



Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Celebrating 80 years of protecting the planet

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January 26, 2014

The Honorable Tony Estremera, Chair
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

RE: Salmonid Fishery Recovery Strategy

Dear Chair Estremera,

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club encourages the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors to bring greater attention and resources to the restoration of the anadromous fisheries of Santa Clara County streams, to provide a healthy stream ecology and vibrant natural landscape for both wildlife and residents.

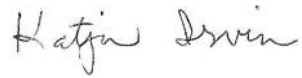
The historical Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) agreement of 2003 established a framework for long term resolution of the fishery restoration issues and the achievement of the restoration of this valuable resource.

Ten years later, we urge the Board to help resolve the outstanding issues with the Three Creeks Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) raised by the Water Rights complaint. We recommend the following principles be used as a basis to align efforts on the HCP and FAHCE settlement finalization.

- Commitment to the biological goal of restoring the Chinook salmon and steelhead trout fisheries on the Three Creeks to healthy condition
- Completion of the Phase I actions within 10 years (address Priority 1 fish migration barriers, modify reservoir release pattern to foster restoration of the fishery, add gravel to improve spawning and spawning success, complete a fish monitoring and fish restoration plan, etc.)
- Resolution of the outstanding issues that were not resolved in 2003 (flow management strategy, conservation measure for Chinook salmon, etc.)

The District's Safe Clean Water parcel tax could potentially assist stream restoration efforts under the HCP/FAHCE and your recommitment to the FAHCE principles would result in better integration of these programs. Towards that end, we also support the Salmonid Fishery Recovery Strategy considered by the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) in October and scheduled for further consideration by the EAC at its January 27th meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katja Irvin".

Katja Irvin, AICP
Chair, Water Committee
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Cc: SCVWD Board of Directors
John Cordes, Interim Director, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
Michael J. Ferreira, Conservation Committee Chair, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter