



September 14, 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, CA

Dear Mr. Hoppin:

American Rivers would like to offer this letter of support for the 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 in Leo Carrillo State Park. American Rivers is providing \$75,000 in funding for the design of these barrier removals through our *Community-Based Restoration Program* with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This program is designed to fund the removal of barriers to diadromous fish species across the country, and is a very competitive grant program. Our decision to fund the Arroyo Sequit Creek project therefore demonstrates that American Rivers and NOAA believe it is a highly valuable project. The barrier removals will provide significant ecological benefits to the federally endangered Southern California steelhead trout (*Ocorhynchus mykiss*), as well as public safety and community benefits to visitors at the park.

The Arroyo Sequit project will remove two Arizona crossings and a check dam. Free span bridges will be installed at the Arizona crossing locations. We are strongly supportive of the decision to install these bridges with natural bottoms as they will ensure as natural stream conditions as possible are created for steelhead passage. Implementation of this project will provide access to an additional 4.5 miles of habitat for steelhead, and improve water quality by reducing stream channel erosion and instream sediment loading.

American Rivers strongly supports SMBRF and California State Park's plan to remove these barriers and strongly urges you approve funding for this important project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kavita Heyn".

Kavita Heyn
Associate Director of Conservation
American Rivers
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Suite 412
Portland, OR
97204