

**State Water Resources Control Board (Board), Cachuma Project Hearing Phase 2,
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Water Rights Permits 11308 and 11310**

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Rebuttal Witness, Penny Ruvelas,
Outline of Testimony**

**NMFS' Final Recovery Plan for Endangered Southern California Steelhead,
General Considerations**

Qualifications

- Currently NMFS Southern California Office Supervisor over both regulatory and recovery implementation activities of NMFS Southwest Region (SWR) for steelhead, among other species.
- Previously, supervised final stages of development of public draft and final Southern California steelhead Recovery Plan
- Previously, Regional Section 7 Coordinator with review and oversight of all biological opinions in SWR for 10 years
- Statement of qualifications attached

Recovery plan for Southern California steelhead

- Background/requirements for recovery plans
 - o Purpose of Recovery Plan
 - o Endangered Species Act requirements
- Plan development process
 - o Two phase approach: Technical Recovery Team products and plan development
- Overview of plan components
 - o threats assessment
 - o recovery goals and criteria
 - o recovery strategy
 - o recovery actions
 - o research and monitoring

Relevance of final recovery plan to the hearing/Board's decision

- Alternatives in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) are based on NMFS' existing Biological Opinion (2000), which is under re-initiation.
- Based on the information included within the recovery planning and implementation process, a re-initiated consultation may result in Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives and Reasonable and Prudent Measures that differ from the existing Biological Opinion.
 - o Threats assessments
 - o Species viability
 - o Recovery goals for species

- Role of Santa Ynez River population
 - Recovery strategy
 - Passage and Instream Flows
 - Recommended recovery actions
 - Santa Ynez River actions
- The plan provides information relevant to Boards's determination about the public trust.
 - One of the project objectives of the FEIR is protecting public trust resources, including but not limited to steelhead.
 - The final recovery plan contains information regarding the long-term recovery of the species to a viable condition to support various aspects of the public trust, including fishing and the preservation of ecological conditions to support self-sustaining populations for their own inherent value, public enjoyment, and scientific study.
 - The final recovery plan contains information to support decision-making about the necessary strategies and actions needed to effect the recovery of the species to the point where these beneficial uses of the public trust can be attained.