



California Department of  
Fish and Wildlife

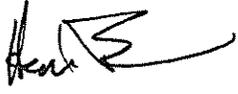


## Memorandum

Date: October 9, 2015

To: Ms. Barbara Evoy, Deputy Director  
Division of Water Rights  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-200

From: **Neil Manji**, Regional Manager   
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Region 1 – Northern

*for* **Marie Rea**, Assistant Regional Administrator   
National Marine Fisheries Service  
California Central Valley Office

Subject: **Historical and Recent Steelhead Presence Data in the Upper Sacramento River Basin**

Current agricultural diversions on Deer Creek and Antelope Creek have resulted in dewatering of stream sections in the lower reaches of these creeks between the confluence with the Sacramento River and diversion dams. These conditions prohibit adult Central Valley steelhead (steelhead) currently migrating in the Sacramento River from entering these tributaries and gaining access to spawning habitat upstream of diversion dams. In addition, under current conditions, juvenile Chinook and steelhead residing in watersheds upstream of these diversion dams are prevented from reaching the Sacramento River. Implementation of emergency regulations to curtail diversions on these creeks will remedy this situation. Due to ongoing drought and environmental conditions, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and the National Marine Fisheries Service request that the State Water Resources Control Board curtail Deer Creek diversions on October 23 and Antelope Creek diversions on November 1 to protect steelhead. This time period will allow the Department to closely coordinate with local water diverters and ensure environmental conditions are appropriate for steelhead migration.

Historical data demonstrate steelhead are present in the Upper Sacramento River Basin as early as August, with steelhead numbers in the Sacramento River and tributaries such as Mill Creek (River Mile 230) increasing substantially after mid-September. Historical steelhead trapping data (1953-1959) on the Sacramento River above the Feather River confluence shows that steelhead migration begins in July and peaks in late September and early October (Hallock and Van Woert 1961).

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If you have any questions, please contact Curtis Milliron, Northern Region Inland Fisheries Program Manager, at (530) 225-2280, or Howard Brown, Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Sacramento River Basin Branch, at (916) 930-3608.

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