

# VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*Conserving Native Wildlife and their Habitats*

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February 22, 2011

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, California  
95812-2000

Subject: Big Sur River Hearing



To whom it may concern:

The Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of native wildlife and their habitats. In addition, VWS operates as a concession to California State Parks within Andrew Molera State Park monitoring bird population trends and providing nature awareness educational programming. We have not conducted any research relative to wildlife populations as it relates to water diversions, stream flow, or other topics related to the permit application in question.

The El Sur Ranch offers foraging habitat for free-flying California Condors originally released by VWS. Large cattle ranches in general are important foraging areas to condors by providing occasional large animal carcasses upon which the birds feed. The El Sur Ranch is specifically providing benefit to this species in the Big Sur region. The track record of this ranch providing public benefit in this regard is worth mentioning in our opinion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Sorenson".

Kelly Sorenson  
Executive Director