

State of California - The Resources Agency

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor* DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>South Coast Region  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 467-4201

February 20, 2007

Mr. Samuel Schuchat, Executive Director  
State Coastal Conservancy  
Attn: Chris Kroll  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, California 94612Implementation of the Conservation Strategy Plan  
for San Mateo Creek Watershed

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) has reviewed the current Coastal Conservancy staff recommendation as well as the Conservation Strategy Plan (CSP) developed by Trout Unlimited. The Department supports the recommendations found in the CSP. These include, but are not limited to, water quality, habitat, exotic species assessments and estuarine monitoring and development of the necessary environmental documents that will support the long term non-native species removal in San Mateo Creek watershed located in San Diego, Orange, and Riverside counties. The Department also agrees that there is a need for further evaluation of non-native species removal techniques.

As you are aware, the presence of non-native fish, bull frogs, and crayfish has resulted in the decimation and displacement of the native fish, amphibians, and pond turtles within the watershed. Trout Unlimited, in working closely with the Coastal Conservancy, Department, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States Forest Service, other cooperating governmental agencies, and non-profit groups, has made great inroads into the long-term goal of restoring the habitat value of San Mateo Creek for the federally-endangered Steelhead and other protected aquatic resources.

For these reasons, we support and approve of the Coastal Conservancy's proposed grant of \$160,000 to Trout Unlimited. Further, we urge your support of the implementation recommendations contained in the Trout Unlimited Conservation Strategy Plan for the San Mateo Creek watershed.

Sincerely,

  
Larry L. Eng, Ph.D.  
Regional Manager