

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0027
(916) 319-2027
FAX (916) 319-2127

DISTRICT OFFICES
701 OCEAN STREET,
SUITE 318B
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 425-1503
FAX: (831) 425-2570

99 PACIFIC STREET
SUITE 555-D
MONTEREY, CA 93940
(831) 649-2832
(408) 782-0647
FAX: (831) 649-2935

Assembly California Legislature

JOHN LAIRD
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
Chair, BUDGET
JUDICIARY
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES

April 21, 2008

Doug Bosco, Chair
Governing Board
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairperson Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Coastal Conservancy's efforts to remove the San Clemente Dam on the Carmel River in Monterey County.

In the past, I supported the Coastal Conservancy's funding of technical studies to determine if removal of the San Clemente Dam was both environmentally feasible and cost effective. Conservancy staff has since made great progress in working with California American Water and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to confirm the feasibility of the Carmel River Reroute and San Clemente Dam Removal Project (CRRDR).

I believe the CRRDR serves as the best long-term solution for the ratepayers of the Monterey Peninsula and the ecology of the Carmel River. The CRRDR project represents a remarkable opportunity for public and private interests to work together to remove the antiquated dam and initiate a watershed restoration process that will revitalize the Carmel River. The project's benefits also include:

- mitigating the dam stability concerns by removing the dam completely and rerouting the Carmel River;
- promoting the recovery of the South-Central California Coast Steelhead population by removing a barrier to approximately 25 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat;
- re-establishing a natural sediment regime, thereby reducing the beach and river channel erosion that has occurred; and
- providing new recreational opportunities for the public through the transfer of approximately 900 acres of watershed lands to public ownership.

I am confident that the Coastal Conservancy, working in conjunction with California American Water Company, NMFS and others, will successfully carry out this project. For these reasons, I fully support the CRRDR.

Sincerely,



JOHN LAIRD, Assemblymember
27th District

JL:cf

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4015
(916) 445-8081 FAX



California State Senate

ABEL MALDONADO
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

February 4, 2008

Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Carmel River Reroute and San Clemente Dam Removal Project as Preferred Dam Safety Project Alternative

Dear Sam:

As Senator of the 15th District, which includes the Carmel River watershed, I am writing to express my support the State Coastal Conservancy's efforts to make the Carmel River Reroute and San Clemente Dam Removal Project (CRRDR) the preferred dam safety project alternative.

The Carmel River in Monterey County, California represents one of the best opportunities for river restoration on California's Central Coast. Flowing through the Ventana Wilderness and the Los Padres National Forest, the Carmel River provides essential habitat for federally-threatened steelhead trout and California red-legged frog, and other important species. Since 1921, however, the Carmel River and its wildlife resources have been impacted by San Clemente Dam. As a result of the dam, the Carmel River suffers accelerated erosion, the once vibrant steelhead run has dramatically decreased, and lives and property below the dam are threatened with dam collapse and the potential for inundation by sediment currently trapped behind the dam.

The CRRDR project represents an extraordinary opportunity for public and private interests to work together to remove the antiquated dam and initiate a watershed restoration process that will bring this river back to life. The project's benefits also contribute a tremendous amount to the health and welfare of the local community by:

- (1) Mitigating the dam stability concerns by removing the dam completely and rerouting the Carmel River;
- (2) Promoting the recovery of the South-Central California Coast Steelhead population by removing a barrier to approximately 25 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat;
- (3) Re-establishing a natural sediment regime, and thereby reducing the beach and river channel erosion that has occurred; and

- (4) Providing new recreational opportunities for the public through the transfer of approximately 900 acres of watershed lands to public ownership.

I am confident that the Coastal Conservancy, working in conjunction with California American Water Company and the other project partners, can carry out this project successfully and, therefore wish to support your efforts to have the Department of Water Resources select it as the preferred project in their filing of the Notice of Completion for the EIR/EIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abel Maldonado', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right and a small circle at the end.

Abel Maldonado
California State Senator
15th District

cc:

Lester Snow,
Director, California Department of Water Resources

Kent Turner
President – American Water – Western Region



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

OCT 24 2007

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

Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I appreciate your letter dated October 19, 2007, regarding NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) involvement with the San Clemente Dam Removal Project. As you are aware, the Carmel River is of extreme importance to NMFS in that it is a keystone river for the recovery of the South-Central California Coast steelhead population.

The San Clemente Dam Removal Project is part of the recovery strategy for the Carmel River steelhead population and is a high priority for NMFS in that it will remove a long-standing barrier to over 25 miles of upstream rearing and spawning habitat for steelhead. Removing the dam will also re-establish the natural sediment regime improving instream habitat downstream of the dam.

NMFS appreciates the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) joining with us to form a private-public partnership with California American Water to address their dam safety issues and initiate a watershed restoration process providing significant public benefits. Not only will there be greater public benefits achieved by removing the dam, the cost to the public for a project of this magnitude will be greatly reduced.

NMFS believes the removal project will only result in a win-win situation for the resources and the people of California. We look forward to continuing our work with the SCC on this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Joyce Ambrosius at (707) 575-6064 or joyce.ambrosius@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney R. McInnis".

Rodney R. McInnis
Regional Administrator

cc: R. Strach, NMFS, Sacramento
T. Chapman, SCC, Oakland
Copy to file: 151422SWR01SR956





**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region**



Linda S. Adams.
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

January 31, 2008

Mr. Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

**SUBJECT: WATER BOARD SUPPORT FOR CARMEL RIVER REROUTE AND SAN
CLEMENTE DAM REMOVAL AS PREFERRED DAM SAFETY PROJECT
ALTERNATIVE**

Dear Sam:

As Executive Officer of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), I am writing to support the State Coastal Conservancy's effort to make the Carmel River Reroute and San Clemente Dam Removal (CRRDR) project the preferred dam safety project for the San Clemente Dam.

The CRRDR project is described in the San Clemente Dam Seismic Safety Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as a project alternative to dam safety modifications. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is the Lead Agency for the EIR/EIS. This project alternative would mitigate dam stability concerns by removing the dam and rerouting the Carmel River. Because of the additional benefits to the public that would result from the CRRDR project, several organizations are working with the California American Water Company (Cal-Am) to further consider this alternative and to urge DWR to select it as the preferred dam safety project. The State Coastal Conservancy has been appointed as the lead state agency in examining this alternative and is directing supplemental technical studies to support this effort. The January 2, 2008 Draft Basis of Design document for the CRRDR project conceptual design summarizes all of the design elements and assumptions used to develop the project.

The Central Coast Water Board staff have reviewed the Draft Basis of Design Report (Report) for the CRRDR project. As the Report states, "The goal of the CRRDR project is to eliminate the dam safety hazard, provide comprehensive restoration of the natural character and function of the valley bottom, and restore fish passage. This includes a continuum of habitat elements, including aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats." Water Board staff recognize the risks from failure to meet these goals include flooding, public safety impacts, and property damage; and that potential environmental impacts include

sediment release into the downstream river, harm to aquatic habitat, and impact on plant and animal species. We acknowledge that Report authors have not formally identified risk acceptability for various project elements, but we generally concur with their identification and characterization of two risk categories that must be addressed: "1) flooding, for which the acceptable risk threshold is very low; and 2) downstream sediment delivery, for which the threshold is moderate in the short term, with hazard vulnerability expecting to diminish in the long term."

The Report accurately identifies specific water quality risks associated with key project activities, which include:

1. Removal of the dam and relocation of approximately 380,000 cubic yards (235 acre-feet [ac-ft]) of accumulated sediment behind the dam on the San Clemente Creek arm of the San Clemente Reservoir.
2. Permanent bypass of a portion of the Carmel River by cutting a 450-foot-long channel between the Carmel River and San Clemente Creek, approximately 2500 feet upstream of the dam.
3. Use of the bypassed portion of the Carmel River as a sediment disposal site for the accumulated sediment.
4. Construction of a diversion dike at the upstream end of the bypassed reservoir arm using rock spoils from channel construction (145 ac-ft or 235,000 cubic-yards).
5. During the active construction seasons, diversion of Carmel River and San Clemente Creek around the reservoir and dam site, and reservoir dewatering.
6. Over one season, removal of accumulated sediment in San Clemente Creek from behind the dam, by excavation with heavy earthmoving equipment, to match pre-dam contours.
7. Transport of San Clemente Creek sediment to a disposal area in the bypassed portion of the reservoir.
8. Dam and fish ladder demolition, and placement of demolished concrete debris, segregated from reinforcing steel, in the abandoned Carmel River arm of the reservoir, or, use as part of construction material for diversion dike and stone columns for slope stabilization/liquefaction mitigation.
9. Stabilization of sediments at the downstream end of the bypassed reservoir arm.
10. Reconstruction of the San Clemente Creek channel through its historic inundation zone from the exit of the diversion channel to the dam site.

Our primary water quality concerns surround dewatering and related construction site management issues during the extended time frame over which construction activities are proposed. As the Report indicates, the dewatering system will depend on a number of factors including rate of construction, use of shoring, and type of dewatering system.

We will require early consultation and final approval of the dewatering system design, which we anticipate would include a filtration system or desilting basin at the discharge point, or down stream of the dam, to maintain turbidity at levels protective of beneficial uses in the downstream river.

Sam Schuchat

- 3 -

January 30, 2008

We agree with the Report's recommendation that because of the extended time that will be required to complete and approve a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), the owner/engineer should work with the Water Board to prepare a draft SWPPP that the contractor can finalize and submit.

We are confident that our concerns can be adequately addressed in subsequent design phases of the CRRDR project and wish to support your efforts to have the Department of Water Resources select it as the preferred project in their filing of the Notice of Completion for the EIR/EIS. The Water Board must issue a CWA Section 401 Certification for any activity receiving authorization under Section 404 (U.S. Army Corps permit), and our staff are prepared to assist project proponents in understanding and meeting all Water Board regulatory requirements for the project per Federal Clean Water Act and the State's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call **Dominic Roques (805) 542-4780 or send email to droques@waterboards.ca.gov.**

Sincerely,



Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

cc: *(by electronic mail)*

Lester Snow
Director, California Department of Water Resources

Kent Turner
President, American Water - Western Region

Michael Chrisman
Secretary, California Resources Agency

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California Environmental Protection Agency



Carmel River Watershed Conservancy
PO Box 223833
Carmel, CA 93922-3833

Phone: 831-375-5376 Fax: 831-655-4830
E-mail: crwcsteelhead@pacbell.net
WebPage <http://www.carmelriverwatershed.org>

Officers: Clive Sanders, President
Paul Bruno, Vice-President
Patricia Bernardi, Treasurer
Lorin Letendre, Secretary, CRLC

Board: Mary Jane Hammerland, HELM
Members: Jack Hammerland, Alternate
Monica Hunter, PCL
Robert Zampatti

February 5, 2008

Mr. Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for San Clemente Dam Removal and Reroute Project

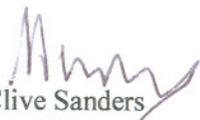
Dear Mr. Schuchat:

The Carmel River Watershed Conservancy (CRWC) supports the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed project to remove the San Clemente Dam on the Carmel River in Monterey County. CRWC has in recent years conducted hydrological and biological studies of the watershed, and organized a community effort to support implementation of the *Carmel River Watershed Action Plan* (2005) identifying priority problems and goals for restoration of the river and watershed resources. In this effort, CRWC and the Planning and Conservation League Foundation (PCLF) jointly published the *Supplemental Carmel River Watershed Action Plan* (March 2007), funded in part by the State Coastal Conservancy, to further assess watershed scale problems related to the dam and impacts to wildlife habitat.

Through this effort we have gained an understanding that removal of the dam would result in many more benefits and environmental gains than the other solutions proposed in the San Clemente Dam Seismic Safety Project EIR/EIS. Our support for the dam removal project has grown over time in part due to our efforts to better understand the range of dam-related impacts and disruption to the ecological integrity of the river resulting from the presence of the dam. The key problems identified include fish passage, seasonal fish transport, impacts to riparian vegetation and stream stability, and loss of continuity of essential wildlife habitat impacting key species that include threatened steelhead trout.

We also wish to underscore the fact that the dam removal and river reroute project was initially proposed through a process that considered local knowledge of the river combined with technical assessments of viable options to stabilize the sediment above the dam structure. It is our belief that after many years of consideration, the dam removal and river reroute project presents the best solution to eliminate the seismic threat posed by the dam, and also provides broader environmental gains for the community and for the state as a whole.

Sincerely,


Clive Sanders
President, Carmel River Watershed Conservancy

Cc: Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Abel Maldonado, Assmblyman John
Laird, Congressman Sam Farr, Monica Hunter and Resource Agency Secretary
Mike Chrisman

From: [Roger Williams](#)
To: tchapman@scc.ca.gov;
Subject: Support letter for S. Clemete re-route
Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2008 11:44:46 AM



CARMEL RIVER STEELHEAD ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 1183
Monterey, CA 93940

April 15, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Carmel River Steelhead Association letter of support for the Carmel River San Clemente Dam re-route project.

Dear Chairman Bosco:

Our organization, the Carmel River Steelhead Association, has worked for over 35 years to restore the Carmel River. We have rescued many hundreds of thousands of wild steelhead. Our volunteers have spent thousands of man hours to restore habitat in the Carmel River Watershed. We have secured hundreds of thousands of grant dollars to make stream and fish passage improvements.

It is with the experience borne of decades of unselfish work on this environmental recovery that we make a very strong request for your assistance. Please support the San Clemente Dam Re-Route option as proposed in the recently released Environmental Impact Report for San Clemente Dam Seismic Retrofit.

This is a rare opportunity for California to restore the health of a local ecosystem and public environmental resource. Wildlife will be positively influenced for many decades to come as will the economic benefit that a healthy fishery represents to local businesses and communities. Please join us in giving your full

and unqualified support to this landmark project to restore the free flow of the Carmel River.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Board of Directors,

Roy Thomas
President, Carmel River Steelhead Association



Steven L. Evans
Conservation Director
Friends of the River
915 20th Street, Sacramento CA 95814
Phone: (916) 442-3155, Ext. 221
Email: sevans@friendsoftheriver.org

April 21, 2008

The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: **Support for the Carmel River San Clemente Dam Re-route Option**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

Friends of the River has been dedicated to preserving and restoring California's rivers, streams, and their watersheds for 35 years. We believe the Carmel River is an extraordinary waterway and the San Clemente Dam Re-Route option would greatly improve the state of this river for wildlife and Monterey county residents alike. Please support the San Clemente Dam Re-Route option as proposed in the recently released Environmental Impact Report for San Clemente Dam Seismic Retrofit Project.

This is a rare opportunity for California to restore the health of a local ecosystem and public resource. Fish and wildlife will be positively influenced for many decades to come as will the economic benefit that a healthy fishery represents to local businesses and communities. Please join us in giving your full and unqualified support to this landmark project to restore the free flow of the Carmel River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "St. L. Evans", is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Steven L. Evans
Conservation Director



MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

5 HARRIS COURT, BLDG. G
POST OFFICE BOX 85
MONTEREY, CA 93942-0085 • (831) 658-5600
FAX (831) 644-9560 • <http://www.mpwmd.dst.ca.us>

March 27, 2008

Doug Bosco, Chairman
Board of Directors
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Support for the Carmel River Reroute and San Clemente Dam Removal Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) Board of Directors would like to express support for the California Coastal Conservancy's (CCC) proposal to reroute the main stem of the Carmel River and remove the outdated and unsafe San Clemente Dam. The District is concerned, however, that this project should be achieved in such a manner so as to not diminish or otherwise compromise water rights, including pre-1914 water rights, associated with San Clemente Dam. MPWMD's mission is to manage, augment, and protect water resources for the benefit of the community and the environment. MPWMD recognizes that the CCC alternative presents a unique opportunity to remove the threat to public safety that this dam poses while also improving conditions in the river for aquatic species for which MPWMD has active management programs. In particular, the bypass project would complement efforts by MPWMD to improve steelhead habitat along the river and to rear steelhead at our nearby Sleepy Hollow Steelhead Rearing Facility (SHSRF). The project would also reconnect a significant portion of the upper watershed with the lower reaches of the Carmel River, where MPWMD has implemented intensive streambank and floodplain restoration programs.

We encourage the CCC to continue to pursue this project, and we look forward to working with your organization during the final project design to incorporate MPWMD's interests in maintaining and operating the SHSRF facilities. If you wish to discuss the project with MPWMD staff, please contact Larry Hampson at (831) 659-2543 or Kevan Urquhart at (831) 658-5643.

Sincerely,

Judi Lehman
Chair of the Board

cc: Paula Landis, Chief, San Joaquin District, Department of Water Resources
Craig Anthony, General Manager/Central Division, California American Water
Trish Chapman, Project Manager, State Coastal Conservancy
MPWMD Board of Directors

RECEIVED

APR 03 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.