

**Friends of the Tuolumne****2412 Hilo Lane  
Ceres, California 95307****Working for the Benefit of the Tuolumne River**

January 4, 1997

Mr. Bill Loudermilk  
Department of Fish and Game  
1234 E. Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710-7802

Dear Bill:

The Friends of the Tuolumne have studied your proposed hatchery operation plan and have decided that we must take a position opposing it.

We have attended all the stakeholders' meetings and read much material. We have discussed the hatchery with fish biologists not affiliated with the Department of Fish and Game. We have considered all your points. Biologists have raised unsettling doubts and issues.

We are not convinced that the hatchery is necessary or wise. We definitely contend that it should not be built at this time when the salmon are increasing in numbers without the hatchery. We contend that other habitat measures, some of which are outlined in the FERC Don Pedro Settlement Agreement, should be implemented before any hatchery is implemented.

We would consider supporting a hatchery to provide study fish. Please prepare and present a hatchery plan that would provide only the fish necessary for studies relating to the Tuolumne River. Perhaps 200-300,000 fish would be an acceptable number to produce as long as the proper genetic and disease protection measures are implemented.

We look forward to working with you on other measures to improve the salmon population on the Tuolumne.

Sincerely,



David M. Boucher  
President

cc: attached list

**copies sent to:****Fish Advisory Committee Members**

**George Nokes, Department of Fish and Game**  
**Jacqueline Schafer, Department of Fish and Game**  
**Steve Ford, Department of Water Resources**  
**Stephani Spaar, Department of Water Resources**  
**Rod Fujita, Environmental Defense Fund**  
**Tim Ramirez, Tuolumne Preservation Trust**