

To: Ecosystem Roundtable
From: Cindy Darling
RE: Proposal 98-A1004 Opening Up Butte Creek Canyon to Salmon and Steelhead Passage.

This proposal is an evaluation of the feasibility of opening up some barriers on the upper part of Butte Creek to salmon and steelhead passage. Some of these barriers are man-made and others are waterfalls or rockslides. There are two main concerns with the proposal. The first is the ecological impacts reintroduction of salmon and steelhead into an area which at least one report does not identify as their historical habitat. The second issue is the potential concern of landowners in the area because a listed species is involved.

The Technical Review Panel (TRP) recommended partial funding for this project at \$110,000. The Integration Panel reviewed this proposal and had several questions. They ultimately reached a consensus that the project should be approved at the TRP recommended level but this approval was conditional on the sponsor meeting with DFG, Butte Creek Conservancy, and USFWS to address their concerns as one of the first tasks of the proposal. Further funding beyond this task would be conditioned on these concerns being addressed.

Since that time, the proposal sponsor has been working to set up a meeting with USFWS, DFG, the local landowners along Butte Creek, and the Conservancy board. At the request of the Conservancy, National Marine Fisheries Service representatives will also be at the meeting. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for early November. The CALFED staff recommendation is that the Roundtable recommend approval of the project subject to the conditions promoted by the Integration Panel.

The executive summary of the project is attached.