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MEMO

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To: Santa Ynez River Technical Advisory Committee

From: Ramona Swenson

Date: August 11, 1998

Re: Summary of June and July Public Workshops

EXHIBIT CT 27**June 10 & 11 - Overview of SYRTAC Fisheries Studies and Management Alternatives**

The first workshop series was held in June 10 and 11 in Buellton and Santa Barbara. The results of the Fish TAC's fisheries studies were presented and potential alternatives that will benefit fish habitat were described. The goal of the Fish TAC studies is to develop an overall fisheries management plan for the river, which will be presented to the State Water Board in hearings scheduled for the year 2000.

Participants at both workshops provided thoughtful questions and comments that were pertinent to the discussion of the State Water Board process and the steelhead listing. In Buellton, concern was expressed over several issues including: private property rights, downstream water rights, water supply, the effect of State Water Project water releases into the river through alternate release points, effect of certain alternatives on river wells, and impact on recreational fishing. Some questioned the ability to restore steelhead to the Santa Ynez River system given the natural variability of the climate and stream hydrology. The technical and practical feasibility of some alternatives was questioned, particularly trap-and-truck operations that would move fish to and from the upper watershed. There were also several good suggestions made regarding the need to evaluate the system as a whole, variations on a couple of the alternatives, and the value of adopting a local Fish Management Plan to avoid imposition of a plan by the federal government. Voluntary actions such as conservation easements and creating additional habitat were also discussed.

Participants at the Santa Barbara meeting generally agreed that an overall Fish Management Plan was needed. Some of the same issues were raised at this meeting, although the questions were focused more on expanded explanations of how the alternatives being suggested would help restore steelhead and enhance habitat. There was interest in parameters that affect steelhead such as water temperature and flow, carrying capacity of the tributaries, effect of trap and truck operations on fish, and how to estimate fish yield.

July 8 - Public Input on Management Alternatives

At the request of people attending the June meeting, a second workshop was held on July 8 in Buellton to solicit public comments from landowners, sportfishing interests, environmental interests, and other interested parties on the proposed management actions. Copies of the Management Alternatives Report had been provided or made available prior to this workshop. Many of the participants had read through the report and came prepared with comments and ideas. About forty members of the public participated in the lively discussion, and the comments were recorded (see below).

In the latter half of the workshop, participants had an opportunity to individually rate the various alternatives using dots on large posters. Each person was provided with 10 "positive" votes and 5 "negative" votes to allocate as they pleased. Three other potential actions were also included, based on the earlier discussion: building a new dam below Bradbury Dam, improving water quality conditions (e.g. treated effluent), and a novel fish ladder design. The results of the ratings are provided below in Table 1.

The alternatives that received the highest positive ratings included: the Hilton Creek siphon, the Fish Reserve Account, extending the channel of lower Hilton Creek. Other highly rated actions included a fishing moratorium below Bradbury, surcharge of the reservoir for fish releases, fish supplementation via hatchery or broodstock from the upper basin, conservation easements, riparian enhancement along tributaries, improving water quality, passage barrier removal, a fish ladder at Bradbury, conjunctive use of water rights releases with Fish Reserve Account, and some predator removal.

The alternatives that generated the strongest negative ratings included alternate release points along the mainstem from the SWP pipeline, a wild steelhead hatchery (which also got some positive votes), and purchase of water rights to improve tributary flow.

Table 1 - Ratings of Santa Ynez River Fisheries Management Alternatives
(note: participants each had 10 "yes" votes and 5 "no" votes)

Alt #	Management Alternatives	Ranking	Alt #	Management Alternatives	Ranking
MAINSTEM BELOW DAM			FISH SUPPLEMENTATION		
Flow-Related Measures			21.	Wild steelhead hatchery	10 Y 19 N
1.	Conjunctive use of water rights releases with Fish Reserve Account	9 Y 1 N	22.	Use broodstock upstream of Bradbury Dam for supplementation below dam	11 Y 1 N
2.	Alternate release points along mainstem from State Water Project pipeline	7 Y 23 N	TRIBUTARIES BELOW DAM		
4.	Fish Reserve Account to supply additional flow releases to mainstem and Hilton Creek	15 Y	Flow-related Measures		
5.	Surcharge reservoir to gain additional water for releases	11 Y	25.	Purchase water rights to increase tributary flow	2 Y 15 N
Habitat Enhancements			26.	Pump/siphon Lake Cachuma water to Hilton Creek	17 Y
9.	Mainstem stream channel modifications	1 Y	Habitat Enhancements		
10.	Instream structures (e.g. boulders) in mainstem	4 Y	30.	Place gravel in tributaries to enhance spawning habitat	5 Y
11.	Place gravel in mainstem to enhance spawning habitat	1 Y 1 N	31.	Conservation easements	10 Y
24.	Spawning channels along mainstem	5 N	32.	Enhance riparian (streamside) vegetation to provide cover and shade stream	10 Y 3 N
12.	Conservation easements along mainstem	9 Y	33.	Extend channel of lower Hilton Creek to create new habitat	14 Y 2 N
Fish Passage			Fish Passage		
13.	Passage barrier removal in mainstem	9 Y	34.	Passage barrier removal in tributaries	9 Y
Predator Removal			FISH PASSAGE AROUND LAKE CACHUMA VIA TRAP & TRUCK		
19.	Remove warmwater fish below Bradbury Dam	8 Y 1 N	39. & 45.	Trap & truck adults upstream around Lake Cachuma and outmigrating juveniles downstream	6 Y 4 N
FISHING REGULATIONS			40. & 46.	Trap & truck outmigrating juveniles downstream around Lake Cachuma	6 Y 3 N
20.	Fishing moratorium in basin below Bradbury Dam	12 Y 1 N			
NEW ACTIONS PROPOSED AT WORKSHOP					
	Roundtower design fish ladder	9 Y			
	Improve water quality	10 Y 1 N			
	New dam below Bradbury	1 Y 1 N			

