

1 of 4

December 4, 2008

- ☐ Assemblyman Jared Huffman, Chairman - Water, Parks, and Wildlife Comm.
- Senator Patricia Wiggins, Chairwoman - Joint Comm. on Fisheries & Aquaculture
- Senator Mark Leno
- John Kirlin, Executive Director, Delta Vision Program
- Brian Stranko, CEO, California Trout
- ☐☐ Senator Diane Feinstein, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

RE: Expert Report: State Game Fish in Peril: Dams Block Access
 RE: The need to balance water programs/legislation with restoring the Delta and our river system for State fish (no dams or peripheral canal)

Dear Mr. Huffman, Ms. Wiggins and Mr. Kirlin,

As a native Californian I want to thank you for your attention and dedication to protecting California state fish and working with scientists to find a solution. Great opportunities are coming in California to make large and radical decisions. Water and fish are included.

I'd like to simply make my points:

- We need to fix our waterways to allow free flowing fish to swim upstream and reproduce (for free). Every major river in California is dammed.
- Fish in the river means vacationers to the area who will spend money in local economies.
- Fish in the river means protecting vital nutrients that the American Medical Association promotes for our health: Americans need to eat more fish.
- Promote the removal of the Klamath River dams as a step in the right direction.
- The Garcia River is an example of a free flowing river that has fish returning.
- In a year that we have cancelled our commercial Salmon fishing season and there are talks to take down the Klamath dams ~~it makes no sense to promote a water bond to build more dams to block rivers or a peripheral canal.~~
- Therefore, our greatest future threat to rehabilitation our fisheries populations, economy, and environment is Gov. Schwarzenegger's and Senator Feinstein's water bill that includes money for dams and the peripheral canal.
- ~~The peripheral canal has been voted down twice. Do not to pass state voters.~~
- ~~If you include a bond ensure the water volume/CFS is smaller than the current. CA aqueducts combined otherwise it will be seen as a water grab and infuriate northern Californians.~~
- ~~Californians also may not want to pay for the water bond re: budget crisis.~~
- Water is the cheapest thing consumers have to buy. Raising water prices, especially for agricultural use is paramount. Cost affects behavior.
- Please consider a statewide moratorium on new golf courses.

Thank you for your time and for looking out for future Californians.

Matthew J. Richardson, DPT, Doctor of Physical Therapy, SF, CA 94123. 415-577-7080.

Matthew J. Richardson

SFGate.com

2 of 4

Coho salmon fry discovered up a remote creek

Peter Fimrite, Chronicle Staff Writer

Saturday, November 1, 2008

**(10-31) 17:58 PDT MENDOCINO COUNTY --**

Jennifer Carah is a scientist who doesn't normally squeal, especially not when she is under water, but a recent snorkeling expedition in an obscure creek on the North Coast caused her to abandon all scholarly protocol.

"Yeeeee heeeeee," she shrieked through her snorkel upon spotting a mass of little fish behind a rock in Pardaloe Creek, a remote tributary of the Garcia River, in the heavily logged forests of Mendocino County.

The critters that elicited the squeal were endangered coho salmon. In fact, juvenile coho were found in 10 places where they had not been seen in years in the 72,000 acre Garcia River watershed.

"I was pretty excited to find them there," said Carah, a field scientist for the Nature Conservancy. "We've checked the data of other agencies and haven't heard accounts of coho being up there before. These sightings have generated a whole lot of enthusiasm, especially given the fact that coho are pretty much on the brink of extinction."

The discovery of coho in the headwaters of the Garcia River is especially eye-opening because the watershed once was destroyed by logging. Now it is part of a unique experiment that involves what conservationists call sustainable forestry, or selective logging.

"As we all know, parks are struggling to manage the lands they already own, and local governments, particularly in rural counties, don't like to see big swaths of private land put into parks because it takes it off the tax rolls and takes the land out of public use," said Chris Kelly, the California program director for the Virginia-based Conservation Fund, which paid the timber company Coastal Forestlands \$18 million in 2004 for the 23,780-acre Garcia River Forest. "Why not own it and manage it as a productive forest and use the timber to pay for the restoration and management of the property?"

The Nature Conservancy paid \$3.5 million for a conservation easement on the property that allows them to conduct studies and monitor fish and wildlife populations in the watershed. The Conservation Fund is in charge of managing the forest by repairing roads, fixing erosion and hiring

Step taken toward removing Klamath River dams

~~Page 1 of 5~~

3 of 4

SFGate.com

Step taken toward removing Klamath River dams

Peter Fimrite, Chronicle Staff Writer

Friday, November 14, 2008

**(11-13) 20:34 PST --**

The most powerful opponents of efforts to remove four dams that have blocked salmon migration on the Klamath River for the past century did an about-face Thursday and agreed in principle to a dam-removal plan along the California and Oregon border.

The proposal by Bush administration officials and PacifiCorp, the hydroelectric power company that distributes the water, would not remove the dams for 12 more years. It was nevertheless hailed by fishing groups, tribal representatives and environmentalists as the first big step in the largest dam-removal project in U.S. history.

"This is a huge milestone toward what would be the largest river-restoration effort ever undertaken," said Steve Rothert, California director of American Rivers, a national nonprofit river conservation group. "There's still a lot of work to be done, but PacifiCorp went on record in front of the world and said this is a good deal and good policy."

It has taken several years for the stakeholders to reach an agreement. Talks of removing the dams began in 2002 after a federally ordered change in water flow led to the die-off of 33,000 salmon.

But negotiations between PacifiCorp, California, Oregon, the federal government, fishermen and various Indian tribes became more serious as the problems with the salmon fisheries came to a head this year. There have been devastating declines in the number of spawning salmon in both the Klamath and Sacramento river basins. The paltry numbers forced regulators for the first time to ban all ocean fishing of chinook salmon this year in California and Oregon.

Dams have been blamed for much of the historic decline, but until now PacifiCorp and the federal government have fought efforts to remove the Iron Gate, Copco I, Copco II and J.C. Boyle dams on the Klamath.

The agreement announced Thursday does not commit to the removal of the dams. Instead, it provides a framework for the various interest groups, government agencies and businesses to collaborate on environmental and economic studies. The plan, as it stands, is to finalize the agreement in June and then conduct studies until 2012, when the secretary of the interior would make a final decision.

