

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS

Camarillo Center

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September 7, 2011



Mr. Charles R. Hoppin, Chairman
State Water Resources Control Board
C/O Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor [95814]
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

RE: Comment Letter: Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation and California State Park Proposals: Phase 1 (Planning/Design/Engineering) & 2 (Implementation) - Arroyo Sequit Steelhead Barrier Removal Project, Leo Carrillo State Park, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Hoppin:

The California Conservation Corps strongly supports Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation's (SMBRF) and California Department of Parks and Recreation's ("California State Parks") proposals to remove three in-stream barriers on Arroyo Sequit Creek. The proposed project will remove two Arizona crossings and a check dam. Free span bridges will be installed at the Arizona crossing locations. Implementation of this project will provide access to an additional 4.5 linear miles of habitat to the federally endangered Southern California steelhead trout (*Ocorhynchus mykiss*), and improve water quality by reducing stream channel erosion and instream sediment loading problems created by the existing structures..

Since 2004, the Camarillo Center has been involved in developing and implementing restoration projects to benefit endangered Southern California Steelhead trout in Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara counties. While working closely with federal, state, and other local partners, the Camarillo Center has been involved in a wide variety of watershed and stream restoration projects to improve Southern California steelhead trout habitat and migration. This proposed project is in direct alignment with the Steelhead Restoration Program here at the Camarillo CCC Center.

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This project has been outlined by many agencies as a priority. California Trout's 2006 *Santa Monica Steelhead Habitat Assessment Report* assessed 23 watersheds within the Santa Monica Mountains for habitat value and existing in-stream migration barriers. Arroyo Sequit was identified as a high priority for restoration. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Game have also identified removal of steelhead barriers in the Arroyo Sequit watershed as a high priority. Both California State Parks and the National Park Service have identified this project as a priority in their General Plan documents.

The California Conservation Corps' Camarillo Center supports SMBRF and California State Park's plan to remove these barriers and strongly urges you approve funding for this important project.

Sincerely,



Chris Lima
Fish Habitat Specialist
Camarillo Center