAL FLOWS IN OREGON RIVERS

June 13, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Funding Klamath River Dams Sediment Study

Dear Mr. Bosco:

WaterWatch is writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams. The proposed sediment study would provide timely information essential to informed decision-making over the fate of these dams. WaterWatch is an Oregon river conservation organization of approximately 900 members. WaterWatch is a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams and has been working on Klamath Basin water issues for the last decade.

The Klamath River, located in both California and Oregon, was once one of the most productive salmon rivers on the West Coast. Klamath salmon have supported the health, culture and livelihoods of several Native American tribes and coastal fishing communities from Coos Bay, Oregon to Fort Bragg, California. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities.

The PacifiCorp dams on the Klamath River keep Klamath River salmon and steelhead from their historic spawning areas in Oregon and California reducing the productivity of the whole basin. Currently there is a unique opportunity to consider removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations as a result of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams. There currently is insufficient information on the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments, which is essential to appropriate decision-making and consideration of the dam removal option. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

Funding from the Coastal Conservancy is critical to the timely development of this important information so that this opportunity to restore Klamath salmon is not lost.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

WaterWatch
Robert G. Hunter, Staff Attorney

Main Office: 213 SW ASH ST. STE. 208 PORTLAND, OR 97204 TEL: 503-295-4039 FAX: 503-295-2791
Field Office: 27 NORTH IVY ST. MEDFORD, OR 97501 TEL: 541-772-6116 FAX: 541-779-0791
Visit us at: www.waterwatch.org

Northern California/Nevada Council Federation of Fly Fishers

June 9, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for the PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, Northern California Council, Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF) is writing to respectfully request that the California Coastal Conservancy support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by the Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers in the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Kamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in the ports from Half Moon Bay, California, to Coos Bay, Oregon, because of the vulnerable Klamath salmon stocks mix in the ocean with populations from other rivers. These cuts represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the north coast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the

feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed sudy would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable. In addition, as with many FERC relicensings, settlement is often the outcome. Thus, it is possible that stakeholders in this relicensing could reach a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. The proposed study would produce information useful for that possibility as well. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is highly likely this information would never be developed.

Thank you for your consideration and time for review.

Sincerely,

C. Mark Rockwell, D.C.

Dr. C. Mark Rockwell, D.C.
V.P. Conservation, Northern California Council,
Federation of Fly Fishers
19737 Wildwood West Dr.
Penn Valley, CA 95946

Klamath Forest Alliance
HCR 4- Box 610
Forks of Salmon, CA 96031

Salmon River Restoration Council
PO Box 1089
Sawyers Bar, CA 96031

June 8, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
ATTN: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway Ave., 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a stakeholder in the ongoing relicensing proceeding for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams, the Klamath Forest Alliance and the Salmon River Restoration Council are writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support funding for the proposed study of sediments trapped by Klamath River dams.

The Klamath River was once one of the most productive salmon rivers on the West Coast, and sustained thousands of fishing jobs throughout northern California and southern Oregon. Klamath salmon also supported the health, culture and livelihoods of Native American tribes from the coast to the upper Klamath basin, some 250 miles inland. Because Klamath salmon spend up to three years in the ocean, they contribute to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Today, Klamath salmon populations have plunged to less than 10 percent of historic numbers, and this has had devastating consequences for tribes and coastal fishing communities. In fact, while the Sacramento River is expected to see a record number of returning salmon this year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council reduced harvest levels for all salmon by up to 50 percent in ports from Half Moon Bay California to Coos Bay Oregon because of the vulnerable Klamath salmon stocks mix in the ocean with populations from other rivers. These cuts represent an economic loss of more than $100 million to the northcoast commercial fishing industry alone, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering declaring an economic disaster as a result.

Klamath River dams operated by PacifiCorp block salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish from reaching more than 300 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Klamath basin. Potential removal of Klamath River dams as a means of restoring Klamath salmon populations has been a topic of consideration in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceeding for these dams since 2000. FERC has completed scoping for its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, which will assess retiring some or all hydroelectric facilities and potential operational changes, and expects to issue a relicensing decision in December 2006.

Decision-makers in the FERC proceeding lack sufficient information to determine the feasibility of removing Klamath dams. The most significant gap is determining the physical and chemical nature of the accumulated reservoir sediments. The character of the sediments will determine what approach would be required to manage sediments, which could dramatically affect the potential costs of dam removal. The proposed study would directly address this gap and would provide decision-makers information that is critical to determining whether removing Klamath dams is advisable.

In addition, confidential negotiations involving key stakeholders in the Klamath basin are underway, with the aim of reaching a settlement agreement on whether and under what conditions the Klamath hydropower project should be relicensed. If funded by the Coastal Conservancy, the proposed sediment study would provide information essential to reaching agreement at a critical juncture in negotiations. Without funding from the Coastal Conservancy, it is highly likely this information would never be developed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Petey Brucker

Petey Brucker
Klamath Forest Alliance – River Program Coordination
Salmon River Restoration Council – Community Restoration Program Coordinator