



Taxpayers for Salmon Preservation

100 Main Street • Red Bluff, California 96080 • (916) 527-6220

November 25, 1992

Mr. Roger Patterson
Regional Director
United States Dept. of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

DELIVERED VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express considerable concern with the Bureau of Reclamation's plans to construct and operate the so called "Pilot Pumping Plant" and the permanent "Archimedes Screw Pump" facility at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. I am writing on behalf of the Taxpayers for Salmon Preservation, as well as the Red Bluff/Tehama County Chamber of Commerce.

The primary concern of both groups is the continued viability of all Salmon runs in the Sacramento River. It seems quite clear that 1.) several options are available for improving fish passage immediately and 2.) recent improvements for fish passage at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam have not been properly evaluated and/or reported.

We are deeply troubled that the huge amount of money allocated to installing the "Pilot Pumping Plant" and ultimately the permanent pumping plant is not being expended directly on salmon habitat or other mitigating measures, but on another gigantic construction project in and around the Sacramento River, certainly impacting the chinook salmon. In that, the Environmental Assessment (draft) is grossly inadequate as an environmental impact study, both during construction and operation phases.

I was recently in attendance at a meeting between the Bureau and the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Surprisingly, unanimous agreement existed that predation was the number one impacting factor on salmon at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. Equally surprising was the Bureau of Reclamation's refusal to conduct current predation studies, given new operating procedures (including "gates up" operations at least four months of the year) which could shed considerable light on the impact predation currently has on juvenile salmon. Further, the E.A. (draft) does not adequately address the probable predation associated with the "Pilot Pumping Plant" in and around screening areas, louvered areas, juvenile return bypasses or within pre-canal areas (i.e. desilting basins):

Naturally, these concerns are magnified when considering the permanent archimedes screw pumps.

There is also reason to suspect the Bureau's level of sincerity in installing the "Pilot Pumping Plant" for purposes of real biological evaluation. It seems very unlikely that the Bureau of Reclamation currently believes that any real analysis of the "Pilot Pumping Plant" would or could take place between October 1993 (projected operational date) and February 1994 (scheduled decision to be made on the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Permanent "fix").

We are currently urging the following, non-exclusive, list of actions:

1. Alter existing fish ladders to make them more accessible/ attractive to upstream migrants.
2. Evaluate the effect of "gatas up" operations on sqawfish populations and ultimate juvenile salmon impact.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of new juvenile bypass facilities and any other recent improvements in decreasing predation.
4. Install an accurate adult winter-run counting system (possibly sonar) to evaluate the true status of the species.
5. Generally reference, develop and report more current data from Red Bluff Diversion Dam operations as well as other comparable dam operations.

Because there are some very intelligent people around concerned about the fate of the salmon, and also concerned about the Bureau's modus operandi, there are doubtless other, cost effective and species effective, structural and/or operational alterations that could be very effective at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. We would urge the Bureau to actively pursue any realistic, reasonable and short range programs designed to preserve the salmon in the Sacramento River.

Most Sincerely;



Ken Robison
Co-Chair

cc: John Koeberer.
Jack Taylor.
Carol Sakamoto