

Subj: **Public Comment For The Fish Passage Improvement Project**
Date: 11/26/2002 6:12:59 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Danimal@tco.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

The greatest cause for concern in the debate over the operation of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam is the debate itself.

Also, I see no reason to mitigate any economic loss to Red Bluff, when a restored Sacramento River fishery will more than make up for it!

There is absolutely no question that the Red Bluff Diversion Dam negatively impacts people, from Redding to San Francisco and many communities all along the pacific coast. Thousands of hours of sound scientific study, not to mention basic common sense all prove it. The Red Bluff Diversion Dam alters normal fish migrations, it seriously limits fish population increases, and threatens some fish species with extinction. Anytime that the gates on the dam are lowered into the river it creates improved habitat for predatory fish, specifically the pike minnow. There are no alternatives, and there are no options. For the greatest good of all, the dam gates must be kept out of the river all the time!

Anyone who has spent very much time in and around the Sacramento River, in Red Bluff, knows there is something wrong. For approximately six miles above, and one mile below the diversion dam the Sacramento River is almost totally devoid of native non migrating fish like bass, catfish, and trout. While immediately above and below the dam there exists an extremely alarming abundance of pike minnow. This unnatural state of affairs has existed, and proliferated, since the diversion dam began operating. The dam has negatively impacted my life by making "wild", native, gamefish species, virtually non existent throughout the entire Sacramento River ecosystem. Don't take my word for it, ask around, talk to the older generations who fished before the dam!

The very best proof of how bad the fishing on the Sacramento River has become, is found in the California Department of Fish and Game regulations. At no time during the year is anyone allowed to keep any wild trout from approximately five miles above Red Bluff Diversion Dam, all the way to the Carquinez Bridge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service knows how bad the diversion dam is, that's why they endorse the gates out all the time

I would be willing to talk about the subject of mitigation, but there is absolutely nothing to mitigate about. The economic benefit of a restored fishery has never been factored in to Red Bluffs tax revenue loss. I know a lot of people from Red Bluff, who travel to the Klamath and Trinity Rivers, because the trout, salmon, and steelhead fishing is better there. They spend a lot of money there, to enjoy a fishery that they could have in there own backyard. In all probability, the town of Red Bluff would be better off economically, without the dam. The Sacramento River can be a world class fishing river, and Red Bluff sits in the very best place to cash in on it. The trade off of a restored year round fishery, would benefit Red Bluff much more, than a two day drag boat race that only benefits a few people and businesses.

Any talk about how the river will always look like a gravel pit disgusts me. After forty years of being poisoned, polluted, rip rapped, and dammed is anyone surprised that the river looks bad. It's to bad people can't envision the river returned to its tree lined grace, with deer and other wildlife, finally able to relax in a Red Bluff river habitat.

Stop the operation of the dam now, and set up some temporary pumping facility while you build the new pumping system. Everyone knows the dam is a bad deal. We need to let the river start healing itself as soon as possible, the sooner the better!

Thanks For Your Time,
Dan Miller
Red Bluff
(530)527-5697

Subj: **Raising gates at Red Bluff diversion dam.**
Date: 11/26/2002 3:22:29 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Jim.D.Carter@Saint-Gobain.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Mr. Art Bullock,

You can add me to the list of supporters for the 3 D "gates out" alternative for the red Bluff diversion dam. I think it makes good sense and will benefit much more than it will hurt.

Thanks,

Jim Carter
Estimating Dept.
6341 San Ignacio ave.
San Jose, CA 95119
Tel.(408) 284-5866
Fax (408) 733-7027
Jim.D.Carter@Saint-Gobain.com

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NORTHERN DISTRICT
2440 MAIN STREET
RED BLUFF, CA 96080-2356



November 18, 2002

Mr. Arthur R. Bullock
General Manager and Chief Engineer
Tehama Colusa Canal Authority
Post Office Box 1025, 5513 Highway 162
Willows, California 95988

Dear Mr. Bullock:

This letter provides the formal comments of the Department of Water Resources on the Draft EIS/EIR for the Fish Passage Improvement Project at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. We have participated in the planning process and development of the EIS/EIR as a member of both the Technical Advisory Group and the Stakeholder Working Group. We fully support the stated purpose of this project to substantially improve the reliability of both fish passage and water supply at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.

The Department does not recommend a specific "preferred alternative" for this project. Rather, DWR supports an alternative that best balances fish passage and water supply reliability, which may be some modification or combination of the specific alternatives described in the Draft EIS/EIR.

The Department's formal comments will focus on four topics; potential flood issues, the ability to count anadromous fish populations above RBDD, energy availability and costs, and recreation issues and potential mitigation at Lake Red Bluff.

One of the benefits described for Alternative 2, which would reduce the gates-in period to two months, or Alternative 3, which would provide gates-out year-round, would be a potential increase in riparian vegetation in the existing Lake Red Bluff footprint. The 1992 USBR Appraisal Report (page IV-7) indicates there are about 234 acres within the fluctuation zone of Lake Red Bluff, so this would be the area subject to increased growth. This vegetation would include both native and invasive introduced species, based on the species present today in the Lake Red Bluff area.

From an aesthetic and wildlife standpoint, this increased growth would have both beneficial and detrimental effects. More significantly, additional vegetation in the floodplain could cause a measurable increase in water surface elevations in the Red Bluff area during high water events.

Improvement of Sale Lane and construction of the Bell Mill Shopping Center some years ago both placed considerable fill in the floodplain. In addition, gradual urban development and growth of vegetation during the last 35 years in several overflow channels due to high ground water levels caused by Lake Red Bluff has reduced the flood capacity of these bypass channels. The presence of Lake Red Bluff also has allowed deposition of a considerable amount of cobbles and sediment in the floodway, especially just below the Antelope Boulevard Bridge.

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Additional riparian growth due to the proposed project could further reduce the flood carrying capacity of the Sacramento River in the Red Bluff area. This potential impact should be evaluated following Executive Order 11988 and FEMA guidelines to determine if the reduction in capacity will increase water surface elevations. FEMA, the State Reclamation Board, Tehama County, and the City of Red Bluff should be consulted, and discussion of this potential impact should be included in the EIS/EIR.

Winter-run Chinook salmon counts at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam originally were the basis for determining the allowable incidental take of juvenile winter-run salmon by the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project pumps in the Delta. Since the change to a four-month gates-in operation in 1993, the estimates of winter-run salmon have been made mostly by less accurate indirect methods in the spawning areas above RBDD. A two-month gates-in operation or gates-out year-round would mean that only indirect methods would be available for estimating the winter-run population.

The same concerns apply to the recently listed spring-run salmon, but the effect may be greater, because a much larger proportion of the spring-run salmon pass RBDD during the summer months. Fishery agency representatives on the RBDD TAG have indicated that the available indirect methods are adequate for estimating the populations of these two listed species. However, this issue is not mentioned in the EIS/EIR and it should be. We recommend that the EIS/EIR mention this issue and give the fishery agencies an opportunity to confirm that indirect methods are available and adequately funded to determine the population size of the listed species spawning upstream from the RBDD.

Our SWP operations staff agrees with statements in the EIS/EIR that the proposed project is not likely to have major impacts on the energy market. However, they offered a few additional comments. The EIS/EIR estimates (Page 3-287, Table 3.9-6) that January and February energy loads for Alternative 1A are less than the No-action Alternative. This is not true; however, both loads are at or below 6 percent. It is not apparent that the Power Resources analysis considered impacts to the ancillary services market, although these impacts may be too small to be significant. Alternative 2A and especially Alternative 3 seem to increase pumping during the summer months (Tables 3.9-7 and 3.9-8). Detailed operation studies should be conducted to determine if there are any specific impacts to the SWP and CVP.

We believe the Draft EIS/EIR is deficient in proposing mitigation for recreational impacts with respect to Alternatives 2 and 3. Either of these alternatives, but particularly the gates-out alternative, will cause the loss of boating and fishing access, swimming, water-skiing, and scenic values in the Red Bluff area. Alternative 3 will reduce economic and scenic values of private property in Red Bluff, and make three

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public boat ramps and more than 20 public and private boat docks unusable. There isn't much that can be done to replace water-skiing or the annual drag boat races, but here is a partial list of potential actions that could be taken to mitigate the other recreation losses:

1. The two boat ramps located above the dam at the Red Bluff Recreation area cannot be made functional with the loss of Lake Red Bluff. However, a new boat ramp could be constructed at the City River Park to provide boating access to the river at a wide range of flows, from say 5,000 to 25,000 cfs. There are other potential boat ramp sites just above town and near Surrey Village, but these are probably in private ownership and perhaps less desirable sites.
2. Shore fishing access could be developed in the City River Park by providing easy access to the riffle below Antelope Bridge and permanent legal public access could be provided to the riffle north of Bell Mill Shopping Center.
3. An upgrade of the public swimming pool in River Park could mitigate the loss of swimming areas in East Sand Slough.
4. Public and private docks made unusable by the project could be removed and the inundation zone restored to a natural or landscaped condition, as appropriate.
5. Scenic values could be improved by landscaping the inundation area along Lake Red Bluff, especially along the trail at the Red Bluff Recreation Area, in the City's River Park, and along private property in the area inundated by Lake Red Bluff. This strip of land was purchased by the USBR when the RBDD was constructed.

We recommend that these potential mitigation measures be discussed at future TAG and SWG meetings and any measures considered desirable and reasonable should be incorporated in the EIS/EIR.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the planning process for this project and the opportunity to review the Draft EIS/EIR. If you have any questions, please contact me at (530) 529-7342, or contact Ralph Hinton at (530) 529-7393.

Sincerely,



Dwight P. Russell, Chief
Northern District

Subj: Red Bluff diversion dam
Date: 11/26/2002 10:14:30 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: jack.meyer@ge.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Mr. Bullock,

I'm writing this letter to you to voice my support for the "Gates Out" Alternative. The Red Bluff diversion dam has had a negative impact on Salmon, Steelhead and Sturgeon runs on the Sacramento river over the past 20 years. It appears that an agreement to lowering the gates for all 12 months of the year vs. the current 8 months, which is supported by both Farmers and Fisherman is running into some concerns by Red Bluff business interests.

I reviewed the concerns of Red Bluff business concerns and while I understand these concerns, I feel the "Gates Out" Alternative is a win, win for both Fish, Farmers and Red Bluff business. Concerns over potential economic impacts will be mitigated by simply lowering the gates for the annual drag boat races. A very simple solution that addresses the needs of drag boat racers and fans. Recreational, visual and property value impacts would be short term as the river restores itself over time.

By increasing Salmon, Steelhead and Sturgeon fishing opportunities, you are bringing more revenue into the Red Bluff community. I know that for a fact since I fish the Sacramento river a couple of time a year. I spend a lot of money on Lodging, restaurants, Gas, and guide services when I visit your town.

I would like to ask for your support on this initiative.

Regards,

Jack Meyer
Remarketing Consultant
GE Global Electronics Solutions
2050 Martin Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050
408-986-6814 Direct
408-859-9898 Cell
408-727-6218 Fax
jack.meyer@ge.com

Subj: **Against Sacramento River Dam**
Date: 11/25/2002 11:20:16 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: sibilia@eli.org
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

To Whom It May Concern:

Please note that I am vehemently opposed to the continued damming of the Sacramento River. By continuing the damn, more salmon and other migratory fish will die due to the blockage of the natural fish passage. Salmon and other migratory fish must migrate (thus the name, migratory). Without the natural migration, they do not reproduce and keep the supply of fish available.

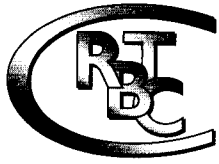
The Sacramento River is the largest river in California. It helps the most in the delta and the bay. It gives fish a place to spawn and return to the ocean. What happens to the river directly affects what happens out in the ocean. Commercial and sport fishing have gone to hell due to the the river being dammed in Red Bluff and many folks are not being able to catch very many fish.

I strongly urge that the dam be removed and that the gates be removed for eternity. The more we inhibit and hurt our natural environment, the less we leave in place for our children and grandchildren.

I will actively work on all fronts - both at the political (voting, letters to Congress and relevant agencies) and the grassroots level - to see this important River flow freely once again.

--

Loretta Sibilia
Grants and Contracts Manager
Environmental Law Institute
202-939-3830 (phone)
202-939-3868 (fax)



Red Bluff – Tehama County

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Web Page: www.redbluffchamberofcommerce.com

E-mail: rbchamber@tco.net

Mr. Art Bullock, General Manager
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
P.O. Box 1025
Willow, CA 95988

RE: Written Comment on the Draft EIS/EIR for the Fish Passage Improvement Project published in the Federal Register on August 30, 2002

DATE: November 21, 2002

Dear Mr. Bullock:

On behalf of the 400 plus members of the Red Bluff-Tehama County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to endorse the resolution #37-2002 of the City of Red Bluff (May 7, 2002) and to share with you the regional support for the continuation of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam in its current 4 months gates-in operating regimen.

Of the 6 alternatives proposed, the Chamber supports Alternative 1a which retains a gates-in operation for 4 months, improves the fish ladders, and provides for a pumping facility to meet the water needs of the TCCA into the future.

In support of this position, the Chamber of Commerce, for the past 6 months, circulated the following petition to submit as public comment on:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Review for the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority Fish Passage Improvement Project at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam published in July 2002 (projected)

We, the undersigned, endorse the resolution of the Red Bluff City Council, No. 37-2002 which says in part:

”Be it Resolved that the City Council of the City of Red Bluff hereby expresses its strong, unequivocal support for leaving the gates in at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam from May 15th to September 15th of every year thus preserving Lake Red Bluff and its economic and recreational benefits for the community.”

We further state that the selection of any alternative that reduces the operation of the Diversion Dam below 4 months is an unacceptable economic and community development loss extending well beyond the local community and includes: loss of tourism and the benefit of tourism expenditures that generate sales tax and occupancy tax revenue to the city and in transit; loss of recreational benefits including community events such as the Memorial Day Boat Drags, boat launching and shoreline leisure; loss of property value; degradation of parks

and community gathering amenities; negative impacts to the Red Bluff Downtown Revitalization process that included lake front attributes, amenities and pedestrian/trail access plans, and other significant impacts.

We further endorse the alternative 1-A 4-month Improved Ladder Alternative and accept the solution that includes adding pumping capacity determined to be necessary to provide reliable water to the TCCA.

We further request that any Adaptive Management Program include a provision for peer review of the recommendations of the Adaptive Management Science Team (AMST) and that the Policy Review Board be required to evaluate the AMST recommendations after peer review analysis and before recommendations are implemented.

To date, the Chamber has, and will provide if so requested, petitions with 6642 individual names. An additional 478 names are illegible and are not counted in the total of individual names. Of the total, 3,190 (48%) are from residents of Tehama County, 561 (8.4%) are from Redding and areas to the north, 346 (5.2%) are from Chico and areas to the south, 318 (4.8%) are from the San Francisco Bay Area, 198 (3%) are from the Sacramento area, 1,437 (21.6%) are from all other areas of California and 594 (8.9%) are residents from out of the State of California.

We feel it is important to recognize that concern over the loss of Lake Red Bluff goes well beyond the interests of local individuals and businesses. The regional use of this Lake cannot be minimized and its loss affects persons and businesses well beyond the local community. What analysis does the DEIS/EIR provide to demonstrate the impacts outside of the local community? Elimination or reduction in the gates operating period of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam must address the regional impacts, not just the local impacts. Please explain what measures to mitigate regional losses are contemplated? How will these losses be measured and what resources will be used to compile the record?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this DEIS/EIR.

Sincerely,



Brad Helser,
President, Red Bluff-Tehama County
Chamber of Commerce

cc: Max Stodolski, Bureau of Reclamation
Marshall Pike, The California Parks Company

Subj: New Damn Red Bluff
Date: 11/25/2002 8:55:20 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: phibron@prodigy.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

I'm differently opposed to this new Damn, the only reason a damn should be built is for flood control. Anything else is completely ridiculous and not cost effective, not even considering the the effect on the enviorment. I enjoy the fishing and boating on the Sacramento River and I have no doubt that this damn will destroy that, as have other dams, but, they were necessary for Flood Control. I would like more information on this and find out who is backing this and what their justifications are.

Thanks

Subj: **salmon**
Date: 11/25/2002 8:40:38 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: cat3fish@excite.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

To Whom It May Concern, I want to voice my opinion on the gates in Red Bluff. I think it's a very good idea to leave the gates up all the time. The gates have taken away far too many fish in the past, and it's time we thought about them. You could still have that stupid boat race if the gates were closed for a mere two weeks out of the year. Then with all the fish that come back you could have some type of derby like they do in Rio Vista. Just think, two events a year, twice the money from concessions. What a concept. Thanks, Bill Golden

Subj: Red Bluff Diversion Dam and Salmon Gates
Date: 11/22/2002 8:42:05 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: ppdicki@pacbell.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

To whom it concerns,

I would like to see the gates in Red Bluff remain open year round. I believe this will support an increase in the spawning Salmon population. I am a sports fisherman on the Sacramento River and would rather see one good year after another, over one good year in three.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Preston Dickinson
Chico Resident

Subj: Red Bluff Diversion Dam
Date: 11/23/2002 12:50:44 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: ronmott@earthlink.net
Reply-to: ron@ronmott.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Please,

Let's start to reverse 20 years of fish run destruction and give our migratory fish species a fighting chance to reproduce themselves naturally.

The Red Bluff Diversion Dam is doing more harm than good. Look at the big picture and do the right thing.

No Red Bluff Diversion Dam!

Ron Mott

Subj: dams
Date: 11/23/2002 8:26:58 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: yamo@onemain.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Hello, Please help out these prized fish. my prayers and e-mails are going out. What can a average joe like myself do to make a positive impact to help the fisheries?.....Yamo

Subj: **Sacramento River**
Date: 11/23/2002 3:59:37 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: nori@steamboats.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority,
Please end the damming of the Sacramento River.
What was done in the past can be undone to the benefit of all.
Please take on this noble environmental restoration project
that will stand as a sterling example of human achievement.
Sincerely,
Nori Muster
Steamboats.com

--
Where the Action Is
<http://steamboats.com>
<http://surrealist.org>

Subj: **Red bluff diversion dam gates out all the time**
Date: 11/23/2002 11:16:51 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: colin37@surewest.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

To whomever has control of the Red Bluff diversion gates,

The effect the closing of these gates have on migratory fish runs is of great concern to me as a licensed California angler. It is critical that there is absolutely no blocking of imigrating adult or imigrating juvenile salmonoids from thier natural spawning and reproduction cyles. This should be of the utmost importance when considering the use of this once unblocked magnificent drainage. The healthy cycle of this river will bring me and the dollars I and other anglers will spend while fishing and floating the Sacramento River from Redding down almost to Red Bluff.

If the decision for keeping these gates closed is made for any other reason i.e. Drag Boat races etc., than you have taken an unfortunate path for the health of this river and the spectacular fishery it's meant to be.

Regards, Colin Carr-Hall
Roseville California

Subj: **Red Bluff Dam**
Date: 11/24/2002 9:10:35 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: missfish_aqua@hotmail.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
CC: robertrice@juno.com, rromigh@adelphia.net, ssminnow@peoplepc.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

To Whom It May Concern,

In regards to construction of another Dam on the Scaramento River System I am vehemently against it. I have formerly lived and conducted scientific investigations of the fish fauna in CA and found that the fish fauna has been severely disrupted and dams are a primary component of fish population change. As Peter Moyle stated in his How to Know the Freshwater Fishes of CA book the native (should say once former) native fish populations have been changed by constructing dams, creating a better habitat for the non native sunfishes, basses and other exotics and eliminating the dynamic natural flows of a natural hydrology systems where many species have become extinct or nearly eliminated already. People should learn from their mistakes but building another dam, ecologically speaking is not a good idea and should not be pursued. I had collected the San Jouquin River for ten years while living out there and it was pathetic. Caught plenty of Red shiners, Inland Silversides, occasional Largemouth bass and Striped bass, all non-natives but never EVER caught a native Californian fish species. That is pathetic. Interrupted water flows and profuse introductions have wiped out many native CA fish and without considerable effort to restore natural river flows the Scaramento, where I caught one native fish species, the Tule perch, is certainly going to persist in it's downward spiral of being a natural river. Please don't dam the river, the fish need it more then agriculture irrigation or recreational users.

I have collected all over the United States of America and have never seen an ecosystem regarding fish fauna so devastated as I have in your state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ray Katula, Former President of the North American Native Fishes Association.

Subj: Gates out Alternative
Date: 11/24/2002 2:41:35 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: ari@starstream.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet ([Details](#))

Dear Mr. Art Bullock:

The salmon, steelhead, and green sturgeon runs have been declining rapidly over the past decade in the Central Valley. Mitigation measures have been made, but one of the most pressing issues is the raising of the Red Bluff diversion dam year round. With these gates raised, water can be taken at other locations, and migratory fish can make it up and their offspring down the river safely. If drag races were to take place on the river, the gates could be lowered only on those days. The plan works for everyone. With raised numbers of salmon, fishing will increase in the area, and increase the local economy. With a better economy, more money can go towards other things in the Red Bluff area. The alternative is the best way to go. Thank you for letting me express my views.

Ari

Subj: Gates out is better for all of us
Date: 11/24/2002 2:50:11 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: ari@starstream.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Mr. Art Bullock:

The migratory fish populations are in a decline. One of the major problems in the Central Valley is the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. If removed, salmon can reach spawning grounds more suitable for them. It is the only 100% effective way for salmon to get past the dam.

Thank You

Ari

Subj: Red Bluff diversion Dam
Date: 11/22/2002 11:19:59 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: HLANDS@volcano.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

The Red Bluff diversion dam is the most significant problem for fish passage in the Sacramento valley. It is time to make amends and let the river flow as it was ment to be, so all fish in the system has a decent chance for replentishing themselves.

Thank you,
Ed Galloway

Subj: **diversion dam at redbluff**
Date: 11/22/2002 11:53:25 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: rstaub@nature.berkeley.edu
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Hi. I would like to lend my support to a complete removal of the Redbluff Diversion Dam gates all year. I live in Davis and frequently fish in the Sacramento River for salmon and steelhead. While this year saw a large return of salmon the overall trend is still down as is demonstrated by the listing of the winter-run chinook as endangered and the steelhead as federally threatened. The diversion dam is a major blockage to upstream and downstream migrations by anadromous fish in the Sacramento River and places unnecessary pressure on these fish species. My rights as a fisherman should be considered when making decisions on the future water quality in the Sacramento River. Thank you.

Rick Staub
Post Doctoral Researcher
Department of Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology
44 Morgan Hall
University of California, Berkeley 94720
510-642-0862

Subj:
Date: 11/22/2002 10:05:04 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: seprentice@ucdavis.edu
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to express my opposition to any attempts to further divert or dam any portion of the Sacramento River. While water conservation continues to be a pressing issue in this state, there are other much more effective and economical solutions to sourcing our water, not to mention that additional diversions will further degrade wildlife habitat and ecosystem services offered downstream. I urge you to support an alternative that maximizes the length of the gates-out period for migratory fish. As a concerned citizen, I am monitoring the issues surrounding Red Bluff Dam and will be encouraging others to do the same.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Samuel Prentice

Post Graduate Researcher, Organic Materials Review
University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
Program (UC SAREP)
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616-8719 USA
ph: 530.752.7541 fax: 530.754.8550
seprentice@ucdavis.edu
www.sarep.ucdavis.edu

"Man does not live by words alone, although at times he has been known to eat them" - Adlai Stevenson

Subj: **Red Bluff Diversion Dam**
Date: 11/21/2002 4:19:18 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: jomaha@sunset.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

I am a citizen of California who cares about the environment and the health of our great Sacramento River. I demand that the gates of the Diversion Dam be opened all the time. Fish need to spawn and to do so they must be able to swim past Red Bluff to their upstream spawning grounds. Enough of private interests! The health of the fisheries affect millions of citizens. The drag boat races only line the pockets of a greedy few. We need a healthy waterway. We need healthy fisheries. We do NOT need a few rich machine owners and their drag boats contaminating our waters, forcing the "damnation" of the Sacramento, and killing off our fish.

John Omaha, Ph.D.
Chico, CA

Subj: **Red Bluff Diversion Dam**
Date: 11/21/2002 4:19:18 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: jomaha@sunset.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

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John Omaha, Ph.D.
Chico, CA

Subj: Keep the gates open
Date: 11/21/2002 7:26:07 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: steemcgr@sbcglobal.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

The only value in lowering the gates at Reb Bluff on the Sac. River is for the businesses that thrive on the boat races. Keep the gates open ... and keep the fish running naturally. Up with the gates....! Jerry McGuire

Subj: Red bluff diversion dam
Date: 11/21/2002 8:53:43 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: carsonwilcox@elsanconsulting.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

I think it is imperative that the powers that be realize that their decisions affect the long term health and vitality of the whole river system. Worrying about drag boat races seems to me to be a very short sighted and shallow debate when the health of endangered species is at stake. The economy does not depend on a weekend event for its life, and red bluff would make more money with a health and vital year round tourist draw then it will off of one event. The reservoir can be refilled yearly for the event if that is an option. Think about the big picture.

Carson Wilcox
Project Manager
Elsan Associates
www.elsanconsulting.com

Subj: **Red Bluff Diversion Dam**
Date: 11/21/2002 9:44:31 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: sbrady88@sonic.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

To Whom It May Concern:

Please leave the gates open all year to provide fish passage for all species in the Sacramento River. The economic gain from enhanced fish populations will bring more tourism to the area than having the reservoir there. The dam is clearly an obstacle for adult and juvenile salmonid species according data from the California Department of Fish and Game. Additionally, riffle areas upstream of the dam will not be flooded and can be used by salmonids for spawning. Without the reservoir juvenile fish will also have a higher survival rate not having to pass the dam.

Steve Brady

Subj: the damn dam
Date: 11/22/2002 12:43:55 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: MelsBurg
To: Tcwaterman

my vote is gates up year round. the hell with drag racing and realty controlling such a river. remember the river was here first and should be first in line for protection--not business interests. let life control us not us controlling life. no damn dam. mark morabito is my name and fishings' my game

Subj: Diversion Dam
Date: 11/22/2002 7:11:41 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: machado@thegrid.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Sirs

It is my opinion that the gates to the diversion dam should be raised 12 months of the year. We have done enough damage to the fishery resources of the Sacramento River. This is actually a chance to reverse some of the effects of our adverse actions and benefit some of the most threatened stocks. Just a reminder that the sport & commercial value of healthy fisheries far outweigh many of the other uses of Sacramento River water resources. A compromise here is being offered - let's take it so that all can benefit.
tmachado@thegrid.net

Subj: **Fishing over Racing**
Date: 11/22/2002 7:12:12 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: steemcgr@sbcglobal.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Once more the individual fisherman and family seem to get overrun by large money-making interests. I say leave the gates up at Red Bluff. Red Bluff and the river got along just fine prior to the building of the diversion dam and can do so once more. Who needs the races? Those who sell gasoline and those who make money from the loud, destructive(to the habitat) activities associated with the "boat drags".

If boat racing is important let Red Bluff develop "white water" races like those in Roseburg, Grants Pass, and Yuba City... they can have their cake and eat it too. They can make their money from the tourists and the salmon and steelhead will have an open passage. This would meet the needs of local fisherman, families, and the racers...!

Leave the gates up and keep the salmon and steelhead runs alive.....!

Jerry McGurie.....Chico Ca.

Subj: **Open the dams, save our resources**
Date: 11/22/2002 9:35:32 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: kberry@frk.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

We have for to long a time played with the fragile ecosystem in California. It is time to give back what we have already stolen from this environment. Please consider releasing more water into the Sacramento River to let nature take it course.

Thank you,

Ken Berry
1717 Heritage #424
Sacramento, CA 95815

Subj: red Bluffs
Date: 11/20/2002 9:03:26 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: cjonesrr@yahoo.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

A diversion dam must be for some purpose other than boat races. So i am guessing irrigation or the head gates for water power or drinking water. These would seem to be a good reason for keeping the dam. As for the fish there are cycles in the number going up and coming down a stream I am guessing there is a fish ladder at this dam if not It might be a consideration.
River Rat

Do you Yahoo!?

Yahoo! Mail Plus – Powerful. Affordable. Sign up now.
<http://mailplus.yahoo.com>

DATE: November 19, 2002

Mr. Art Bullock
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
P.O. Box 1025
Willow, CA 95988

RE: Written Comment on the Draft EIS/EIR for the Fish Passage Improvement Project published in the Federal Register on August 30, 2002 with comments due by extension to November 30, 2002.

Dear Mr. Bullock:

General Comments:

In the Introduction and Purpose and Need statement on page 1., the document indicates prior to completion of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) in the 1960's anadromous fish had unimpeded passage. With all due respect, it should say, prior to the completion of Shasta Dam in the 1930's. The statement uses a rhetorical convenience when "through the current dam site" is added as a qualifier. In reality, all other impediments to fish passage on the Sacramento River pale in comparison to Shasta Dam. All other impacts are insignificant in comparison to those caused by Shasta Dam. However, the very existence of California as the 5th largest economy in the world and the largest economy in the nation is tied inextricably to the decision, in the midst of a depression, to harness the river for the sake of future generations, knowing full well that salmon and steelhead of all races and sub-sets would be affected. The affect was not just the loss of spawning habitat, but in the actual control of the flow characteristics of the river. Since that date forward, there has been no "free flowing river" and claims by the restoration side to the contrary, that is a fact.

While Shasta Dam in an impenetrable and impassable barrier, RBDD is not. Since it's construction, the community has seen the operating program ratchet backwards from year round to 10 months to 8, then 6 and now 4 months only of gates in operation. Every reduction intended to coincide with some biologist's opinion on the failure of either the fish to figure out how to find the ladders or the failure of the engineers and biologists to adequately design ladders and control the flow through them so the fish have a less "confusing" passage.

Past Failure to Complete Recommendations to Improve Fish Passage

As long as 12 years ago, with the gates still in operation for 6 months of the year, redesign of the ladders, screens, outflow and gate operation to increase attraction flow and improve the conditions for passage was proposed in work published by David Vogel, Senior Fisheries Biologist and former head of the USFWS

Red Bluff Office, to the International Symposium on Fishways in Gifu, Japan, in 1990. In part, he said replace the intake louvers with rotary drum screens, move the canal bypass outfall downstream to disperse predation and increase the flow through new fishways to reduce the delay in upstream migration.

My question: Why were only 2 of the three recommendations implemented? Why was the improved flow through new fishways left out of the remediation program?

Decision on Baseline Affects Measurability of Outcomes

My second question has to do with the baseline assumptions about how to measure "substantial improvement in fish passage." The no action baseline incorrectly starts at the current condition to measure improvement. The project, built in the 1960's, never envisioned reduction in gates operation from 12 to 4 months. The original plan called for the diversion to be year round with the gates removed only to accommodate heavy runoff conditions or to flush sediment downstream. If 12 months of operation were the original baseline, it is quite clear that substantial improvement in fish passage has already been achieved and further economic disruption is not required to achieve every increment of improvement. Why is the true baseline for analysis of improvements in the condition of the anadromous runs marginalized by the presentation?

Document Fails to Provide Scientific Support for Inclusion of Other Species of Concern

My next concern is for the "moving target" represented by the inclusion of "other species of concern" in the analysis. One could make a complete and compelling case that the salmon and steelhead runs are substantially improved by the 4 months gates in alternative 1A and be then subjected to repeating the process with every organism in the river. Three are noted, the green sturgeon, the river lamprey and the pacific lamprey. The biology of these fish is unknown to the researchers and to the presenters of this EIS/EIR for the some unexplained reason. This is the very definition of a Species of Concern. Now, however, given the myopic focus on removing RBDD by certain zealots in the agencies, every possible transient species in the river at any particular time is the subject of intense and foreboding speculation, not critically applied scientific study.

Making decisions that are as drastic and complete as the elimination of the RBDD based on supposition, insupportable assumption, anecdotal information and just plain wild guessing is unconscionable and should be discounted completely by the decision makers. To do otherwise is tantamount to "prior restraint," a legal term that has long been recognized as insupportable in court case after case. What is implied by the inclusion of non-scientific speculation is that threats to the operation of the diversion dam as a primary source of irrigation water will continue. The zealots in the fishery agencies have it in mind, that if the

salmon are not an issue, then the sturgeon will be. If the sturgeon are not proved to be threatened, then the river lamprey will be the next in line, and so on. This sort of gamesmanship with the Endangered Species Act and with the lives and livelihoods of entire communities is one of the most horrific regulatory environments ever conceived. The decision makers need not be carried along by this tide. A declarative policy to exclude speculation of this type in consideration of the decision at hand would go a long ways towards restoring some balance in the process.

Faulty Use of Discredited Recreation Study

The Draft EIS/EIR quoted from the "Red Bluff Diversion Dam Area Recreation Use Study" (published in December 1995 and Revised in January 1996) for the underlying recreation usage of the Sacramento River from the RBDD to Ide Adobe Park in 1995. The Draft EIS/EIR reports 64,000 user days from the study. The Study, presented and then revised indicated in its statement on Data Collection on page 2, "Attendance was not counted at the Boat Drag Races or the 4th of July evening fireworks since the sponsoring agencies already collect that data." The authors of this study, then fail to include the information available from the sponsoring agencies. In order to properly fill this information gap, the City of Red Bluff and the Tehama Local Development Corporation have commissioned a study to be filed during this comment period. I urge full consideration of its findings be included in the Draft EIS/EIR as the conclusions drawn from the presentation may be misleading as to the magnitude of the impact. In addition, the City of Red Bluff, Parks and Recreation Department has historical data on the use of River Park by groups over the past several years. Their numbers alone show annual use of 50,000 user days in this one park.

To compile a lost user day analysis as is presented in the Draft EIS/EIR Figure 3.5-6, Recreation Impacts Summary Matrix, without the full information readily available is negligent. A quick read of the available statistics would easily more than double the lost user days for the 2-month and gates out alternatives as represented in this figure. The socioeconomic impact of the loss of events on Lake Red Bluff must also consider that often these on-water events are coupled with activity in town. Another 3000-5000 persons flock to the "Show and Shine" event held in town on the Thursday before the event that is coupled to the Memorial Day Boat Drag Festival. That these impacts are considered to be "significant and unavoidable" if the 2-month or gates out alternative is selected, is a trite use of the vernacular but apparently that is all that needs to be said.

The Chico State Study was severely criticized when it was first published and to rely on it now is subject. If one elects to use the information provided, however, one could just as accurately contend that the since 1980, the percapita use of Lake Red Bluff (number of user-days as a function of the number of months of "gates in" use available) has increased by 78% while our population has only increased by 42%. In other

words, we are using the lake at nearly double the rate of the amount of use from 1980 to the present. If more recreation was the goal, more months of "gates-in" operation is the solution.

Project Purpose and Need

Finally, I was stunned to see the Draft EIS/EIR finally acknowledge on page 3-214, after taking great pains in the environmental analysis to show the beneficial affect of the 2 months and gates out alternatives to read the following:

"However, the likelihood of increased fish population is considered speculative because of the large number of variables affecting fish populations."

Sure, variables such as: long term climatic swings, changes in offshore currents, levels of sport and commercial fishing offshore, effects of pollution and runoff sedimentation, introduction of non-native parasites in the delta, diversion of CVP water to southern California, drought conditions in the Pacific Northwest requiring additional hydro-electric production at Shasta. The list is endless. My question is this: What is the goal of fish passage improvement if not to increase fish populations? Rhetorically, the answer is there is no imperative for this project ultimately in the fish passage segment of the purpose and need statement.

Analysis of Mitigation Proposals

As you know, I support the Alternative IA which improves fish passage and provides for the long term needs of the agriculture community by constructing a 1700 cfs pumping plant. All while retaining Lake Red Bluff for 4 months of the year.

Any other decision encumbers significant, lasting and inequitable burdens on the citizens of Red Bluff and Tehama County. Loss of community cohesiveness and quality of life are intangible assets that do not lend themselves to financial measurement. Mitigation must be directed towards replacement of these lost intangibles. Indeed, since the project itself is primarily a growth inducing water conveyance, the mitigation proposals must include features and facets that lend themselves to the future growth of Red Bluff. Simply, proposing to pay for current lost value does nothing to accommodate the loss of future benefit.

For example, removal of the benefit of the lake by shrinking the gates in period to 2 months cannot be convincingly mitigated by some transitional facilitation. The cost of re-creating a July or August event of the size and scope of the Memorial Day event fails to recognize that May, as a productive tourism draw, remains lost. To recreate the benefit, an appropriate water related event in May must be devised from scratch. Seed funds for marketing, identification of participants, determination of the demographic interest, prize purses, regional promotion, ticketing mechanisms, security and crowd controls, private enterprise

opportunities, all must come together in order to successfully establish such an event. The investment of 30 plus years in a festival around boat drags will not be "facilitated" into a successful replacement in 5 years.

The lake bed, now acres of shoreline cobbles at River Park in it's annual winter condition, cannot simply be allowed to return to "woody, stream side riparian growth meant to enhance the feeding sources for fish." Mitigation of this area would require massive excavation and river bed contouring to return the river course bank to bank. One could not simply dig shoreline pools that would quickly turn to putrid algae clogged puddles. It is also important to realize that the eastern shore line must not be left high and dry by redirecting the stream course back to the west side. Removal of cobbles and restoration of the river bed to full width, and likely shallower depth may be required. Whether this allows the jet drive water craft enough draft to maneuver under power would have to be carefully considered as well. The Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area, upstream of the Dam would require similar consideration through dredging of East Sand Slough.

Since improved fish ladders are a feature of two of the alternatives, no expense should be spared to make them showcases for fish viewing opportunities. Below grade windows on the entire length of the ladder, covered for glare to allow a near aquarium like vantage, would be ideal as an attraction to stimulate visitation. State of the art counting and measuring devices, even experimental systems that might use video or scanning technologies should be installed. The center gate installation should be improved as well since the crowning flow study, conducted over the past two years, is demonstrating the efficacy of higher attraction flows to the center of the stream bed. The opportunity for this facility to become a University of California connected, test bed for improving fish passage technology should not be overlooked.

All current shoreline access facilities that have ramps into the lake, must be designed and extended so that both public and private access remains. The Department of Boating and Waterways and the City of Red Bluff are near completion of a new boating basin and ramp installation at River Park. It is waiting for the spring impoundment to become useful. Without extending that ramp into the main channel, this investment becomes useless. Mitigation to force the same number of boaters into fewer ramps will not provide the capacity requirements of the boating community into the future and is no mitigation at all. Any shoreline enhancement with flow through contouring, must be devised so that people, not just fish, can enjoy the water.

The USFWS Draft Report included in Appendix I has some disturbing suggestions in its Mitigation section and Recommendations section that should be considered. Regarding the revegetation or enhancement of streamside riverine aquatic (SRA) cover, the only areas not currently in this state that front the main stem of the river between the RBDD and Ide Adobe Park are the backyards of private homes and River Park in the city limits of the City of Red Bluff. To restore SRA cover to these places would create the same

conditions as can be found at Dog Island Park for example. This sort of cover would serve to impede human access completely as anyone who has visited Dog Island Park would know. The contention that significant new SRA cover could be established fails to note that in the reduced foot print created by the gates out alternative, the entire eastern shore East Sand Slough is hundreds of yards from the banks of the river and that only a very short stretch of new SRA cover would be created at the confluence of the slough and the river.

In the USFWS statement, they also support the removal of bank revetment and return of natural erodible shoreline under the gates out alternative. It is no surprise that other agencies have a different take on this proposal. The Department of Water Resources in its letter of January 8, 2002 (Appendix G) has correctly noted that revegetation of East Sand Slough would create reduced free-flowing flood plain in that area, slowing flood waters down and causing further flooding upstream and directly into the highly developed Antelope Boulevard residential areas. DWR suggests that FEMA and the City of Red Bluff would likely have to approve this since flood insurance characteristics would be altered dramatically.

Finally, the impact of selecting the 2 months or gates out alternative are more heavily weighted on the poor and economically disadvantaged. Tehama County is among the lowest in the state in per capita income and every other measure of economic condition. The severest losses would be to the community of Red Bluff and the analysis that no mitigation will be required to offset the losses based on environmental justice is wrong. Any alternative selected that eliminates or reduces the Lake Red Bluff recreation alternatives in order to provide for mitigation called for in the CalFed Management Plan and other plans (as detailed in the Appendix I, Draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report) and since the beneficiaries will be the urban and suburban water districts of the San Francisco Bay Area and the losses will be carried largely by the low-income population of Red Bluff and Tehama County, then the Environmental Justice provisions of the process concludes that this disproportionate impact must be mitigated.

The point I am trying to make is that creative thought will be required to reach back and regain the community cohesiveness, social fabric and economic base lost with the elimination of Lake Red Bluff. This community deserves a future, brightly lit, and not as an after thought to the water needs of the state.

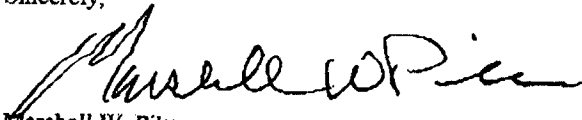
My final questions:

1. Identification of mitigation must be a community function and must be funded fully. What funds are allocated for the planning of mitigation and what specific entities are involved in the decision on any mitigation plan?
2. What funding source is specifically dedicated to the mitigation?
3. How is the funding source tied to the beneficiaries of the new pumping capacity?

4. What level of mitigation is typically project related? What mitigation is ongoing and funded by water right royalties? Who determines the level of royalty?
5. The Red Bluff-Tehama County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Red Bluff have been required to underwrite significant expenditures in order to prepare qualified environmental and biological opinions to the agencies as a result of the Draft EIS/EIR publication. Reimbursement of the cost of these studies must be included in any mitigation proposal.

Thank you for your consideration and substantive response to each of these remarks.

Sincerely,



Marshall W. Pike

Red Bluff, California

Cc Senator Barbara Boxer
 Senator Diane Feinstein
 Congressman Doug Ose
 Congressman Wally Herger
 Assemblyman Dick Dickerson
 Assemblyman-Elect, Doug LaMalfa
 State Senator Maurice Johannessen
 State Senator-elect Sam Aanestad
 Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton
 Resources Agency Secretary, Mary Nichols

Subj: **Comments on 11/19/2002**
Date: 11/19/2002 1:48:38 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: mpike@calparksco.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Attention: Mr. Art Bullock, General Manager
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
P.O. Box 1025
Willow, CA 95988

RE: Written Comment on the Draft EIS/EIR for the Fish Passage Improvement Project published in the Federal Register on August 30, 2002
DATE: November 19, 2002

Dear Mr. Bullock:

In the Stakeholder Working Group for this project, many meetings were held over the last 18 months. My comments are intended to address the issue of the restrictive purpose and need statement, developed by this group, as it relates or fails to relate to recreation.

Of the 6 alternatives proposed, I am supporting the Alternative 1a that retains the gates-in 4 months, improves the fish ladders and that also provides for a pumping facility to meet the water needs of the TCCA into the future.

I want to draw attention to additional current legislation overlooked in the development of these alternatives. The Omnibus Parks and Land Management Act of 1996, P.L. 104-333, authorized the National Recreation Lakes Study Commission "to review the current and anticipated demand for recreational opportunities at federally-managed man-made lakes and reservoirs" and "to develop alternatives for enhanced recreational use of such facilities." The commission's final report, published in June 1999, recommended the establishment of an interagency Federal Lakes Recreation Leadership Council to coordinate recommendations of the Commission; a National Recreation Lakes Demonstration Program; and assessments at Federal lakes to determine customer needs, infrastructure and facility needs, and natural resource capabilities. Member agencies of the Council are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the USDA Forest Service; and a number of others

The intent of the legislation was to encourage and authorize cooperating agencies to look more closely at the needs of the public served by federally managed lakes and to specifically address the growing recreational component when considering the project purposes and needs. Congress saw that while originally designed for flood protection, irrigation and power generation, these valuable assets had become the life blood of communities aching for recreational opportunities and relief from the confines of city dwelling.

Any project on a federally managed, man-made lake should take the intrinsic benefits of lake recreation into account in the purpose and need statement for the project. It is only common sense to expect that as our water needs grow, driven by population, so will the need for those same people to have places to enjoy the water.

My specific questions are: Since the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, John W. Keys, III, is the Co-Chair of the Federal Recreation Lakes Leadership Council, why was the purpose and need statement of this project not modified to include the recreation value of the Federally owned and managed reservoir at Lake Red Bluff? Was the National Recreation Lakes Commission Study formally reviewed for relevance to this project? Specifically, why were repeated attempts to expand the purpose and need statement to include recreation considerations continually rebuffed by the Technical Advisory Group and the Stakeholder Working Group in its initial public process?

In addition, clarification of the terminology in the limited Purpose and Need Statement is required for substantive analysis. We would like to know the specific meaning and the means to measure the quality: "substantially

improve.” What measures are used to determine when “substantial improvement” is achieved and when it is not? Also what constitutes “reliability” in the context of the Purpose and Need Statement? What is unreliable? Absent these specifics, the success of any alternative will be subject to wide discrepancy and consequently unsustainable from a scientific point of view.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Marshall Pike
Concerned Citizen, Red Bluff, California

Kirk Willard
1446 La Crosse Dr
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

11/12/02

Mr. Art Bullock
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
5513 Highway 162
Willows, CA 95988
Or P.O. Box 1025

Subject: My enclosed comments pertain to the RBDD EIS/EIR for the TCCA Improvement Project for the Fish Passage at RBDD.

- 1) I believe that properly assessed benefits to the general society and environment, would out weigh the cons of leaving the RBDD gates down for 2 or 4 months per year at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.
- 2) After reviewing key elements of the draft EIS, I believe the justification for selecting the option of gates up are not justified based on data provided.
- 3) The selection of a "No Action Alternative" under NEPA as well as "existing conditions" under CEQA should be the base alternative selected by the TCCA since they have not justified the #3 -- Gates-out Alternative. One cannot select an alternative with such significant impacts without a better justification.
- 4) I concur with prior commentors that the benefit of having diverted water propelled by gravity due to the dam versas pumped transport is greatly under estimated by the draft EIS. It makes no sense to compare the amount of energy for pumping at this location with the total amount of energy for the state of California which the EIR did.
- 5) The EIR is unacceptable as it completely missed accounting the benefit of groundwater recharge from the expanded lake during gates-down operation. This is not insignificant and is a great benefit for the environment and sustainability of the Northern California communities.
- 6) The EIR is unacceptable as it under-assessed the benefits of gates-down operation on the biota and wildlife due to expanded riparian or river edge areas. This includes many plant and animal species and certainly can be easily documented. This error alone is so grievous as to suggest that lake RB benefits were intentionally minimized.
- 7) The lack of adequate representation of socioeconomics and asethetics/visual resources as benefits of gates-down operation in the EIR is unacceptable. The draft EIR greatly under estimated these benefits as many other commentors have stated.
- 8) The draft EIR has erred in showing the gates-down benefits in comparison to the whole state of California while the negatives (fish survivability) are only shown in comparisons on the very limited local, time limited resources. Of course, if one wanted to demonstrate the benefits as significant they also could be shown on the local, time limited level and then the benefits would be significantly more important. In summary the EIR's benefits of gates-down operation is under-estimated, derided and naively subjugated to "assumed" un-quantified fish survival benefits. That just flies in the face of decent use of the NEPA or CEQA policies of our state.

The benefits of gates-in operation with fish ladder improvement, greatly exceed the environmental and social costs. The EIR and selected alternative need to be revised.

Sincerely,



Kirk Willard
(Up river landowner, down river citizen, taxpayer, dad, etc.)

Arnold Wilhelmi
11859 E. Stillwater Way
Redding, CA, 96003

Mr. Art Bullock
Tehama Colusa Canal Authority
P.O. Box 1025
Willows, CA 95988

Dear Sir:

After considerable study and examination of the alternatives for the solution to the many problems of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam, I would be in strong favor of Alternative 3.

Both from an economic and ecological viewpoint, it makes sense to spend some of our tax money to try to establish the Sacramento River ~~as~~^{as} a healthy ecosystem for us and future generations to enjoy and utilize in a sane manner. We can justify this both from an ecological and economic standpoint.

This great river is one of the states greatest natural assets. It is this generation's responsibility to make wise decisions now for all of us and future generations. We don't have the technology to build a Sacramento River if we destroy this one.

Sincerely,
Arnold Wilhelmi

Subj: **RBDD - Attn: Art Bullock**
Date: 11/14/2002 4:40:51 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: rioahso@snowcrest.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Mr. Bullock:

I talked with several government representatives at the Sept 25th meeting held in Red Bluff, possibly I spoke with you at that time. One person manning a chart in the back of the room left quite an impression with several people when he made the statement "Fish are more important than people" when asked where the governments priorities were in regards to the citizens concern about our community and the effect the removal of the RBDD would have on the area. Fish are more important than people? No matter how many times I repeat his statement, it just doesn't seem like the government has it priorities in the proper order. Fish are more important than people! I am a very enthusiastic fishermen. I love to catch fish, I love to eat fish, I love to watch fish in their natural habitat, in fish farms, in fish hatcheries, and in spite of all this admiration, I don't think I will ever be able to say that "Fish are more important than people". Perhaps the government employee just blurted this statement out in the heat of the moment as there were many people disagreeing with his stand on the RBDD's removal. Maybe he knows more about where the revenues come from that support this great nation and that fish do pay taxes. And if he does, I hope he will share the knowledge with an average citizen like myself so I might pass it along to the many others that do not think "Fish are more important then people".

The citizens of RB have happily lived with the RBDD for over 40 years. The gates were closed for many years after its construction and the fish population remained steady with only the ups and down that go with natures whims. When first constructed it not only diverted irrigation water but was going to be a state of the art fish spawning facility. It was locally referred to as the "Fish Ditch" and although many millions of dollars were spend to perfect the spawning areas it was another grand plan that went asunder. You might recall that the gravel cleaning system did not function as planned. The fish that were transplanted into the ditch had to be captured on the east side of the damn and trucked through RB, down HWY 99W, then over to the spawning area. I'm sure there was a good reason for not putting the collecting and counting plant on the west side of the river, we just haven't been advised of it. We also hear that the fish ladders are not adequate, that the fish are having difficulty going up a grand total of 14 feet to the lake area. Possibly the experts from the Columbia River area should have been consulted. They were able to design ladders that enable fish climb up hundreds of feet. Spawning areas that don't spawn and fish ladders are said to be inadequate but seem to work. Another multi-million dollar plan that looked good on paper but didn't pan out. Leave the RBDD in place, improve the fish ladders, consider leaving the gates down 5 month to include May as even your charts show it to be a high need of irrigation water month, and please don't let "Fish be more important than people". We're all God's creatures, at least put us on equal footing to a fish.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Hill
P.O. 815
Red Bluff, Ca. 96080

Mrs. John M. Hawker
180 S Main St Spc 19
Red Bluff CA 96080-3834

I live on Reed's Creek opposite the River Park boat ramp and have one of the most beautiful scenes in town when we have water in the river. I really miss it when the water is down--so is Reed's Creek, in case noone has noticed--and hope this little check will help in some small way to let us keep the 4 months water we now have.

I doubt that many people in the area really know how much the river is used by boaters, canoers, rafters, kiakers and those dangerous little jet skiers. Whole families, little groups, singles (most of whom I think of as selfish, want-to-be-alone husbands) are constantly going in and out, starting around 5:30 or 6:00 in the morning and ending with lights on at 9:00 or later.

People come to the park all day long to watch the water activity, etc., and much more than the lake will be lost if we do lose it.

(My M key is disappearing and turning into N and that is not misspelling.)



9-14-02
RED BLUFF

RE: DIVERSION DAM VS FREE FLOW RIVER

Red Bluff Chamber of Commerce
P.O. BOX 850 Red Bluff Ca 96080

Dear Sirs:

as a citizen resident of Red Bluff I strongly object to removal of the Diversion Dam on the following reasons.

- ① Pumping water is costly and wastes power
- ② Free flowing river 50 miles will not cure the fish spawning problem.
- ③ Red Bluff will suffer economically from a Recreational loss.

One solution would be acceptable to me:
Build a fish bypass and setus quo on the Dam operation (4 mo. ~~of~~ closed 5/15 - 9/15)

David Altman
510 Bearcliffe
Red Bluff



HLP III

September 25, 2002

To: U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Doug Ose, Congressman Wally Herger, State Senator Maurice Johannesen, Assemblyman Dick Dickerson, Assemblyman Sam Aanestad, and Candidate for Assembly Doug LaMalfa, Red Bluff-Tehama County Chamber of Commerce

RE: Save Lake Red Bluff!

We believe Lake Red Bluff must be saved. The removal of this lake will have a huge recreational, financial, and esthetic, impact on the community of Red Bluff. As the owners of Rio Vista Estates Mobile Home Park, a retirement mobile home park community built in the environs of Lake Red Bluff, in a park like setting, we know that most of us would agree that the recreational opportunities and the economic benefits we derive from having the lake in the summer months is...."priceless".

We have a marina that is used by our residents the four months out of the year that Lake Red Bluff is full. Most of them look so forward to the water coming up on May 15th getting there fishing poles out, shinning up there boats, maybe you should take a look at the beauty we have to offer? Many of these tenants have relocated to Rio Vista to enjoy Lake Red Bluff and our on site marina. The river is an economic asset that we desperately need in this community. The closure of the diversion dam would be a tremendous loss to our community and the town of Red Bluff. I can't imagine our beautiful park like setting with a dry riverbed running through it. Also, the property values of our retired tenants would be greatly affected.

The federal agencies involved in this move to eliminate Lake Red Bluff should take into consideration the quality of life for the residents of the Red Bluff and surrounding areas. Four month's out of the year is an extremely reasonable amount of time to satisfy the local resident's and the remaining eight month's for the river to flow its normal course. During the four month's it also provides water storage for the farmers and ranchers that provide the backbone of California's economy and resources, Wildlife and game management. If you succeed with removing the Diversion Dam, then what next? The Shasta Dam?

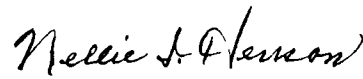
8620 Farley Way
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Phone: 916-967-9591

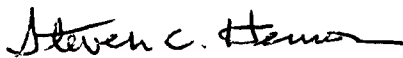
There are other alternatives that should be tried, including review of existing programs to protect the fish. We are in favor of having salmon (and other fishery's) thriving in the Sacramento River. However, removing the dam is not the answer for everyone, it is obvious that there is a design flaw that has hindered our fishery's but it is not the sole reason for depleting number's. Where are all the fish that used to spawn below the dam? The dam did not interfere with their life cycle and yet they have not returned in the numbers of previous years. There are other options to be considered rather than eliminating Lake Red Bluff.

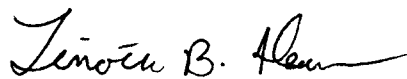
We are writing you to ask for your help in Saving Lake Red Bluff and the quality of life our tenants enjoy as a result of the Sacramento River. There are very few activities for the people in our area and to eliminate the healthy outdoor recreation opportunities provided by Lake Red Bluff would be a real disservice to all the citizens. We are in favor of keeping the Red Bluff Diversion Dam right where it is!

Sincerely,


James R. Henson


Nellie I. Henson


Steven C. Henson


Timothy B. Henson

Petition in support of letter dated September 25, 2002, addressed to U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Doug Ose, Congressman Wally Herger, State Senator Maurice Johannessen, Assemblyman Dick Dickerson, Assemblyman Sam Aanestad, and Candidate for Assembly Doug LaMalfa, Red Bluff-Tehama County Chamber of Commerce, requesting immediate help in Saving Lake Red Bluff and the quality of life we enjoy as a result of the Sacramento River!

Name	Address	Phone #/Email
1 Helen Jarchow	47 Casa Grande Dr. Red Bluff, Ca.	530-529-1192
2 Stephanie Jarchow	188 Casa Grande Dr	530-529-3245
3 Eleanor M. Greiner	120 Casa Grande Dr.	530-529-5437
4 Jeff Davis	109 Casa Grande Dr.	530 527-5858
5 Betty T. Danner	220 Casa Grande Dr.	530-529-2168
6 Fred D. Ashbaugh		
7 Carol Wallan		529-1952
8 Virginia Dickson		
9 Stuart Macneil	153 Casa Grande Dr Red Bluff, Ca 96080	529-3736
10 Dayle Clark	114 Casa Grande Dr.	529-2658
11 Lora J. Hendrix		529-1919
12 Ed Wood	152 Casa Grande Dr., Red Bluff, CA 96080	528-2758
13 Ed Mueller	124 Casa Grande Dr. Red Bluff	527-1762
14 Clarence Pilgrs	115 Casa Grande	529-1103
15 Marjorie Smith	119 Casa Grande Dr., Red Bluff	530-529-5742 528-1685
16 Mildred E. Ford	96 Casa Grande Dr. Red Bluff 96080	528-1692
17 Jessie Turner	107 CASA GRANDE	
18 W. Mueller	76 CASA GRANDE AVE RB	96080
19 Nikki Stoddard	125 Casa Grande Dr	R.B 96080
20 Tom Stoddard	"	"



Subj: Diversion Dam
Date: 10/20/2002 3:41:10 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: jlsanders225@worldnet.att.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to cast my vote in favor of the fish. Please! No Dam.
Joe Sanders

Subj: **RBDD**
Date: 10/20/2002 7:51:17 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: woodfish59@hotmail.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

I used to live in California. My relatives have since the turn of the last century. I had to get out though, I couldn't stand the politics of those who seek to get rich off the land, the resorces, or the drag boat races proposed for this new site. The agricultural needs of this area do not outweigh the needs of the eco-system of the river and, although the fish are at the high end of their population cycle now, a dip in that cycle coupled with another daming operation will have a devastating affect on this fishery. The local economy will not suffer if this doesn't go through, but a few people won't get rich off ruining another resource; and thats fine by me. Jim Anderson (on an undammed stream in Montana)

Subj: **diversion dam**
Date: 10/18/2002 7:09:54 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: info@ospreykayak.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Art,

I am commenting on the diversion dam in Red Bluff, CA. I am an avid river user and make my living off the rivers. I am strongly opposed to keeping the existing dam due to it's detriments on the river habitat, not only the fish, which directly reflects on the health of the Sacramento River system. The Sacramento is a natural gem and a wonderful resource for tourism. People come from all over the world to fish this river. The river supports many businesses and draws visitors to the area. As a eco-tourism business, I rely on the health of a river system. The diversion dam is destroying the health of the Sacramento River.

Please keep the Sacramento River alive and healthy. Please remove this dam.

Sincerely,

Michael Kirwin

Michael A. Kirwin
Osprey Outdoors Kayak School
2925 Cantara Loop Rd.
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067
530.926.6310
<http://www.ospreykayak.com>

Subj: **Red Bluff Diversion Dam**
Date: 10/17/2002 2:05:25 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: gcarter@cbre.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

I prefer "alternative #3" Let's open the gates permanently and undue the damage done when the diversion dam was built in 1964. I may not live long enough to see full restoration, but my children and grandchildren who live in the area certainly will.

Garry Carter
Vice President
Manufacturing Facilities Group(MFG)
CB Richard Ellis
p. 714.939.2114
f. 714.939.2170
<mailto:gcarter@cbre.com>
<http://www.cbre.com/mfg>
<http://www.cbre.com/gcarter>

Subj: **Red Bluff Diversion Dam alternatives**
Date: 10/16/2002 11:56:08 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Richard.Wantuck@NOAA.GOV
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
CC: mstodolski@mp.us.br.gov
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Hi Art,

Please put me on your mailing list regarding Red Bluff alternatives. John Johnson, formerly of this office, now works in Oregon. I will be the point of contact for NMFS, at least into the near future.

Rick Wantuck
Team Leader
Fisheries Engineering
NOAA Fisheries Southwest Region
777 Sonoma Avenue, Suite 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

tele: 707-575-6063
fax: 707-578-3435
Richard.Wantuck@noaa.gov

DRAG BOATS THREATEN SACRAMENTO RIVER SALMON RESTORATION; COMMENTS SOUGHT ON RAISING GATES AT RED BLUFF:

No, this is not about any incidental take of salmon in trawl nets, nor about anyone trolling San Francisco's Castro District. It's about business interests in the town of Red Bluff trying to maintain an artificial lake behind the Red Bluff Diversion Dam for the purpose of holding powerboat ("drag boat") races on an impounded Sacramento River in the summer time. Federal fish and water agencies, farmers and fishermen, along with conservation groups are all pushing to raise the gates of the fish killing dam year around to allow safe fish passage.

The Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) was constructed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in 1964 to divert water from the Sacramento River into the Tehama-Colusa and Corning canals. The dam and canals supply 325,000 acre-feet of irrigation water to more than 150,000 acres of farm land in the Sacramento Valley.

Unfortunately, this taxpayer-subsidized facility came at the expense of the river's once teeming runs of salmon and steelhead. As the salmon and steelhead populations in the river declined from runs numbering in the hundreds of thousands and to just a few hundred fish, it became apparent that the dam has played a deleterious role in delaying or preventing fish migration. The California Salmon & Steelhead Advisory Committee found that the RBDD destroyed more than half of the Sacramento River's chinook salmon spawning runs in its first 20 years of operation. Adult salmon and steelhead have difficulty finding the dam's

fish ladders as they migrate upstream to spawn. Juvenile salmon migrating down river run a gauntlet of predator fish that find the now stilled waters behind the dam to be perfect habitat. Although the fish ladders have been improved and the dam gates are now raised eight months of the year to facilitate passage of the endangered winter-run chinook salmon, the facility continues to impede the migration of most salmon and steelhead runs, as well as all green sturgeon and other fish species, from mid-May to mid-September every year. Raising the dam gates 12 months a year would significantly improve fish passage, ranging from 91 percent for adult spring chinook salmon, to 54 percent for green sturgeon, to a 3 percent for juvenile fall run chinook.

Government agencies and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, with support from fishing groups and conservation organizations such as Friends of the River, are now proposing to raise the gates of the dam 12

months a year to provide for the free passage of fish. They propose to replace the dam's diversion function with fish friendly lift pumps and fish screens. The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority is soliciting comments on fish passage alternatives for RBDD. Alternative 3 - The "Gates Out" Alternative - would raise the gates of the dam 12 months a year; it is the only alternative that provides 100 percent effective fish

passage for threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, and other fish species. Comments are due by 5 November. They should be directed to:

Art Bullock
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
P.O. Box 1025
Willows, CA 95988

e-mail: tcwaterman@aol.com.

For more information, go to:
www.tcaafishpassage.org.

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begin:vcard
n:Wantuck;Rick
tel;cell:707-695-5105
tel;fax:707-578-3435
tel;work:707-575-6063
x-mozilla-html:FALSE
org:Fisheries Engineering;NMFS-Southwest Region
version:2.1
email;internet:Richard.Wantuck@noaa.gov
title:Team Leader
adr;quoted-printable;;;777 Sonoma Avenue, Suite 325=0D=0A;Santa Rosa;CA;95404;USA
fn:Rick Wantuck
end:vcard
```


Subj: **Red Bluff Diversion**
Date: 10/16/2002 10:44:21 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: groundman@rapworld.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Mr. Art Bullock
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
P.O. Box 1025
Willows, CA 95988

Dear Mr. Bullock:

Thank you for seeking public comment in response to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project DEIR/EIS.

I strongly support Alternative 3, the "Gates Out" alternative. Alternative 3 provides 100% effective fish passage for threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead, and other fish species. No other alternative provides the level of fish passage that meets the intent of the Endangered Species Act and other state and federal laws.

Potential economic impacts to Red Bluff could be mitigated by lowering the gates for the summer drag boat racing event. Other visual, recreational, and property value impacts will be mitigated as the river naturally revegetates. Sacramento and Redding benefit greatly from the rivers flowing through their communities, as will Red Bluff once the river is restored.

Please inform me of your decision concerning this important manner.

Sincerely,

Paul D'Agostino
950 Bush Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
groundman@rapworld.com

check out my words at: poetry.com

E-Mail provided free by <http://rapworld.com> - Get one now, totally free!
Check out the biggest hiphop site online at » <http://rapworld.com>

Express yourself with a super cool email address from BigMailBox.com.
Hundreds of choices. It's free!
<http://www.bigmailbox.com>

Subj: **RB diversion dam**
Date: 10/16/2002 8:09:03 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: BRansdell@ThermoKeveex.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Mr. Bullock:

Thank you for seeking public comment in response to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project DEIR/EIS.

I strongly support Alternative 3 the "Gates Out" alternative. Alternative 3 provides 100% effective fish passage for threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead, and other fish species. No other alternative provides the level of fish passage that meets the intent of the Endangered Species Act and other state and federal laws.

Potential economic impacts to Red Bluff could be mitigated by lowering the gates for the summer drag boat racing event. Other visual, recreational, and property value impacts will be mitigated as the river naturally revegetates. Sacramento and Redding benefit greatly from the rivers flowing through their communities, as will Red Bluff once the river is restored.

Please inform me of your decision concerning this important manner.

Sincerely,

Robert Ransdell, Soquel CA.

Subj: Red Bluff Diversion Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project DEIR/EIS
Date: 10/16/2002 12:36:27 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: mkeeper@juno.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

16th October 2002

Mr. Art Bullock
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
P.O. Box 1025
Willows, CA 95988

Dear Mr. Bullock:

Thank you for seeking public comment in response to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project DEIR/EIS.

I strongly support Alternative 3 the "Gates Out" alternative. Alternative 3 provides 100% effective fish passage for threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead, and other fish species. No other alternative provides the level of fish passage that meets the intent of the Endangered Species Act and other state and federal laws.

Potential economic impacts to Red Bluff could be mitigated by lowering the gates for the summer drag boat racing event. Other visual, recreational, and property value impacts will be mitigated as the river naturally revegetates. Sacramento and Redding benefit greatly from the rivers flowing through their communities, as will Red Bluff once the river is restored.

Please inform me of your decision concerning this important manner.

Sincerely,

Michael Keeper
1309 North Park Avenue
Herrin IL 62948-2725

Subj: Stop Damming the River!
Date: 10/15/2002 8:43:09 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: pterp@troutsource.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Subj: **Passage for Endangered Salmon**
Date: 10/15/2002 8:26:17 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: vacentro@hotmail.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Mr. Bullock:

Thank you for seeking public comment in response to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project DEIR/EIS.

I strongly support Alternative 3 the "Gates Out" alternative. Alternative 3 provides 100% effective fish passage for threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead, and other fish species. No other alternative provides the level of fish passage that meets the intent of the Endangered Species Act and other state and federal laws.

Potential economic impacts to Red Bluff could be mitigated by lowering the gates for the summer drag boat racing event. Other visual, recreational, and property value impacts will be mitigated as the river naturally revegetates. Sacramento and Redding benefit greatly from the rivers flowing through their communities, as will Red Bluff once the river is restored.

Please inform me of your decision concerning this important manner.

Sincerely,

Ana Rita Antunes
Apartado 168
2710-Sintra
PORTUGAL
EUROPE

Subj: **Red Bluff Diversion Dam,**
Date: 10/15/2002 8:54:21 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: pa@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Mr. Art Bullock,
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority,
P.O. Box 1025, Willows, CA 95988,
Email: tcwaterman@aol.com,
Fax: (530) 934-2355.

Dear Mr. Bullock:

Thank you for your thoughtful review of public comments concerning the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. This letter is written in strong support of the Alternative 3, Gates out alternative. As I'm sure you are aware, significant impacts to California's river systems from facilities such as the Red Bluff Diversion Dam have taken a tremendous toll on our fisheries, especially salmon and steelhead which require upstream spawning habitat like that located above the Dam.

Improvements in the Dam and its operations are recognized but further steps like those outlined in Alternative 3 still need to be taken to make the differences necessary to the survival of salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and other fish that depend on the upstream habitat that is currently inaccessible four months out of the year. These changes should also be made to comply with the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Please realize that claimed loss in revenue from recreation supplied by the reservoir can be mitigated by selective lowering of the gates for specific events. Benefits from improvements to habitat and the fisheries that depend on it will surely outweigh the losses claimed by a shortsighted business community.

Please inform me of your decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Amato

Paul F. Amato
Environmental Specialist
SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612
phone: (510) 622-2429
fax: (510) 622-2501

Subj: **Red Bluff Diversion Dam**
Date: 10/14/2002 9:18:18 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: kumasong@excite.com
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Mr. Art Bullock
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
P.O. Box 1025
Willows, CA 95988

Dear Mr. Bullock:

Thank you for seeking public comment in response to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project DEIR/EIS.

I strongly support Alternative 3 the "Gates Out" alternative. Alternative 3 provides 100% effective fish passage for threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead, and other fish species. No other alternative provides the level of fish passage that meets the intent of the Endangered Species Act and other state and federal laws.

Potential economic impacts to Red Bluff could be mitigated by lowering the gates for the summer drag boat racing event. Other visual, recreational, and property value impacts will be mitigated as the river naturally revegetates. Sacramento and Redding benefit greatly from the rivers flowing through their communities, as will Red Bluff once the river is restored.

Please inform me of your decision concerning this important matter.

Sincerely,
Karen Kirschling
San Francisco, CA

Subj: I Vote For The Gates Out All The Time!
Date: 10/14/2002 9:49:24 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Danimal@tco.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Hello My Name is Barbara Porter,
365 Shasta Park Dr.
Shasta Lake City, CA.
96019

I think what we are dealing with is the issue of fear. Red Bluff is a community of no growth. As long as there is no growth there can not be answers to problems. The Fish should have the first call on the water ways. Red Bluff needs to stop with the "Victim Thinking". I vote for the gates to be lifted, and stay that way. Let's give the Sacramento River a chance to go back to the most natural state that it can possibly be. Give the fish a chance! We don't want our River to end up like her sister the Klamath River.

Thank You,
Barbara Porter

Subj: **Red Bluff Diversion**
Date: 10/14/2002 11:24:47 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Mrgaule
To: Tcwaterman

Dear Mr. Bullock:

Thank you for seeking public comment in response to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project DEIR/EIS.

I strongly support Alternative 3 the "Gates Out" alternative.

Alternative 3 provides 100% effective fish passage for threatened and endangered salmon, steelhead, and other fish species. No other alternative provides the level of fish passage that meets the intent of the Endangered Species Act and other state and federal laws.

Potential economic impacts to Red Bluff could be mitigated by lowering the gates for the summer drag boat racing event. Other visual, recreational, and property value impacts will be mitigated as the river naturally revegetates. Sacramento and Redding benefit greatly from the rivers flowing through their communities, as will Red Bluff once the river is restored.

Sincerely,

Richard Gaule
784 O'Farrell St.
San Francisco
CA 94109

Subj: **Fw: Demand Passage for Endangered Salmon**
Date: 10/15/2002 1:33:36 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: vivca@adelphia.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com, action@action.amrivers.org
Sent from the Internet (Details)

----- Original Message -----

From: <owner-irn-action@netvista.net>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2002 7:38 PM
Subject: Demand Passage for Endangered Salmon

> FRIENDS OF THE RIVER ACTION ALERT

>

> Help Endangered Salmon Pass The Fish-Killing Red Bluff Diversion Dam!

>

> Endangered salmon may achieve free passage past a fish-killing dam if
> federal and state agencies, as well as Sacramento Valley farmers, can
> overcome the objections of Red Bluff business interests.

>

> The Problem:

> Constructed in 1964 by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Red Bluff
> diversion dam destroyed more than half of the Sacramento River's once
> teeming runs of salmon and steelhead in its first 20 years of operation.
> Although the Endangered Species Act has required improvements to the dam's
> fish ladders and mandated the raising of the dam gates eight months a year
> to ease the passage of the endangered winter run chinook salmon, the
> facility still blocks the free migration of salmon, steelhead, green
> sturgeon, and other fish species.

>

> Government agencies and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority are now
proposing

> to raise the gates of the dam 12 months a year to provide for the free
> passage of fish. They propose to replace the dam's diversion function
with
> fish friendly lift pumps and fish screens. However, Red Bluff business
> interests are bitterly opposed to the project because it would result in
> the permanent draining of the small reservoir behind the dam which is used
> for annual drag boat races.

>

> Meanwhile, Sacramento River salmon and steelhead runs, which historically
> numbered in the hundreds of thousands, have dwindled to a just a few
> thousand fish.

>

> What You Can Do:

> Write a letter today to the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority in support of
> Alternative 3 The "Gates Out" Alternative.

>

> Key Points to Mention:

> --raising the gates of the Red Bluff diversion dam 12 months a year is the
> only alternative that provides 100% effective fish passage for threatened
> and endangered salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, and other fish species.
> --the potential economic impacts to Red Bluff may be mitigated by simply
> lowering the gates for the annual drag boat races.
> --recreational, visual, and property value impacts will also be mitigated
> as the river restores itself over time.

>

> Address your letter to: Mr. Art Bullock, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority,

> P.O. Box 1025, Willows, CA 95988, Email: tcwaterman@aol.com, Fax: (530)
> 934-2355.
>
> The deadline for comments is November 5, 2002. For more information
> concerning this project, visit www.tcaafishpassage.org. You may also send
> comments directly via this web page (click on "Contacts"). For more
> information concerning this alert, contact Steve Evans at Friends of the
> River, (916) 442-3155, e-mail: sevans@friendsoftheriver.org.
>
> Red Bluff Diversion Dam Sample Letter
>
> Mr. Art Bullock
> Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
> P.O. Box 1025
> Willows, CA 95988
>
> Dear Mr. Bullock:
>
> Thank you for seeking public comment in response to the Red Bluff
Diversion
> Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project DEIR/EIS.
>
> I strongly support Alternative 3 the "Gates Out" alternative.
Alternative
> 3 provides 100% effective fish passage for threatened and endangered
> salmon, steelhead, and other fish species. No other alternative provides
> the level of fish passage that meets the intent of the Endangered Species
> Act and other state and federal laws.
>
> Potential economic impacts to Red Bluff could be mitigated by lowering the
> gates for the summer drag boat racing event. Other visual, recreational,
> and property value impacts will be mitigated as the river naturally
> revegetates. Sacramento and Redding benefit greatly from the rivers
> flowing through their communities, as will Red Bluff once the river is
> restored.
>
> Please inform me of your decision concerning this important manner.
>
> Sincerely,
>
>
> (name)
> (address)
>
> The deadline for comments is November 5, 2002.
>
>
> Background Information
> The Red Bluff diversion dam was constructed by the U.S. Bureau of
> Reclamation in 1964 to divert water from the Sacramento River into the
> Tehama-Colusa and Corning canals. The dam and canals supply 325,000 acre
> feet of irrigation water to more than 150,000 acres of farm land in the
> Sacramento Valley. Unfortunately, this taxpayer-subsidized facility came
> at the expense of the river's once teeming runs of salmon and
> steelhead. As the salmon and steelhead populations in the river declined
> from runs numbering in the hundreds of thousands and to just a few hundred
> fish, it became apparent that the dam has played a deleterious role in
> delaying or preventing fish migration.
>
> The California Salmon and Steelhead Advisory Committee found that the Red
> Bluff diversion dam destroyed more than half of the Sacramento River's

- > chinook salmon spawning runs in its first 20 years of operation. Adult
- > salmon and steelhead have difficulty finding the dam's fish ladders as they
- > migrate upstream to spawn. Juvenile salmon migrating down river run a
- > gauntlet of predator fish that find the stilled waters behind the dam to be
- > perfect habitat.
- >
- > Although the fish ladders have been improved and the dam gates are now
- > raised eight months of the year to facilitate passage of the endangered
- > winter run chinook salmon, the facility continues to impede the migration
- > of most salmon and steelhead runs, as well as all green sturgeon and other
- > fish species, from mid-May to mid-September every year. Raising the dam
- > gates 12 months a year would significantly improve fish passage, ranging
- > from an astounding 91% for adult spring chinook salmon, to a significant
- > 54% for green sturgeon, to a modest 3% for juvenile fall run chinook.
- >
- > Because it provides 100% effective fish passage for all fish species, most
- > federal and state agencies (including the National Marine Fisheries
- > Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and
- > Game, and California Department of Water Resources) support raising the
- > dam
- > gates 12 months a year. The proposal is even supported by the irrigation
- > districts that receive water diverted by the dam and that make up the
- > Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority. Farmers support the proposal because the
- > dam's diversion function would be replaced with new fish-friendly ³lift²
- > pumps, that safely lift water into the canals without creating water
- > pressure that harm fish. Any fish caught in the pumps are then returned by
- > fish screens unharmed back into the river.
- >
- > But this "fish and farmers win" scenario is now threatened by lobbying
- > from
- > Red Bluff business interests opposed to the permanent gates-up plan.
- > Concerns include the loss of annual drag boat races conducted on the
- > reservoir behind the dam, as well as the change from a flat-water channel
- > to a free flowing river through the town and potential impacts on
- > recreational use, visual quality, and property values.
- >
- > The potential loss of the drag boat races, which generates an estimated
- > \$4.2 million in tourism annually for Red Bluff, could be mitigated by
- > simply lowering the gates during the short 1-2 week period required to
- > conduct the event and to fill and drain the temporary reservoir.
- >
- > With gates up 12 months a year, recreation will simply change to
- > river-based activities. The Sacramento River upstream and downstream of
- > the Red Bluff diversion dam already supports a robust river-based
- > recreation industry, including power-boating, floating, fishing, and
- > guided
- > fishing. Once the river is restored, these activities will expand to the
- > river segment in Red Bluff, which will join Redding and Sacramento as one
- > of several valley cities gaining economic benefit from a free-flowing
- > river
- > meandering through their city. Visual impacts will be mitigated as the
- > river channel re-vegetates and a healthy riparian forest is
- > re-established. There should be little or no impact on adjacent lands,
- > since river-front and lake-front property share similar values and are in
- > equally high demand.
- >
- > S. Craig Tucker
- > Manager of Volunteer Programs
- > 915 20th Street

- > Sacramento, CA 95814
- > craig@friendsoftheriver.org
- > on the web at: <http://www.friendsoftheriver.org>
- >
- >
- > -----
- > To unsubscribe from this list, send a message to majordomo@netvista.net
- > with no subject and the following text in the body of the message
- > "unsubscribe irr-action".

Subj: **Fw: Demand Passage for Endangered Salmon**
Date: 10/15/2002 3:45:55 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: panther@bcn.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

----- Original Message -----

From: <owner-irn-action@netvista.net>
To: <undisclosed-recipients:>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2002 7:38 PM
Subject: Demand Passage for Endangered Salmon

> FRIENDS OF THE RIVER ACTION ALERT

>

> Help Endangered Salmon Pass The Fish-Killing Red Bluff Diversion Dam!

>

> Endangered salmon may achieve free passage past a fish-killing dam if
> federal and state agencies, as well as Sacramento Valley farmers, can
> overcome the objections of Red Bluff business interests.

>

> The Problem:

> Constructed in 1964 by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Red Bluff
> diversion dam destroyed more than half of the Sacramento River's once
> teeming runs of salmon and steelhead in its first 20 years of operation.
> Although the Endangered Species Act has required improvements to the dam's
> fish ladders and mandated the raising of the dam gates eight months a year
> to ease the passage of the endangered winter run chinook salmon, the
> facility still blocks the free migration of salmon, steelhead, green
> sturgeon, and other fish species.

>

> Government agencies and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority are now
proposing

> to raise the gates of the dam 12 months a year to provide for the free
> passage of fish. They propose to replace the dam's diversion function
with

> fish friendly lift pumps and fish screens. However, Red Bluff business
> interests are bitterly opposed to the project because it would result in
> the permanent draining of the small reservoir behind the dam which is used
> for annual drag boat races.

>

> Meanwhile, Sacramento River salmon and steelhead runs, which historically
> numbered in the hundreds of thousands, have dwindled to a just a few
> thousand fish.

>

> What You Can Do:

> Write a letter today to the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority in support of
> Alternative 3 The "Gates Out" Alternative.

>

> Key Points to Mention:

> --raising the gates of the Red Bluff diversion dam 12 months a year is the
> only alternative that provides 100% effective fish passage for threatened
> and endangered salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, and other fish species.
> --the potential economic impacts to Red Bluff may be mitigated by simply
> lowering the gates for the annual drag boat races.
> --recreational, visual, and property value impacts will also be mitigated
> as the river restores itself over time.

>

> Address your letter to: Mr. Art Bullock, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority,
> P.O. Box 1025, Willows, CA 95988, Email: tcwaterman@aol.com, Fax: (530)
> 934-2355.

>
> The deadline for comments is November 5, 2002. For more information
> concerning this project, visit www.tcaafishpassage.org. You may also send
> comments directly via this web page (click on "Contacts"). For more
> information concerning this alert, contact Steve Evans at Friends of the
> River, (916) 442-3155, e-mail: sevans@friendsoftheriver.org.

> Red Bluff Diversion Dam Sample Letter

>
> Mr. Art Bullock
> Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
> P.O. Box 1025
> Willows, CA 95988

> Dear Mr. Bullock:

>
> Thank you for seeking public comment in response to the Red Bluff
Diversion
> Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project DEIR/EIS.

>
> I strongly support Alternative 3 the "Gates Out" alternative.
Alternative

> 3 provides 100% effective fish passage for threatened and endangered
> salmon, steelhead, and other fish species. No other alternative provides
> the level of fish passage that meets the intent of the Endangered Species
> Act and other state and federal laws.

>
> Potential economic impacts to Red Bluff could be mitigated by lowering the
> gates for the summer drag boat racing event. Other visual, recreational,
> and property value impacts will be mitigated as the river naturally
> revegetates. Sacramento and Redding benefit greatly from the rivers
> flowing through their communities, as will Red Bluff once the river is
> restored.

>
> Please inform me of your decision concerning this important manner.

> Sincerely,

>
> (name)
> (address)

>
> The deadline for comments is November 5, 2002.

>
> Background Information

> The Red Bluff diversion dam was constructed by the U.S. Bureau of
> Reclamation in 1964 to divert water from the Sacramento River into the
> Tehama-Colusa and Corning canals. The dam and canals supply 325,000 acre
> feet of irrigation water to more than 150,000 acres of farm land in the
> Sacramento Valley. Unfortunately, this taxpayer-subsidized facility came
> at the expense of the river's once teeming runs of salmon and
> steelhead. As the salmon and steelhead populations in the river declined
> from runs numbering in the hundreds of thousands and to just a few hundred
> fish, it became apparent that the dam has played a deleterious role in
> delaying or preventing fish migration.

>
> The California Salmon and Steelhead Advisory Committee found that the Red

- > Bluff diversion dam destroyed more than half of the Sacramento River's
- > chinook salmon spawning runs in its first 20 years of operation. Adult
- > salmon and steelhead have difficulty finding the dam's fish ladders as they
- > migrate upstream to spawn. Juvenile salmon migrating down river run a
- > gauntlet of predator fish that find the stilled waters behind the dam to be
- > perfect habitat.
- >
- > Although the fish ladders have been improved and the dam gates are now
- > raised eight months of the year to facilitate passage of the endangered
- > winter run chinook salmon, the facility continues to impede the migration
- > of most salmon and steelhead runs, as well as all green sturgeon and other
- > fish species, from mid-May to mid-September every year. Raising the dam
- > gates 12 months a year would significantly improve fish passage, ranging
- > from an astounding 91% for adult spring chinook salmon, to a significant
- > 54% for green sturgeon, to a modest 3% for juvenile fall run chinook.
- >
- > Because it provides 100% effective fish passage for all fish species, most
- >
- > federal and state agencies (including the National Marine Fisheries
- > Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and
- > Game, and California Department of Water Resources) support raising the dam
- > gates 12 months a year. The proposal is even supported by the irrigation
- > districts that receive water diverted by the dam and that make up the
- > Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority. Farmers support the proposal because the
- > dam's diversion function would be replaced with new fish-friendly ³lift²
- > pumps, that safely lift water into the canals without creating water
- > pressure that harm fish. Any fish caught in the pumps are then returned by
- > fish screens unharmed back into the river.
- >
- > But this "fish and farmers win" scenario is now threatened by lobbying
- from
- > Red Bluff business interests opposed to the permanent gates-up plan.
- > Concerns include the loss of annual drag boat races conducted on the
- > reservoir behind the dam, as well as the change from a flat-water channel
- > to a free flowing river through the town and potential impacts on
- > recreational use, visual quality, and property values.
- >
- > The potential loss of the drag boat races, which generates an estimated
- > \$4.2 million in tourism annually for Red Bluff, could be mitigated by
- > simply lowering the gates during the short 1-2 week period required to
- > conduct the event and to fill and drain the temporary reservoir.
- >
- > With gates up 12 months a year, recreation will simply change to
- > river-based activities. The Sacramento River upstream and downstream of
- > the Red Bluff diversion dam already supports a robust river-based
- > recreation industry, including power-boating, floating, fishing, and guided
- > fishing. Once the river is restored, these activities will expand to the
- > river segment in Red Bluff, which will join Redding and Sacramento as one
- > of several valley cities gaining economic benefit from a free-flowing
- river
- > meandering through their city. Visual impacts will be mitigated as the
- > river channel re-vegetates and a healthy riparian forest is
- > re-established. There should be little or no impact on adjacent lands,
- > since river-front and lake-front property share similar values and are in
- > equally high demand.
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- > "unsubscribe irr-action".
- >

Subj: RBDD
Date: 10/22/2002 3:33:20 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: ahart@harpos.to
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Allen Harthorn
Friends of Butte Creek
Box 3305
Chico CA 95927

To whom it may concern:

The Friends of Butte Creek have been fighting for improved fish passage on our creek for many years and with the improvements over the last ten years the fish have returned. All the experts agree that this will happen on the Sacramento as well with the removal of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. The beauty and tranquility of a free flowing river with a living and dynamic riparian forest and the economic boom of increased fishing will more than offset the loss of the drag boat races. With a well planned event I believe Red Bluff could do just as well with a monster rubber ducky race down the river. Bring back the fish!

Sincerely,
Allen Harthorn

Subj: Re: Red Bluff diversion dam
Date: 10/24/2002 7:59:16 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: dluboff@earthlink.net
To: tcwaterman@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Mr. Art Bullock
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
Willows, California

Dear Mr. Bullock

I am writing to express my support for Alternative 3 for the Red Bluff diversion dam, such that the dam gates will be open at all times during the year. Fish that formerly were abundant in the Sacramento River have been decimated, and it appears that the scientific evidence points to the diversion dam as a major contributing factor to the decline. Salmon and steelhead are especially threatened.

I understand that there is opposition to the plan this alternative from supporters of the boat races that are held in the reservoir behind the dam. However, the cost to the environment far exceeds any loss on account of cancellation of the races. If need be, a compromise could be achieved, whereby the dam gates are closed for a short period each year to refill the reservoir solely for the purposes of the races. The water would be released after the races are concluded.

Thank you for your consideration.

David M. Luboff
436 East Palm Avenue
Burbank, California 91501