

MEMORANDUM

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Environmental Science and Marketing

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JUN 13 1994

FROM: Rick Maddox
Dave Smith

DATE: 9 June 1994

SUBJECT: Potential Listing of Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of our efforts in tracking the potential listing of the coho salmon. Federal pressure (National Marine Fisheries Service) to list the coho as threatened is strong. On April 7, 1994, the Fish and Game Commission accepted a petition to list the coho as threatened, thereby noticing it as a candidate species. Its status as a candidate species strongly suggests that the project team be attuned to the potential listing, scheduled for as early as October 15, 1994.

Potential impacts on the coho and/or its habitat resulting from wastewater alternatives will need to be assessed, and a description of the impacts should be included in project reports. NMFS has requested all project fishery data. The listing of the species may require that any future fish migration monitoring be subject to a consultation (review) process, and issuance of an incidental take permit. Efforts to list the coho have emphasized potential habitat impacts, and potential water quality impacts appear to be of secondary concern.

The NMFS has also been working to list steelhead as a threatened species, and its status as a candidate species was confirmed today by Greg Bryant (NMFS in Santa Rosa). The steelhead, therefore, should receive the same level of attention from the project team as the coho (as described above). We will continue our contact with the appropriate agencies (NMFS, DFG, etc.) to follow the listing process, and to determine how to assess potential project impacts on coho and steelhead. NMFS is encouraging the project team to begin documentation of potential impacts now, rather than after the fish become listed.

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