



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ADMINISTRATION CENTER

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October 26, 1998

Ecosystem Roundtable Members
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Roundtable Members:

In reviewing the CALFED Restoration Coordination Program 1998 Funding Package Summary Table for Proposed Projects, it has come to our attention that the Institute for Fisheries Resources has submitted a proposal to open up Butte Creek Canyon to salmon and steelhead passage. We understand that this issue has been agendized for discussion at your October 28, 1998 meeting and therefore we are submitting the following letter expressing our concerns with this proposed project.

The Executive Summary of the proposed project indicates that the goal of the project is to prepare a fish passage plan for salmon and steelhead up through the far reaches of Butte Creek where there is no historical evidence indicating that this is their natural habitat. You indicate that this plan would include the removal of both natural and man-made barriers along the creek, including the removal of the Centerville Dam. A project of this magnitude presents potential flooding hazards and impacts to local water quality and supply which should be carefully reviewed prior to proceeding.

The Board of Supervisors is charged with the regulation of all land use within our county. In the interest of the health and safety of our residents, local governments are given the police power to make these land use decisions. We are alarmed that input from the Board has not been sought regarding this proposed project and that future funding is not contingent upon our review and comments.

Our research indicates that you plan to recommend partial funding of this project at this time and that future funding is being conditioned upon addressing the concerns of the Department of Fish and Game, the Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services with no mention of local government. We find it disconcerting that your program would consider funding such a large scale project at any level without first seeking local government review and comment.

In addition, although the Executive Summary indicates that support for this project has been expressed by the Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy, we question this. In fact, we have been contacted by members of the conservancy Board of Directors who have reservations regarding this project. As landowners in the upper portion of Butte Creek, many are not supportive of the expansion of the passage for salmon and steelhead because of the associated restrictions surrounding these endangered species.

In conclusion, the Butte County Board of Supervisors has repeatedly requested to have input into projects that have the potential to impact the health and safety of our residents and the local economy. We request that the Roundtable provide adequate notification to and seek proper input from the Butte County Board of Supervisors and other local leaders regarding this and all future projects within our county before any decision is made as follows: Future agendas, backup materials and comments received by any interested parties should be sent to:

Richard Price, Director
Butte County Water Division
316 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965

Thank you for this opportunity to express our concerns with the funding allocation process.

Sincerely,



Fred Davis, Chair

Butte County Board of Supervisors