State Water Resources Control Board (Board), Cachuma Project Hearing Phase 2, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Water Rights Permits 11308 and 11310

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Rebuttal Witness, Penny Ruvelas, Outline of Testimony

NMFS’ Final Recovery Plan for Endangered Southern California Steelhead, General Considerations

Qualifications

- Currently NMFS Southern California Office Supervisor over both regulatory and recovery implementation activities of NMFS Southwest Region (SWR) for steelhead, among other species.
- Previously, supervised final stages of development of public draft and final Southern California steelhead Recovery Plan
- Previously, Regional Section 7 Coordinator with review and oversight of all biological opinions in SWR for 10 years
- Statement of qualifications attached

Recovery plan for Southern California steelhead

- Background/requirements for recovery plans
  o Purpose of Recovery Plan
  o Endangered Species Act requirements
- Plan development process
  o Two phase approach: Technical Recovery Team products and plan development
- Overview of plan components
  o threats assessment
  o recovery goals and criteria
  o recovery strategy
  o recovery actions
  o research and monitoring

Relevance of final recovery plan to the hearing/Board’s decision

- Alternatives in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) are based on NMFS’ existing Biological Opinion (2000), which is under re-initiation.
- Based on the information included within the recovery planning and implementation process, a re-initiated consultation may result in Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives and Reasonable and Prudent Measures that differ from the existing Biological Opinion.
  o Threats assessments
  o Species viability
  o Recovery goals for species
- Role of Santa Ynez River population
  - Recovery strategy
    - Passage and Instream Flows
  - Recommended recovery actions
    - Santa Ynez River actions

  - The plan provides information relevant to Boards’s determination about the public trust.
    - One of the project objectives of the FEIR is protecting public trust resources, including but not limited to steelhead.
    - The final recovery plan contains information regarding the long-term recovery of the species to a viable condition to support various aspects of the public trust, including fishing and the preservation of ecological conditions to support self-sustaining populations for their own inherent value, public enjoyment, and scientific study.
    - The final recovery plan contains information to support decision-making about the necessary strategies and actions needed to effect the recovery of the species to the point where these beneficial uses of the public trust can be attained.