

SCC-411
ENV 6.00/7.00

JUN - 2 1999

Eric Shott
National Marine Fisheries Service
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802

Subject: Additional Information Requested for the Biological Assessment
of Cachuma Operations and Lower Santa Ynez River.

Dear Eric:

Enclosed is the remaining information that you requested from Reclamation in your May 7, 1999 letter. This information along with the information provided to you at the May 19, 1999 meeting completes all data requested by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the subject biological assessment (BA).

To recapitulate main points of that meeting, we provided you with the following:

Bullet 2, Page 1. At the May 19, 1999 meeting, we discussed the construction schedule, impact avoidance, and specific design details (90% drawings) for Hilton Creek habitat modifications. We explained that this information could not be provided at this time, because data is still being collected for final layout and design work. This design work will be conducted by Woody Trihey of ENTRIX, George Heise of DFG, and Jonathan Mann of NMFS. It is my understanding that NMFS would not hold the beginning of the consultation period, pending the availability of this information. Reclamation will continue to develop this information over the summer and will provide you with conceptual design plans for the proposed alignments by September 1, 1999.

Regarding impact avoidance measures, the constructed channel would be built in a dry channel during the summer and fall, when flows are low. It would not be connected to the live channel of either Hilton Creek or the mainstem until all other construct activities had been completed.

Bullet 4, Page 1. A Table of Comparison of Flow Releases at Bradbury Dam and downstream flow measurements.

Bullet 1, Page 2. Percent shading by riparian vegetation and channel topography for Hilton Creek.

Bullet 2, Page 2. A clarification of instream flow measurements taken on Hilton Creek.

Bullet 5, Page 2. Data from dissolved oxygen surveys.

Bullet 7, Page 2. SYRTAC Habitat studies.

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The additional information enclosed in this letter includes:

Bullet 1, Page 1. Frequency with which State Water would be mixed with Cachuma water and released to the spilling basin. The table provides this information by month.

Bullet 3, Page 1 and Bullet 1, Page 3. Description of maintenance activities relating to the Hilton Creek Water Supply Line.

Bullet 3, Page 2. Duration of water temperatures that exceeds 25°C during a single day. Data is provided for each year and each location when the event took place. We are also providing you with all of the raw temperature data collected by the SYRTAC from 1995 through 1998.

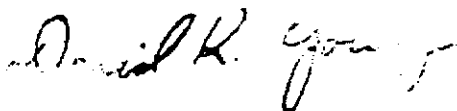
Bullet 4, Page 2. Flows at which the temperature models were run. Clarification of statement on Page 2-33 of the BA.

Bullet 5, Page 2. Temperature and dissolved oxygen information for Hilton Creek and description of monitoring locations.

Bullet 7, Page 2. SYRTAC Passage Analysis, Exceedance Plot data used in the BA, and daily flow information from model runs used in the BA.

Reclamation requests that NMFS immediately initiate formal section 7 consultation and begin the time clock for the preparation of a Biological Opinion. Also, Reclamation formally requests conferencing on the affects of Cachuma Project actions as described in the BA on proposed critical habitat for steelhead in the lower Santa Ynez River.

Sincerely,



David K. Young
Environmental Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Enclosures

WBR:DYoung:djd:June 2, 1999:(559)487-5127:nmfs6-2.wpd