



California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

"An Advocate for Fisheries, Habitat and Water Quality"

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6 February 2009

Ms. Dorothy Rice
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
drice@waterboards.ca.gov

VIA: Electronic Submission
Hardcopy if Requested

RE: Proposed Urgency Petition by California Department of Water Resources and U.S.
Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Ms. Rice:

The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) has received a copy of a letter from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) informing you that they intend to submit an Urgency Petition in the near future requesting a relaxation of the X2 and San Joaquin River flow conditions of their permits.

CSPA requests that, in order to facilitate timely comments, we and all parties to the Bay-Delta hearings on D-1641 immediately be provided copies of any such Petition when received by the State Water Board.

Over the last several years, CSPA has repeatedly cautioned the State Water Board that DWR and the Bureau were cannibalizing storage from Northern California Reservoirs without regard for the likelihood of successive dry years. We urged the State Water Board to proactively pursue actions that would ensure that threatened and endangered species would not bear the consequences of gross mismanagement by DWR and the Bureau. The state and federal projects are required to operate on a multi-year timeframe that anticipates the possibility of successive dry years. DWR and Bureau contracts anticipate that water deliveries may be reduced or even unavailable under certain circumstances. While D-1641 provides for some relaxation of standards during drought conditions, DWR and the Bureau's mismanagement should not be rewarded by further relaxation, especially considering that several species are hovering on the brink of extinction. CSPA believes there is still storage in San Luis Reservoir that is available to meet X2, San Joaquin flow requirements and southern Delta salinity standards. Finally, any unilateral decision suspending X2 and river flow requirements would contravene fundamental provisions in federal endangered species biological opinions.

Thank you for considering these comments. If you have questions or require clarification, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Jennings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" being more prominent than the last name "Jennings".

Bill Jennings, Executive Director
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance