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26 September 2007

Ms. Diane Riddle
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Santa Ynez River, Williams Analysis

Dear Ms Riddle:

This letter is in support of the analysis Of Dr. John Williams on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR), Consideration of Modifications to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Water Right Permits 11308 and 11310 (Applications 11331 and 11332) to Protect Public Trust Values and Downstream Water Rights on the Santa Ynez River below Bradbury Dam (Cachuma Reservoir), dated July 2007. I have reviewed relevant portions of the RDEIR and Dr Williams' analysis of the instream flow and migration requirements of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in the Santa Ynez River. I agree with Dr. Williams' conclusions that the RDEIR is seriously flawed and adoption of any of the discussed alternatives is not likely to result in much protection for steelhead. Like Dr Williams, I think that the flow alternative with the most reasonable annual hydrograph is the 3A2 alternative (not assessed in the RDEIR) with the original adjustment for dry years proposed by California Trout, rather than the adjustments found in Alternatives 5B and 5C.

In my professional opinion, steelhead in the Santa Ynez River will become extinct in the near future if a more protective flow regime is not adopted, along with other stream improvements. Such conservation efforts are important not only for the Santa Ynez River but for the entire endangered Southern California Steelhead ESU, of which the Santa Ynez river population is a significant portion. Basically, the steelhead need a river that has a flow regime and habitats managed to increase their numbers and not just to meet some minimum standard..

My basis for these statements, beyond my respect for Dr Williams' knowledge and analytical abilities, is that I have been studying California salmonids since 1969 (see attached resume). I have testified before the SWRCB in the past on Santa Ynez issues. At the present time, I am completing a project that evaluates the status of all salmon and steelhead in California, including the Southern California Steelhead ESU.

Sincerely,

Peter B. Moyle
Professor of Fish Biology