



**BUTTE CREEK**  
**WATERSHED CONSERVANCY**  
 PO BOX 1611 - CHICO, CA 95927-1611  
 (530) 893-5399

26 October 1998

TO: CALFED ECOSYSTEM ROUNDTABLE Attn: Cindy Darling (916-654-9780)

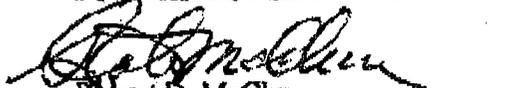
RE: PROPOSAL 98 A 1004 "Opening Up Butte Creek Canyon to Salmon & Steelhead Passage"  
 & Wednesday Oct 28, 1998 Meeting

1. This letter is to inform you that the Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy does not support the funding of this Project Study for the following reasons:
  - a. The ecological impacts of introducing salmon and steelhead into an area that is not native fishery for these species.
  - b. The negative impact of construction of fish ladders, tunnels or demolition of the many large natural barriers will have on native species already present in the area, and especially destroying the present 25' waterfall.
  - c. The enormous cost of the project's high maintenance for yearly repairs will require specific determination of responsible agency and funding from government, taxpayers, landowners, etc.
  - d. We do not believe there is an actual need for increased habitat in this area of Butte Creek.
  - e. The loss of a natural/scenic and wild area due to the many construction sites needed to complete this project.
  - f. Inadequate water flows in dry years to maintain fish accessibility to Project area. Note: 1994-95 & 1996 - 1997 were historically high water years that are not the normal situation.
  - g. The impact of introducing an endangered species will have on the local fishery and the economy, i.e. logging, tourism, recreation, hydropower, etc.
  - h. Inadequate level gravel areas for spawning exist. There would be costly disturbances to create more.
  - i. The natural flood barriers would be destroyed by this Project.

2. The record run of 1998 for Spring Run Salmon and their low mortality as reported by CDF&G Study indicates the lower Butte Creek fishery is able to sustain four times the Project goal runs without this Project.

3. The general consensus of the 18-20 local landowners living in in this Project's 11 miles is that this Project is not desired and such funds could be spent better on other Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy projects. Under any circumstances, the local landowners must grant permission to enter and have final approval authority for any actual work in this area.

FOR THE CONSERVANCY

  
 Robert D. McClure  
 Chairman, BCWC

cc: County Board of Sups.  
 IFR-Wim Grader