December 19, 2005

Cachuma Conservation Release Board
Mr. Gregory K. Wilkinson
Best, Best & Krieger, LLP
3750 University Avenue, Suite 400
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

CACHUMA PROJECT HEARING (APPLICATIONS 11331 AND 11332)

This responds to your letter dated November 28, 2005, requesting information relating to two new Cachuma Project operational alternatives (Alternatives 5B and 5C) to be included in the State Water Resources Control Board’s (State Water Board) environmental impact report (EIR) for the Cachuma Project hearing. The addition of the two new alternatives is described in the revised scope of work referenced in your letter. The Cachuma Project Member Units anticipate the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) will pass the cost of adding the alternatives on to the Member Units, and the Member Units seek additional information regarding the alternatives in order to justify paying this cost.

The two new alternatives are being added to the EIR at the direction of the State Water Board’s Executive Office. The Supplemental Statement of Responsibilities between the State Water Board and USBR for the preparation of the EIR recognizes that the State Water Board is the lead agency responsible for the preparation and adequacy of the EIR and has final authority over the scope and content. In addition, the Supplemental Statement of Responsibilities recognized that the USBR is responsible for payment of all costs associated with preparation of the EIR. Whether or not the USBR decides to pass the costs associated with the preparation of the EIR on to the Member Units in the form of higher contract rates is a matter to be addressed between USBR and the Member Units.

The Member Units and all of the other parties to the Cachuma Project hearing will obtain the information that the Member Units presently seek, including a detailed description of the alternatives and the anticipated impact of the alternatives on Cachuma Project yield, when the State Water Board recirculates the DEIR. At that time, the Member Units and other parties may provide comments on the alternatives. Additionally, the State Water Board will, if appropriate, hold a hearing on the findings of the Final EIR and whether to accept the Final EIR into the existing hearing record.
If you have any questions, please call Diane Riddle at (916) 341-5297 or Dana Heinrich at (916) 341-5188.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Victoria A. Whitney
Division Chief

Enclosure

c: Enclosed Service List

Ali Sharoody
Stetson Engineers Inc.
2171 E. Francisco Blvd., Suite K
San Rafael, CA  94901
alis@stesonengineers.com

David J. Fee
URS Corporation
1333 Broadway, Suite 800
Oakland, CA  94612
david_fee@urscorp.com

Michael Paul Jackson
Deputy Area Manager
South Central California Area Office
US Bureau of Reclamation
1243 N Street
Fresno, CA 93721-1813
MPJackson@mp.usbr.gov
Cachuma Project Hearing  
Phase-2 Hearing  
Final Service List  

Updated 01/05/2004

(Note: The parties whose E-mail addresses are listed below agreed to accept electronic service, pursuant to the rules specified in the hearing notice.)

Cachuma Conservation Release Board  
Mr. Gregory K. Wilkinson  
Best, Best & Krieger, LLP  
3750 University Avenue, Suite 400  
Riverside, CA  92501  
gkwilkinson@bbklaw.com

City of Solvang  
Mr. Christopher L. Campbell  
Baker, Manock & Jensen  
5260 N. Palm Avenue, Suite 421  
Fresno, CA  93704  
clc@bmj-law.com

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Mr. Stephen R. Palmer  
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712  
Sacramento, CA  95825  
Fax: (916) 978-5694

Department of Fish and Game  
Office of General Counsel  
Mr. Harllee Branch  
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor  
Sacramento, CA  95814

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation Dist.  
Improvement District No. 1  
Mr. Gregory K. Wilkinson  
Best, Best & Krieger, LLP  
3750 University Avenue, Suite 400  
Riverside, CA  92501  
gkwilkinson@bbklaw.com

Christopher Keifer  
NOAA Office of General Counsel  
Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Blvd., Ste. 4470  
Long Beach, CA  90802-4213

City of Lompoc  
Ms. Sandra K. Dunn  
Somach, Simmons & Dunn  
813 Sixth Street, Third Floor  
Sacramento, CA  95814-2403  
sdunn@lawssd.com

California Trout, Inc.  
c/o Ms. Karen Kraus  
Environmental Defense Center  
906 Garden Street  
Santa Barbara, CA  93101  
kkraus@edcnet.org

Santa Barbara County Parks  
Ms. Terri Maus-Nisich  
Director of Parks  
610 Mission Canyon Road  
Santa Barbara, CA  93105

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation Dist.  
Mr. Ernest A. Conant  
Law Offices of Young Wooldridge  
1800 – 30th Street, Fourth Floor  
Bakersfield, CA  93301  
econant@youngwooldridge.com