



AGENDA Item: 6A

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 400, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2453 FAX (831) 454-2131 TDD (831) 454-2123

September 16, 2004

George Gray, District Ecologist
California State Parks
303 Big Trees Park Road
Felton, CA 95018

Dear Mr. Gray:

The Santa Cruz County Fish and Game Advisory Commission continues to be interested in proposals for improving anadromous fish passage through the San Lorenzo Gorge at the "Four Rocks" location. We have reviewed your letter on this subject. The Commission is very concerned about the status of Steelhead and Coho salmon populations and considers it our responsibility to do what we can to improve habitat for these endangered animals. As you know, both are listed under the State and Federal Endangered Species Act.

We are inviting the authors of the San Lorenzo River Salmonid Enhancement Plan, in which this location was identified as a barrier to migration, to attend the October 7th meeting of the Commission at 7:00 p.m. to discuss this matter. The Commission meets at the Santa Cruz County Government Building, 701 Ocean Street in the Planning Department's conference room on the 4th floor. We are also inviting representatives of the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (SCRCD) to provide us with an update on the progress of the projects we funded last year. The SCRCD was not the only recipient of funding for migration barrier removal but they received the largest individual grant from the Commission for this purpose. The gorge barrier is one of these projects.

This letter is your invitation to attend this important meeting since we realize that the "Four Rocks" project will not proceed without agreement from State Parks. We consider the proposal for the gorge to be conservative and very unlikely to "unravel" this multi-level boulder cascade. At least three different project designs were proposed. This is a drought condition bamer. Drought conditions are very dangerous for salmonids.

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting so that all interested parties can be together to discuss this matter. Donna Bradford, staff to the Commission is available to give you further information regarding this invitation. Please feel free to call her at (831) 454-2453.

Sincerely,


Philip J. Christ
Chair



Agenda Item 6

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 400, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831)454-2453 FAX (831)454-2131 TDD (831)454-2123

September 16, 2004


To Interested Parties:

The Santa Cruz County Fish and Game Advisory Commission continues to be interested in the proposal for improving anadromous fish passage through the San Lorenzo Gorge at the "Four Rocks" location. We have received a letter from George Gray, District Ecologist, with the California Department of State Parks, which outlines his concerns with this project (Attachment). The Commission is very concerned about the status of Steelhead and Coho salmon populations and considers it our responsibility to do what we can to improve habitat for these endangered animals. As you know, both are listed under the State and Federal Endangered Species Act.

The Commission will discuss this project at their next meeting on October 7, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.. The Commission meets at the Santa **Cruz** County Government Building, 701 Ocean Street in the Planning Department's conference room on the 4th floor. George Gray has been invited to attend this meeting. We are also inviting representatives of the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (SCRCD) to provide us with an update on the progress of the projects we funded last year. The SCRCD **was** not the only recipient of funding for migration barrier removal but they received the largest individual grant from the Commission for this purpose. The "Four Rocks" low flow barrier is one of these projects.

This letter is your invitation to attend this important meeting. Please call Donna Bradford, staff to the Commission, at (831) 454-2453 to advise her of your ability to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,


Philip N. Christ
Chair

Attachment

cc: Don Alley, D.W. Alley
John Dvorsky, Swanson Hydrology and Geomorphology
Dr. Jerry Smith, San Jose State University
Kristin Schroeder, County Planning Department



State of California • The Resources Agency

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ruth Coleman, Director

Santa Cruz District

303 Big Trees Park Rd

Felton, CA 95018

(831) 335-6318 Fax (831) 335-6394

Agenda Item 6A

August 30, 2004

Philip J. Christ, Chair
Fish and Game Advisory Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Mr. Christ,

Thank you for your inquiry into the status of the salmonid passage project in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. California State Parks has been involved in this project for four years, and has consulted with the California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, California State Parks Fisheries Biologists and Resource Ecologists, private biologists, and interested parties.

In order to conduct any project, there must be basic justification. California State Parks has been asking the following questions for four years, and has not received answers:

1. The National Marine Fisheries Service (Longs Marine Lab) is saying that there are 168,278 juveniles from 3,000 anadromous fish in the San Lorenzo, and that the fishery is not threatened. How did they get this information, and why is it being questioned?
2. Dave Streig of the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project writes "charts show that during the winter months of January, February, March and April, when it counts because that's when the steelhead are passing, normal flows are above 70 cfs and extend over 165 cfs. Based on flow data evidence alone, we should not approve destruction of the boulder cascade, as it does not appear to be impeding fish passage". What are the reasons for doubting this?
3. If there is a barrier, what is the evidence that fish are building up behind it? Anecdotal comments by fishermen are not adequate. Where are the data from snorkel surveys during those flows when passage is being questioned?
4. If there is a barrier below which fish concentrate, why have laws not been changed to prohibit take at the site from those persons who fish?
5. If the City of Santa Cruz wants to divert more water from the river, especially during drought times, what is the information of present diversion, historic drought diversion, proposed diversion, and conservation efforts by the City of Santa Cruz to limit diversion?
6. What evidence is there that the boulder cascade is human-caused? What was the event that caused this, where did the event occur, and what was the mechanism that caused rock to transport to the site in question?
7. Those who understand the hydrology of the site know the dynamic nature of the site. Other hydrologists who are familiar with the site feel that the present configuration of a 12-foot drop in 3 steps is a desirable design. Knowing that 'once you break it, you