

Before the State Water Resources Control Board
Regarding Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) Petition to Modify Water Right Permits 15026, 15027
and 15030 And YCWA Petition for Long-Term Transfer of up to 200,000 Acre-Feet of Water from YCWA
to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) under
Permit 10506

POLICY STATEMENT
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Hello and good morning. I am Sandra Morey, Regional Manager of the North Central Region of the California Department of Fish and Game (Department). Yuba County is located in the Department's North Central Region. I am here today to voice the Department's support for the YCWA Petition to Modify Water Right Permits 15026, 15027 and 15030 and the YCWA Petition for Long-Term Transfer of up to 200,000 Acre-Feet of Water from YCWA to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) under Permit 10506. These petitions were discussed among the parties to the Yuba Accord as necessary steps in the implementation of the Yuba Accord.

The Department was involved throughout the process that led to the Lower Yuba River Fisheries Agreement (Fisheries Agreement), an element of the Yuba Accord. Department staff actively participated in the work that led to the development of the proposed Yuba River instream flow schedules that are a key element of the Fisheries Agreement. Department staff also participated in the negotiation of other aspects of the Fisheries Agreement, including the development of a cooperative River Management Team approach to river management and creation of an outline of a program of studies for the Lower Yuba River.

The Department plans to actively participate on the River Management Team for the Fisheries Agreement. The Department believes that the EIR/EIS analysis done for the Yuba Accord demonstrates that the comprehensive Accord agreements, as a package, will provide an equivalent or better level of protection for fish in the Lower Yuba River relative to the regulatory requirements currently in place.

The Department supports the implementation of the Water Purchase Agreement that is a part of the Yuba Accord as the financial element helping to make the Yuba Accord a success. Therefore, just as the Department supported the 2006 and 2007 pilot programs testing the Yuba Accord actions, the Department supports the long term-implementation of the Yuba Accord, which includes the Water Purchase Agreement.

The Department urges the State Water Resources Control Board to approve the petitions before it today to create the path forward for implementation of the Yuba Accord.

Thank you very much for your time and attention today.