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Ad Hoc Committee for Clean Water

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Att: Karen Niiya
Water Resources Control Board
Sacramento, CA

re: Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California

A draft policy for maintaining instream flows is long overdue and we respect your effort at maintaining adequate flows especially for anadromous fish.

Too many of us only know that fish come from the supermarket. Many of us still do not know that salmon spawn in northern California rivers. Even fewer know the life cycle of the salmon, and fewer still know that there are private dams and diversions impairing coastal streams.

I have not had time to evaluate your equations to be used to calculate adequate stream flow. But, assuming that they would result in more water than is in the streams at present, that will be a step forward.

What can we do to encourage participation by landowners other than threat of fines and punishment for non-compliance?

Almost all manufacturing has gone overseas along with jobs and even food production! Now that the dollar has collapsed, we are experiencing dramatic spikes in cost of food, even rationing (rice at Costco!). Hopefully, as a people we are realizing the danger of our food supply being produced overseas. Cost of transport or even shortage of fuel will cause desperate food shortages or make the food we have always taken for granted, prohibitively expensive!

How does this relate to coastal streams, diversions and anadromous fish? One of our most valuable food resources that is produced with no effort on our part, is anadromous fish. They pop up in our waterways like dandelions in a field. We just have to be careful not to trample on them, poison them or dry up their streams! It is a native born, home grown food supply that we simply have to hunt and gather. What about the roe?! The total value of the roe, which Americans traditionally discard or sell for bait has tremendous value on the world's market! And the flesh of coldwater salmon is highly prized for its benefits to our cardiac system.

We must rethink what we have done to this prized resource and immediately reverse the trend. We know now, if we didn't know before, that we cannot rely on food being *imported*. There are no guarantees, and the cost of transport can skyrocket at any time. Therefore, as a people, we have to find a way to convince each other we all have a stake in the preservation of the anadromous fishery as one example of *local* product. This is not a subject only for fishermen or

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for an "environmental" lobby. *It is our food supply that is at stake.* If we do not eat fish, we should, and we all need to *buy American.* **What is more American than salmon?**

An essential part of your policy therefore, must be to motivate and inspire collaboration. What incentives do you offer? More water quantity and quality discussions, seminars, workshops need to be promoted. We can all play a part. On many people's minds is keeping a "manufacturing base" in the US. The streams "manufacture" salmon. We just need to get out of the way. Restore the streams and we restore an overwhelmingly abundant food supply. We have only our own sluggishness and indifference to blame if we lose it!

Sincerely,

Ann Maurice