

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REGION 2

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May 3, 1995

Mr. Robert Thomas, Executive Director
City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning
5770 Freeport Boulevard, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95822

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Thank you for an opportunity to review the Sacramento Area Water Forum Agreement-in-Principle document and the Forum-Foothill Water Group Newsletter. These efforts are an important example of cooperation by all interested parties to reach mutually agreeable solutions. We look forward to meeting with you on May 31 to further discuss these issues.

As you know, the Department of Fish and Game has been an active participant in issues surrounding the lower American River for many years. As such, we would like to make several comments on the draft principles. Overall, the understandings represented in the principles appear to represent a balanced view of the concerns on the American River. There are three specific points we can discuss when we meet and that can be considered as the Water Forum proceeds.

Many of the principles in the Surface Water Section discuss the need to ensure that the solution provides protection for the public trust resources of the lower American River. We would hope that the solution would look to both protect and restore these public trust values consistent with both state policy and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

The final instream flows implemented on the river should be monitored over time with sufficient flexibility so that new biological information can be used to make management decisions as it becomes available. We believe that there is sufficient information to make management decisions to improve fisheries protection on the lower American River. However, there are many areas where information is still incomplete and additional scientific study and operational experience may indicate that some change is needed.

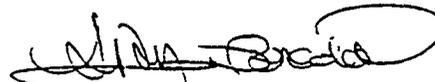
As a final point, the principles discuss points of diversion from both the lower American River and from the Sacramento River. As you know, the lower American River is a designated Wild and Scenic River which may preclude additional points of diversion in the designated reach.

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As the Water Forum proceeds to the next phase, we would suggest that close coordination occur with State and Federal agencies to ensure that the proposed solution meets both the needs of the stakeholders at the table and the trustee and regulatory agencies. We can discuss how this coordination could best be accomplished when we meet.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cindy Chadwick, Environmental Services Supervisor, at (916) 355-0267.

Sincerely,


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Regional Manager

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