sacramento river preservation trust

NOVEMBER 27, 1992

DEAR DAN,

THE TRUST WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S (BUREAU) DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (DEA) FOR THE PILOT PUMPING PLANT (PPP) AT RED BLUFF DIVERSION DAM (RBDD):

1) ON PAGE 19, REFERENCE IS MADE UNDER THE PPP ALTERNATIVE TO THE "CONTINUED OPERATION OF FIVE CONVENTIONAL PUMPS WITH SCREENED INTAKES (125 CFS TOTAL CAPACITY)." WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING MORE DETAIL ABOUT THESE PUMPS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO, THEIR HISTORY (WHEN INSTALLED AND WHY), LOCATION (FIGURE 1 IN THE EA DOESN'T HELP) AND HOW THEIR EFFECTS ON THE FISHERY ARE BEING MONITORED;

2) WE WOULD APPRECIATE A COPY OF THE STUDY FOOTNOTED ON PAGE 20 AND SUGGEST THAT IT BE INCLUDED AS AN APPENDIX IN THE FINAL EA;

3) THE DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY (PG. 20)

P.O. Box 5366, Chico, CA 95927
(916) 345-1050

C-089616

C-089616

IS VERY UNCLEAR TO US. MORE DETAILS WOULD BE APPRECIATED (A PARAGRAPH PER ALTERNATIVE; PERHAPS, OR MAYBE SOME FORM OF A GRAPH?);

4) UNDER "VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE" (PGS. 24-25), THE BUREAU'S COMMITMENT TO BOTH PAST MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS (REPLACEMENT OF ELDERBERRY SHRUBS) AND ANTICIPATED IMPACTS (PLEASE SEE THE LAST TWO PARAGRAPHS ON PAGE 25, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION ON THE USE OF THE WORD "SHOULD" IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH) LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED. PLEASE INDICATE WHERE THE MITIGATIONS WILL OCCUR, THEIR EXTENT AND NATURE AND WHEN THEY WILL TAKE PLACE;

5) ON THE TOP OF PAGE 30 (FIRST PARAGRAPH), THE DEA STATES THAT "THERE WOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN WATER DELIVERY" BETWEEN THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE AND THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE. PLEASE PROVIDE THE DATA TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS STATEMENT;

6) ALSO: ON PAGE 30 ("GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS"), THE PRIMARY INTENT OF THE PRP IS "TO PROVIDE A MEANS FOR CONTINUING WATER DELIVERY TO THE TCC DURING AN EIGHT MONTH PERIOD OF GATES UP OPERATION", WITH NO MENTION OF THE POTENTIAL RESEARCH BENEFITS. THE TRUST WAS OF THE UNDERSTANDING THAT

C-089617

C-089617

sacramento river preservation trust

A BIGGER PICTURE WAS AT WORK HERE. PLEASE CLARIFY; AND,

7) UNDER DISCUSSION OF THE SCOPING PROCESS (PAGE 31), IT IS STATED THAT THE DEA WAS ISSUED TO "... CONCERNED PUBLICS IN OCTOBER, 1992". THE POSTMARK ON OUR ENVELOPE READS NOVEMBER 6, 1992. A SOMEWHAT LONGER COMMENT PERIOD THE NEXT TIME AROUND WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSE TO OUR COMMENTS. PLEASE SEND ALL FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE TO OUR LETTERHEAD ADDRESS.

SINCERELY,

JOHN B. MERZ

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CC. U.S.FWS
NMFS
INTERESTED PARTIES

P.O. Box 5366, Chico, CA 95927
(916) 345-4050

C-089618

C-089618