

Summary of August through November 1997 field activities
Scott Engblom, Project Biologist, December 11, 1997

* **Habitat/Flow Study**

Following DFG habitat typing training, Scott Engblom (TAC) met with Bill Snider (DFG) and Jean Baldrige (Study Coordinator) on August 18, 1997 to pick habitats for the habitat/flow study. There were 23 habitat units selected for the habitat/flow study. Each unit was surveyed at flow levels of 50 cfs, 35 cfs, 20 cfs, and 10 cfs for thalweg elevations of water surface, channel bottom, width, depth, and velocity.

Jean Baldrige met with the TAC field crew on September 2, 1997 to train and assist the field crew in data collection for the 50 cfs release. Surveys at the 35 cfs interval began on October 6, 1997. Surveys at the 20 cfs interval began on October 16, 1997. Surveys at the 10 cfs interval began on October 24, 1997. Aerial photos were flown at 35 cfs and 10 cfs release levels.

Hilton Creek Snorkel Survey

A snorkel survey was performed in Hilton Creek on October 14, 1997. A single diver entered the water near the Hilton Creek-Santa Ynez River confluence, and moved upstream making one pass through the creek. A total of 19 rainbow trout/steelhead were observed in the creek. The size classes are as follows:

Size Class (in.)	<u>3-6</u>	<u>6-9</u>	<u>9-12</u>	<u>12-16</u>	<u>16-20</u>
Number Obs.	7	5	2	2	3

Lake Cachuma Profiles

Lake Cachuma profiles were measured on August 13, October 8 (by Craig Fusaro), and November 4, 1997. November data indicates the reservoir is cooling and that the thermocline has increased in depth from 15 meters (October) to 21 meters (November).

Santa Ynez River Lagoon Trapping and Water Quality

The Santa Ynez River Lagoon was sampled using passive capture techniques from August 19-August 21, 1997. A combination of seven fyke and hoop type traps were utilized. Deployment locations stretched from sites near Ocean Park to the upper portion of the lagoon. Capture results included large numbers of staghorn sculpin, herring, tidewater goby, largemouth bass, and bullhead, and small numbers of starry flounder, pacific halibut, smelt, and perch. No steelhead were captured during the net deployment. Sampling was suspended pending consultation between the Bureau and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the tidewater goby, which is an endangered species.

Lagoon water quality profiles were measured on August 24, and November 13, 1997. Additionally, as of November 28, the lagoon has not breached.

Temperature Monitoring During Gin Chow Water Releases From Gibraltar Dam

Four thermograph were deployed in the Upper Santa Ynez River to monitor water temperature conditions during the Gin Chow water releases. The thermograph were deployed in run and pool habitats between Los Prietos campground and 1/4 mile downstream of Gibraltar Dam. Units were deployed from August 4 through August 29, 1997. Water from the 15 day 15 cfs release never reached Lake Cachuma.

NMFS Permit for Endangered Species

A collection permit for scientific studies of endangered steelhead was submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on August 18, 1997. The permitting process can take between 60-120 days. Ramona Swenson contacted NMFS last week and NMFS stated that the Santa Ynez Permit is currently being processed in Washington, DC.

Preparation for 1997-98 Migrant Trapping

Preparations for the 1997-98 trapping season are ongoing at the moment. The project has enough traps available to trap for upstream and downstream migration on the mainstem, Hilton, Nojoqui, Alamo Pintado, San Miguelito, and Salsipuedes Creeks. Equipment is being shuttled and staged at deployment sites.