



Supplement to 10/21/13 MPWMD Board Packet

Attached are copies of letters received between September 9 and October 15, 2013. These letters are also listed in the October 21, 2013 Board packet under item 17, Letters Received.

Author	Addressee	Date	Topic
Jeffrey R. Single, Ph.D.	David J. Stoldt	9/16/13	Sleepy Hollow Steelhead Rearing Facility Fish Release and Carmel River Steelhead Rescues
Janet Reimers	David J. Stoldt	10/7/13	Suggest Comparison Study of Costs of Desalination Plant vs. Dam on Carmel River

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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 Central Region
 1234 East Shaw Avenue
 Fresno, California 93710
 (559) 243-4005
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
 CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



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SEP 20 2013

MPWMD

September 16, 2013

David Stoldt
 General Manager
 Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
 Post Office Box 85
 Monterey, California 93942

Subject: Sleepy Hollow Steelhead Rearing Facility Fish Release and Carmel River Steelhead Rescues

Dear Mr. Stoldt:

This letter follows the September 12, 2013 email to Kevan Urquhart of your staff, to formally present the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) position on the above-referenced topics.

At the Quarterly Water Meeting Supply Strategy and Budget Meeting: October to December 2013 (held on September 10, 2013), staff from your agency and California American Water Company, as part of the agenda, presented information on flow releases from Los Padres Reservoir, operation of Sleepy Hollow Steelhead Rearing Facility (SHSRF), and continuing spot steelhead rescues on the river. These three topics were discussed in the context of seriously low flow conditions in the river due to the early and limited storm season this Water Year, coupled with an unexplained and significant (~31% which is higher than normal), loss of water between Los Padres Dam and SHSRF.

It was reported that sustaining the current rate of release from Los Padres Reservoir over the next couple of months has the potential to significantly impact reservoir water quality by creating conditions for increased erosion, leading to poor water quality both in the reservoir and downstream where water is released. In addition, despite the erosion potential, sustaining current releases results in a low pool, which will likely result in diminished water quality (e.g. dissolved oxygen, water temperature, etc.). In either case, poor water quality could lead to a fish kill in the reservoir, impacting steelhead since existing documentation shows steelhead rear there.

It was also reported that the water loss between the dam and SHSRF has created a situation at the facility where the intake and pump system are at a point of minimum function. Should there be a greater loss of flow resulting in the inability to divert water at the intake and/or a failure of the pumps, these conditions would jeopardize the survival of fish in the facility. As it was reported to take two to three weeks to release the fish in the facility, every day fish are left there, they are in jeopardy of dying since the infrastructure is compromised by low flow.

Current flow release from Los Padres Dam cannot be sustained much longer without diminishing water quality and risking a fish kill. However, flow releases cannot be reduced so long as steelhead are at SHSRF and the infrastructure is currently functioning minimally due to

Dave Stoldt, General Manager
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
September 16, 2013
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low flow. At the meeting three options for dealing with the situation were discussed and tabular data were presented for each option. Of those options discussed, the Department approves beginning the release of all steelhead immediately, recognizing that it would not be until the end of the month or early October before the release could be accomplished.

In addition, it was reported at the meeting that the District is continuing to do spot fish rescues. There was no discussion at the meeting whether rescue activity should continue given the current circumstances at SHSRF. However the Department supports discontinuing fish rescues for the following reasons:

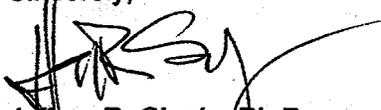
1. SHSRF is at a point of minimal function now due to low water flows, adding more fish would only increase the number of fish at risk should flows drop below the ability to maintain the facility.
2. Rescuing stressed and possibly diseased fish (especially fish with microscopic disease) and moving those fish to another river location has the potential to introduce stress and diseased fish into populations of healthy fish in the river, and would put healthy fish at risk.
3. Lower than normal river flow has reduced the amount of available habitat. Releasing SHSRF steelhead is a priority. Fish rescued downstream that cannot be quarantined due to shutting down SHSRF should not be introduced on top of fish from the facility and known to be disease free.

Recognizing that there are other agency approvals that must be obtained for releasing SHSRF fish and discontinuing steelhead rescues, consider this letter the Department's approval for both activities, so you can move forward immediately without further approval from us. As has been the case with all other activities, please keep us informed when you have the other necessary approvals, and when you begin releases from SHSRF and cease rescues.

While we are providing approval for specific conditions that need attention now, the Department supports beginning a general discussion regarding how to proceed in the future when global warming and climate change have the potential to create the current flow conditions more frequently.

If you have any questions, our primary point of contact is Margaret Paul, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (831) 649-2882 or Margaret.Paul@wildlife.ca.gov. I can be reached at our Fresno Headquarters at (559) 243-4005 ext. 154.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Single, Ph.D.
Regional Manager

cc: See Page Three

Dave Stoldt, General Manager
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
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cc: Eric Sabolsice, Jr.
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ec: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
D. Marston, Environmental Program Manager
D. Michniuk, Environmental Scientist

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Janet Reimers

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OCT 07 2013

MPWMD

Mr. Dave Stoldt
Manager, MPWMD
5 Harris Court
Monterey, CA
93940

Dear Mr. Stoldt:

Several months ago, you were interviewed for an article in the Carmel Pine Cone. In that article, you were quoted as saying, "If I could go back to 1995, I think we could have funded the dam with what are called certificates of participation instead of revenue bonds, and done that without a vote. And we wouldn't be in this position now. For less than \$150 million back then, you'd have something that requires no major operation and maintenance, would be gravity fed, and provide water of very, very good quality."

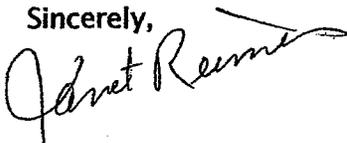
I was moved by the logic of your comment in that process of supplying water to the area and saddened that we seem to be so far away from that solution. While the question that I am about to ask will likely be naive, I will still ask.

Has there been any suggestion of doing an up to date evaluation of the comparative cost/environmental impact vs quantity/quality of resulting supply (cost per customer included) between the desalination plan (including the additional components) and a dam (including the same additional components of the desal plan)? Now that it is recognized that the desal plant will have some environmental issues, isn't it time or over due to provide a comprehensive comparison of the two primary options? So much more is understood about the desal plant and the extreme cost and residue that I can't help but wonder how those issues versus the impacts of a properly designed dam would compare. Also, the resulting quality and cost of the water might be even more acceptable. If the fish are the major deterrent, I recall, as an Oregon native, seeing the salmon climb the fish ladders at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River. Painful as it was for a child to watch, salmon were doing the same thing in other streams throughout the state.

Primarily, is there going to be a comparison study made between a dam and desal now that more is known about desalination; cost, residue, quality of end product?

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,



*PO Box 6295
Carmel by the Sea, CA 93921*

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