



Southwest Region  
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David Young  
Bureau of Reclamation  
South-Central California Area Office  
2666 North Grove Industrial Drive, Suite 106  
Fresno, California 93727-1551

Dear Mr. Young:

Thank you for sending the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) the additional information requested in its May 7, 1999 letter regarding consultation on the Cachuma Project. The NMFS finds the information received sufficient for beginning consultation. The information was received on June 14, 1999, therefore, NMFS considers the consultation to have been initiated on that date. The NMFS will issue a biological opinion on the effects of the Cachuma Project on endangered steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and will include a conference opinion for proposed steelhead critical habitat affected by the Cachuma Project.

The NMFS recommends that the BOR also reinstate consultation on the seismic retrofit project at the Cachuma Project. On-going activities associated with the seismic retrofit continue to present possible adverse effects to steelhead that were not considered in the original conference opinion. In addition, NMFS has not yet had the opportunity to completely evaluate the relocation of approximately 800 young-of-the-year and several adult steelhead to an area near the temporary road crossing used by the seismic retrofit project. Finally, the Hilton Creek water supply line is mitigation for the seismic retrofit project and the BOR also intends its use to be evaluated as part of the Cachuma Project. The NMFS has agreed to evaluate its use (including operations and maintenance) as part of the Cachuma Project, but will need to re-examine the seismic retrofit project to properly account for the water supply line's mitigation, operations, and maintenance.

Sincerely,

*Rodney R. McInnis*

Rodney R. McInnis  
Acting Regional Administrator



TOTAL P.02