

TESTIMONY OF TOM TAYLOR

I, Tom Taylor, declare:

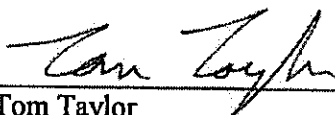
Introduction

1. I am a Senior Consultant, Aquatic Ecologist and the Sacramento Office Manager for the Environmental Practice of Entrix, Inc. (Entrix). I have over 30 years of professional experience in fisheries science, aquatic habitat assessments, population assessments, water resources, environmental documentation, permitting and river restoration and have been employed by Entrix since 1997. COA & LAWC Exhibit K contains an accurate statement of my qualifications and experience.
2. I am providing this expert testimony on the issues pertaining to the County of Alpine and Lake Alpine Water Company (the "Applicants") Petition for Partial Assignment of State-Filed Application 5648, Petitions to Change State-Filed Application, and Application 31523 (the "Project"), that will be discussed during the July 14, 2008, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) hearing to consider the Applicants petitions and application.

Analysis of the Project and its Potential to Impact Fishery Resources

3. As part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Alpine's and Lake Alpine Water Company's investigation of the Project and its potential impact on the environment, Entrix was asked to review the Project for its potential to affect and/or impact instream fishery resources.
4. As part of this review Entrix reviewed topographic maps of the water courses associated with the project area including those of the Bear and Blood creek watersheds. Entrix described the known fishery resources of the project area and reviewed the hydrology report that included a Water Availability Analysis conducted by Wagner & Bonsignore (Attachment #1 to this testimony). In addition Entrix reviewed the Protest Letter filed by the California Department of Fish and Game (Attachment #2 to this testimony) and the dismissal letter filed by the same agency (County & LAWC Exhibit O) after the WAA was completed and provided to the Department. Entrix also reviewed the Project Description, Biological Resources and Significance sections of the Final Environmental Impact Report (County & LAWC Exhibit C) for this project and the Notice of Public Hearing issued by the State Water Resources Control Board for this hearing.
5. As a result of this review Entrix finds that the fishery resource of the project area is a recreational fishery supported by three species of salmonids (trouts) composed of brook, brown and rainbow trout. No listed or sensitive aquatic species of animals are known to occur in the area. Additionally, the streams

tributary to Bear Lake, and Bear Creek downstream of Bear Lake, and Corral Gulch Creek are headwater streams and snowmelt driven only sustaining surface flow for part of the year – meaning that these streams are not capable of supporting year round fishery resources. Year-round flow that can support a fishery is found downstream in Blood Creek and downstream of the confluence of Blood and Bear creeks. The Water Availability Analysis indicates some flow impairment during early snowmelt periods at the confluence to Blood Creek and that diversion to Bear Lake storage may result in the creek ceasing to flow about 4 days earlier than would otherwise occur under unimpaired conditions. Bear Creek is a seasonal stream under unimpaired conditions, the combined maximum rate of withdrawal from Bear Creek for direct diversion and diversion to storage would be 0.8 cfs and the total impairment of all water withdrawals in the Blood/Bear Creek watershed amount to only 2.8 percent of the average annual discharge of the system. Therefore, the affect of the project on Bear Creek and Blood Creek is considered inconsequential to the recreational fishery found in this watershed. Approval of this application would not be expected to result in harm to the recreational fishery or the public trust aquatic resources found in this watershed


Tom Taylor