



Written Testimony of Thomas P. Keegan

October 14, 2003

**Skills, Knowledge, and Expertise**

I am a fisheries biologist and aquatic/estuarine ecologist with over 24 years of experience working with salmonids in rivers and streams throughout the Pacific Northwest, and northern and southern California. Specific to southern California, I have conducted research on steelhead (and other special-status fish species) issues on the Santa Ynez River, Santa Clara River, Malibu Creek, San Mateo Creek, Cayucos Creek, and numerous small coastal creeks and estuaries. I have special expertise in evaluation of water project impacts (i.e., dams, diversions, and alterations to streamflows and other physical habitats) to special-status fish species, in particular, steelhead, winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon, and coho salmon, including their early life history, instream habitat requirements, and estuarine behavior. I have authored or co-authored hundreds of EA, EIS, EIR documents, Biological Assessments, Technical Reports, and other research papers regarding impact assessments to steelhead, Chinook and coho salmon, sierran trout, and other special-status fish species.

**Specific Areas of Expertise: Relative to the Santa Ynez River System**

I was a member of the Santa Ynez River Technical Advisory Committee (SYRTAC) at its inception for about 2 years, on behalf of the Cachuma Conservation Release Board. I assisted in the development of the initial study design and supervised (and conducted) initial sampling efforts in the Santa Ynez River basin for collecting data on the steelhead population and aquatic habitat. I assisted in initial surveys to determine use of steelhead in tributaries to the Santa Ynez. I conducted sampling efforts and habitat evaluations downstream of Bradbury Dam, including the mainstem, tributaries, and lagoon, and performed site visits throughout the basin upstream of Bradbury Dam. I also assisted in the preparation of the first annual data report to the Santa Ynez River Consensus Committee.

**Education and Training**

I have a B.S. degree in Fisheries Science from Humboldt State University (1979). My resume is attached to this statement.

**Membership in Professional Societies**

I am a member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and The American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists (AIFRB). I am currently the Director of the Northern California District of the AIFRB (since 2001), and am certified by that organization as a professional fishery research biologist. In August 2003, I was elected by the AIFRB National Board of Directors to be the Chairman of National Membership.