



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-4731

January 8, 2008

In response refer to:
SWR/F/SWR3:SAE

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries strongly supports the proposal to allocate funds for additional Klamath dam removal studies. In particular, we support staff's recommendation to evaluate potential beneficial water-quality effects resulting from dam removal, to expand and refine ongoing biological evaluations of dam removal, and to develop a dam-removal plan.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has just issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the relicensing of the Klamath Hydropower Project. While the FEIS includes discussion of dam removal, many of the studies requested by stakeholders were not conducted.

The Conservancy has made great progress in addressing uncertainties associated with dam removal, and this augmentation would further that effort. This authorization would assemble existing information into a useful format, characterize how the existing project is affecting water quality downstream of the project area, and why dam removal would likely improve water quality conditions in the river below the project, and would enable the contractor to more precisely develop recommendations for protecting and enhancing the aquatic resources of the Klamath in the event of a dam removal.

As with the Conservancy's earlier investigations on the Klamath River, the information will greatly serve the members of the Klamath Settlement Group, who seek a solution to the many resource challenges facing the Klamath Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "STEVEN A. EDMONDSON".

Steven A. Edmondson
Northern California Habitat Supervisor

cc: Bob Hoffman, NMFS, Long Beach, CA
Irma Lagomarsino, NMFS, Arcata, CA





January 8, 2008

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

American Rivers strongly supports the proposal to allocate additional funds for Klamath dam removal studies. In particular, we support the staff recommendation to expand and refine ongoing biological evaluations of dam removal, evaluate the probable beneficial water-quality effects derived downstream of the project in the event of dam removal, and to develop a dam-removal plan.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has just issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the relicensing of the Klamath Hydropower Project. While the EIS includes much discussion of dam removal, the applicant has not agreed to remove the dams as of yet. One of the reasons the owner gives is the uncertainty associated with dam removal.

Conservancy funded research has contributed most of the information available today related to the benefits and risks associated with dam removal, and additional Conservancy funding would augment that effort. Conservancy research has removed many of the uncertainties associated with removing Klamath dams, but others remain. This augmentation would address some of the most important remaining uncertainties

As with the Conservancy's earlier investigations on the Klamath River, the information will greatly serve the members of the Klamath Settlement Group, who seek a solution to the many resource challenges facing the Klamath Basin.

Sincerely,

Steve Rothert
Director, California Field Office



CALIFORNIA TROUT

January 8, 2008

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

California Trout strongly supports the proposal to allocate funds for additional Klamath dam removal studies. In particular, we support staff's recommendation to evaluate the probably beneficial water-quality effects derived downstream of the project in the event of dam removal, to expand and refine ongoing biological evaluations of dam removal, and to develop a dam-removal plan.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has just issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the relicensing of the Klamath Hydropower Project. While the EIS includes much discussion of dam removal, the applicant has not agreed to remove the dams as of yet. One of the reasons the owner gives is the uncertainty associated with dam removal.

The Conservancy has made great progress in addressing uncertainties associated with dam removal, and this augmentation would further that effort. This authorization would assemble existing information into a useful format, characterize how the existing project is affecting water quality downstream of the project area, and why dam removal would likely improve water quality conditions in the river below the project, and would enable the contractor to more precisely develop recommendations for protecting and enhancing the aquatic resources of the Klamath in the event of a dam removal.

As with the Conservancy's earlier investigations on the Klamath River, the information will greatly serve the members of the Klamath Settlement Group, who seek a solution to the many resource challenges facing the Klamath Basin.

Sincerely,

Curtis Knight
Mt. Shasta Area Manager
California Trout