

Letter from Sterling A. Sorenson Dated January 6, 2000

4298

January 6, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife
 1125 16th Street, Room 209
 Arcata, CA. 95521

Dear Mr. Polos,

Being a native Californian, third generation, I'm extremely concerned with the adverse impact created by excessive water diversions from the Trinity River for the Central Valley Project (CVP). There are two distinct items of contention, which need to be reviewed. Both are intertwined.

First is the economic or cost/benefit factor. As a taxpayer, I'm concerned with the fact that my taxes are paying for a water system so that numerous farmers can grow crops that are price supported by taxpayers. Water contractors should bare the total cost of the system. If you held back all the water that is used to grow price-supported crops, you could eliminate at least 25% of the exports from the Trinity River. I also question the economic benefit of creating numerous low paying farm jobs, which are held by foreign workers, versus maintaining a large (local) commercial fishing operation. Follow this; I pay a farmer to grow grain so he can feed it to his cattle and fatten them up, so I can buy those cattle and then cut off all that fat and throw it away. Why not let me keep my money and spend it on what I like?

In short, the cost is born by me and not the contractor and I get no benefit.

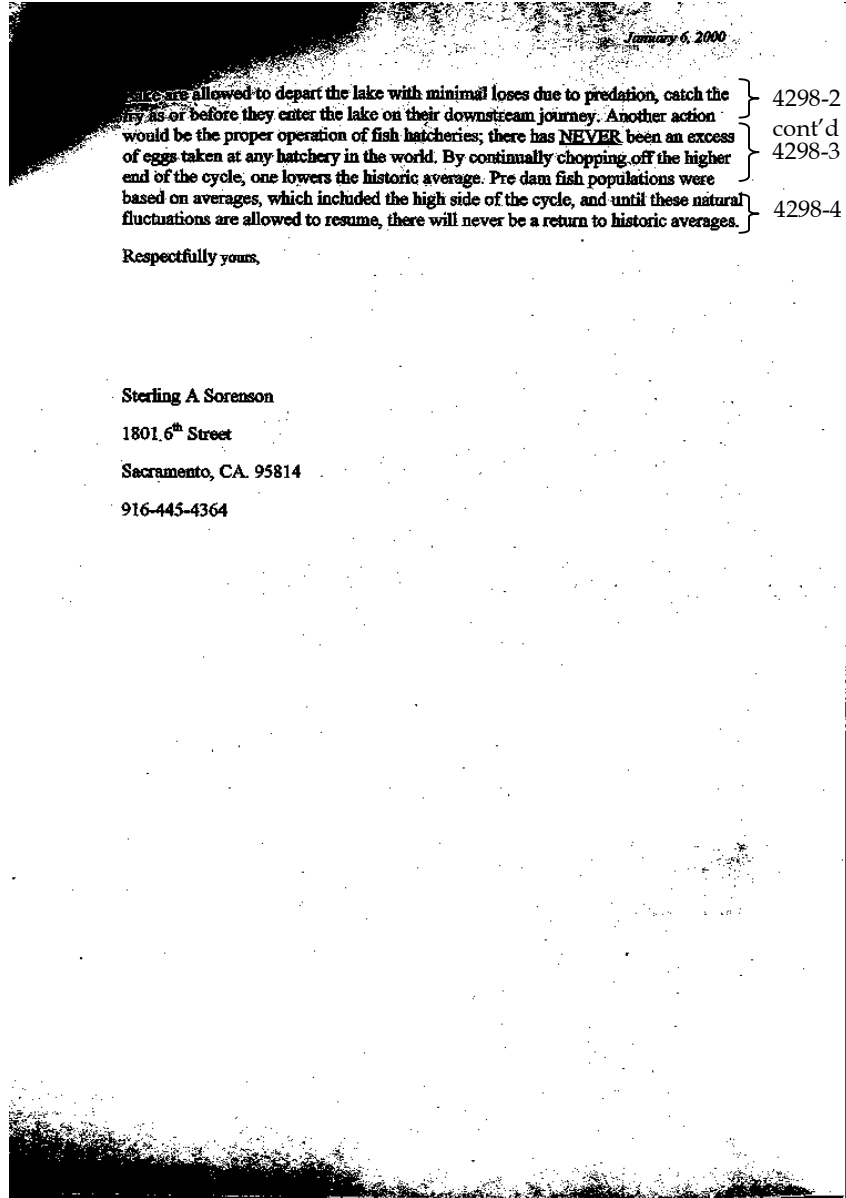
My next concern is the environmental damage caused by the Trinity Dam and Trinity Lake. By providing an un-natural habitat where large, non-native predator fishes can feed on migrating salmon and steelhead fry as they try to find the outlet to the lake, it greatly increases the mortality rate for these small fish. The lake behind the dam also creates an un-natural situation where shore birds can feast on the small salmon and steelhead, which are "lost" in the shallow, non-moving backwaters of the lake? Because of increased water diversions, thermal water conditions below the dam are now so high that many of the small salmon and steelhead fry are experiencing high mortality rates in the early spring as they try to make their way to the ocean. Summer and fall runs of mature fish are also experiencing higher than normal mortality rates due to reduced, thermally polluted river flows. It takes cool, deep, moving water for these fish to survive as fry and adults. Another problem with low flows is that normally occurring silt is building up in the spawning beds below the dam and is not being flushed out as it normally would during floods. These cleansing flood flows are now held behind the dam for later export.

Understanding the facts as stated above, increased downstream releases are one of several tools that should be utilized to return the Trinity River fish populations to their pre-dam levels. Another tool is to ensure that any fry which enter the Trinity

4298-1

Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. The Preferred Alternative outlined in the DEIS/EIR includes increased downstream releases as one of the tools to restore and maintain the natural production of anadromous fish on the Trinity River mainstem downstream of Lewiston Dam. The proposed action would also use mechanical means (e.g., bulldozers) to initially restore some habitat in the river; thereafter, the sites would be maintained by the increased flows. An Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Management (AEAM) program would test scientific understandings that are built upon existing data, and then use these results to evaluate progress towards desired outcomes and guide future management actions. The proposed action would also include a watershed protection program to reduce sediment input into the Trinity River. Please see thematic response titled "Description of the Proposed Action/Segmenting."

Letter from Sterling A. Sorenson continued



- 4298-2 Production of salmon and steelhead in the Trinity River occurs in the mainstem Trinity River and its tributaries downstream of Lewiston Dam and at Trinity River Hatchery, located at the base of Lewiston Dam. The fry do not have to migrate through the reservoir on their downstream journey.
- 4298-3 There have been instances where Trinity River Hatchery has taken excess eggs, above the number necessary to meet the mitigation goals of the hatchery. See thematic responses titled "Fisheries."
- 4298-4 Post-dam salmonid population levels have exhibited high variability, including high and low cycles. See DEIS/EIR Chapter 3.5.

Letter from Michael Nickoloff Dated January 5, 2000

4299

4299-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

1-05-00

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th St., Room 209
Arcata, Ca. 95521

Dear Mr. Polos:

For the past 40 years I have hunted and fished the resources of California. Over the past 10 years I have taken up fly-fishing and am thrilled with the skill and patience it takes to catch, land and release a wild trout.

I want to expand this opportunity to as many anglers on as many waterways throughout the state as possible. I am writing to comment on the Trinity River Flow Study. Any and all streams and rivers that we can increase flow or rewater from a reduced flow or a dry state, are an added benefit to the people of this state.


Not only do the anglers benefit, but also business, tourism, and conservation all receive an additional boost when water again flows downhill! Recreation and tourism are a major part of this state's economy. The direct recreational benefits of increasing the flow of the Trinity River may clash with the ideas and purposes of the Central Valley Project-to provide additional water to fuel the population growth of Central California.

But it is time for a compromise to be negotiated. One that more favorably reflects a true balance of concern for the environment rather than the 90% water diversion to the CVP that has been in place since 1963.

Let's work toward restoring credibility in government agencies that is sometimes so sorely lacking. Make good on the promises by the Interior Dept. to maintain a water flow that will support a healthy ecosystem that will in turn promote a restored fishery resource.

} 4299-1

Thank you,


Michael Nickoloff
Hunter, angler, conservationist

4300

1036 Cornwell Ave.
Yuba City, Ca 95991

January 7, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th St., Room 209
Arcata, Ca 95521

Dear Mr. Polos,

This letter is to urge you to increase flows on the Trinity River.

The Maximum Flow Alternative is the only fair and equitable solution to a problem that has plagued the river for 35 years.

The river can be revitalized with increased flows.

Please act now, we can't afford any more delays.

California has a \$60 billion recreation and tourism industry. Certainly this deserves high consideration.

Thank you for concern.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Jacoby

4300-1

Letter from Jeffrey D. Jacoby Dated January 7, 2000

Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

} 4300-1

4301

January 10, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
 US Fish & Wildlife Service
 1655 Helndon Road
 Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Mr. Polos:

I first visited the Trinity River in the summer/fall of 1954. The riffles were productive and not silted in. The pools were deep and green - black in color. Chinook (King) salmon holed up in these pools on their way to spawning grounds upstream. Spring-run Chinook salmon use the watershed. Steelhead (both summer and winter run) were common and provided excellent fishing opportunities. Coho (silver) salmon traveled up the Trinity River on the spawning run, probably the furthest inland coho salmon run in the state of California.

In the Trinity River Development Act of 1955, which authorizing the Trinity Project, (dams, pipelines and power generation facilities), specifically mandated that the fish and wildlife of the basin not be harmed and that the project be integrated into the Central Valley Project. The Interior Secretary was directed to ensure that fish and wildlife in the basin were protected. Since the completion of the dams and associated facilities were completed in 1963, upwards of 86 to 90 percent of the Trinity River water was transferred to the Central Valley as "surplus water", surplus to the needs of the Trinity Basin and its resources. This massive reduction of flows and some poor land uses choices have lead to nearly 90 percent decline in the steelhead and Chinook salmon fisheries by the early 1970 and 80's. As a result the coho salmon now is listed under the Endangered Species Act, and steelhead and spring-run Chinook salmon remain species of concern and a candidate for listing.

I was involved with the formulation of the Trinity River Basin Framework Guide of 1977. There have been more than two decades of study and scientific evidence gathered, providing the people the information to make a good decision for protecting and restoring the Trinity River, its resources, uses and values. While the science that produced the Flow Evaluation Report is sound, the recommendations were limited by an assumption about the amount of water that could be available for the River. Export demands and values were given a higher priority than the area of origin resources, uses and values. Studies from many parts of the country indicated that 60 to 70 percent of the natural discharge are needed to really do the job of protecting and restoring the Trinity River ecosystem. Clearly the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), along with the Trinity Development Act gives the Trinity River Basin's fish and wildlife priority over the diversion of water to the CVP and export needs.

Funds are needed to do restoration work. Because of budget constraints, the continued funding restoration activities, is at best unreliable. I believe that renewability and restoration of the Trinity River Ecosystem need more than the 48 percent of the annual watershed runoff prescribed in the Preferred Alternative. Studies from many parts of the country indicated that 60 to 70 percent of the natural river discharges are needed to really do the job of protecting and restoring the Trinity River ecosystem and resources uses and values.

Letter from Felix E. Smith Dated January 10, 2000

4301-1 The recommendations contained within the Trinity River Flow Evaluation Study, which are those recommended for the Preferred Alternative, were not limited to an assumed amount of water that was available for instream releases. Annual instream flow schedules were developed for each water-year class to meet biological and physical objectives necessary to restore and maintain the fishery resources of the Trinity River. Annual instream volumes were determined by summing volumes of water necessary for the various components of the annual hydrograph for each water-year class. Please see thematic responses titled "Fisheries."

4301-2 Please see thematic responses titled "Fisheries."

4301-1

4301-2

Letter from Felix E. Smith continued

Studies have been conducted since the Trinity project facilities were completed. The Central Valley Project Improvement Act mandated that a decision for restoring the Trinity flows was to be made by 1996. We are now in the next century. The people have the scientific information needed to make the right decision for the Trinity River ecosystem, its resources, uses and values. All that is needed is for the Interior Secretary to have the will to do what is right to protect the people's trust properties. The people of Trinity and Humboldt and other northern California counties have waited along time for the federal government to fulfill the promises it made when the dam was constructed. We do not want any more delays.

The federal government's promise to maintain a healthy fishery in the Trinity River has not been realized. The river has suffered for nearly 40 years of abuse regarding adequate instream conditions. The legislative mandated date for an forthright and meaningful by the end of 1996 has not been realized. The protection of the Trinity River ecosystem and its restoration is independent of the other Federal actions. Protection and restoration of the Trinity River, its ecosystem resources, uses and values, is mandated in the 1955 legislation authorizing construction of the Trinity River Division, the Trinity River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Act of 1984, and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The CVPIA reaffirms the Trinity's unique position within the Central Valley Project (CVP) and that it clearly sets forth that restoration of the Trinity is to be considered independently from other California water issues.

The people of Trinity County have suffered economically for over 40 years from the operations of the Trinity project. They should not have to bare any more costs. Those who have benefited from the project's irrigation and power supply, namely the water users in the San Joaquin Valley, should pay for the restoration program.

} 4301-3

Any DOI action and decision should identify a mechanism for funding the Trinity River restoration program, including any mechanical restoration and watershed protection components needed to carryout the program. When the Trinity River, its ecosystem, resources, uses and values are restored, the commercial and sport fishing, recreational and tourism economies of the Northern California and sure to rebound.

} 4301-4

Thanks you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,



Felix E. Smith
4720 Talus Way
Carmichael, CA 95808
916-966-2081

cc:interested parties

TrCo100.doc

- 4301-3 Please see related Responses 3874-2 and 5306-30.
- 4301-4 Please see thematic response titled "Implementation Funding and Relationship to Repayment, Reimbursement, and the CVPIA Restoration Fund."

4302

Michael J. Garvin
710 Spring St
Sausalito, CA 94965

January, 9, 2000

To: Mr. Joe Polos
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th St., Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Mr. Polos:

Please urge the Secretary of the Interior to end 35 years of delay and produce a flow decision for the Trinity River in APRIL, as originally scheduled. Water users will continue to argue for delays for eternity if they have the option, since no decision means no reduction in water diversion from the river.

I support the Maximum Flow Alternative since it will allow a more natural and more complete recovery of the fishery. Should the preferred alternative in the government's draft EIS/EIR be chosen, lawsuits and their attendant delays will likely result. } 4302-1

Sincerely,



Michael J. Garvin

Letter from Michael J. Garvin Dated January 9, 2000

4302-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

4303

Wednesday, January 05, 2000

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

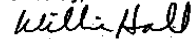
Dear Mr. Polos;

I am a native of California. My father introduced me to all the coastal drainages of northern California in my youth. I visit most of them on an annual basis. Since the 1950's, the decline of these riparian habitats has been dramatic. Specifically, the Trinity River has been robbed of its water for too long with inadequate mitigation. This river should be given at least 70% of its flow for instream habit health and even then, what about dry years? I urge you to encourage the Interior Secretary to resume these flows when he decides this spring.

} 4303-1

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input!

Sincerely,



Willie Hall

3340 Toro Canyon Pk Rd
Santa Barbara, Ca 93108

Letter from Willie Hall Dated January 5, 2000

4303-1 Please see thematic responses titled "Fisheries."

4304

Margaret Moyer
Loyola Marymount University
Desmond #145
7900 Loyola Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

January 7, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Mr. Polos,

This letter is written to you to enlist your support for the Maximum Flow Alternative for the Trinity River. I believe that it is desired by the people of California that both recreation and tourism in this area be enhanced. Would you kindly let the Secretary of the Interior know that it would be appreciated if he would hold to a constant water schedule at the time of the April 2000 decision.

} 4304-1

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Truly yours,


Margaret Moyer

Letter from Margaret Moyer Dated January 7, 2000

4304-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Letter from Mondy Lariz Dated January 5, 2000

4305

January 5, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th St. Room 209
Arcata, Ca 95521

Dear Mr. Polos:

I am writing today with regard to an urgent matter, the slow death of the Trinity River caused by the Trinity River Act of 1955 which eventually diverted 80% of the Trinity Rivers water to the Sacramento River for use by the CVP. That act had promised to protect the fish, but here we are 35 years later with no relief in sight for the endangered trout, salmon, and steelhead that once thrived there. I strongly urge adoption of the maximum flow alternative. This is the only way to save the fishery from certain death. We have delayed long enough.

} 4305-1

Sincerely,


Mondy Lariz
FlyCasters, Inc.

4305-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Letter from Ann M. Moyer Dated January 7, 2000

4306-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Ann M. Moyer
31971 Doverwood Court
Westlake Village, CA 91361

January 7, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Mr. Polos,

This letter is strongly in favor of the Maximum Flow Alternative for the Trinity River. I believe that a mutually beneficial program for water use providing for more constant water flows in the Trinity River is highly desirable. Such a program will do much to enhance California recreation and tourism in this area. } 4306-1

Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Truly yours,

Ann M. Moyer
Ann M. Moyer

4307

Letter from Greg Miller Dated January 5, 2000

January 5, 2000

4307-1 Please see thematic responses titled "Fisheries."

Mr. Joe Poles
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

RE: Trinity River Flows

Dear Mr. Poles,

I am writing in support of maintaining the Trinity River at a minimum of 70% of its normal flow. In order for the salmon and steelhead of the Trinity River to have the best chance for reproduction and survival, the River needs to be at least 70% of its normal water flow.

} 4307-1

Time has a way of fading memories. The Trinity at one time boasted an incredible run of steelhead and salmon. We shouldn't continue to slowly make things worse while at the same time forgetting the damage that has already been done.

Sincerely,


Greg Miller

Letter from Thomas J. Taylor Dated January 6, 2000

4308

Thomas J. Taylor
2163 Peachtree Circle
Pittsburg, CA 94565

4308-1

Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

January 6, 2000

Joe Polos
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Room 209
1125 16th Street
Arcata, CA 95521

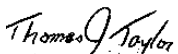
Mr. Polos

Re: Trinity River water flow

As an avid fly fisherman, camper and backpacker, who makes about eight trips each year to the Trinity River I feel passionate about the river, the habitat surrounding it and the wildlife that depend on it.

I have heard, from reliable sources, that in order to provide a supportive environment for our salmon, steelhead, and trout to survive we need a water flow of 70% in the Trinity. I also understand that you are charged with the responsibility of deciding how much water flows in the Trinity. I urge you to decide in favor of our environment and our renewable resources in providing the 70% water flow. } 4308-1

Respectfully



Thomas J. Taylor
Fly Fisherman
Native American
Concerned Citizen

tjt
cc: The Inside Angler

Letter from Jim Parks

4309

To: Mr. Joe Polos
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th St., Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Dear sir,

I am writing this letter concerning the controversy involved with the Trinity River flows. I am a concerned Californian and a more concerned fisherman who has seen many special areas of our fisheries depleted by politically expedient moves which have resulted in losses of habitat. I have seen too many of these special habitats either degraded or lost here in California. The Trinity is a special river and should be protected from further loss of habitat. I endorse the Maximum Flow Alternative as a chance to begin to recover what we have lost over the years. With the losses of Coho Salmon and steelhead, we cannot have an alternative to protection. It has come to a point where all these losses will be cumulative. We cannot continue to degrade habitats. I know that there are powerful interests who do not want to lose the water, however we must arrive at a point where we turn the tide so to say. As a fisherman, help me to give back to my children and grandchildren what these special area should be.

Thank you for your help in restoring our heritage.



Jim Parks
4821 Surrey Ln.
Bakersfield, CA

4309-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

4309-1

Letter from Richard R. Heath Dated January 5, 2000

4310-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

RICHARD R. HEATH
461 Yerba Buena Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94127
Phone: 415-333-3844
FAX: 415-333-3845

January 5, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Re: Trinity River EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Polos:


It is extremely important that the Interior Department adopt the Maximum Flow Alternative with respect to the Trinity River EIS/EIR. The Trinity River Act of 1955 mandated that the fish and wildlife of the Trinity River Basin were not to be harmed by the dams and diversions authorized in the Act. We all know that that mandate has not been met. There has been a 90% decline in the fish population of the river, and that result is totally incompatible with the law's mandate.

4310-1

The Maximum Flow Alternative will only provide an 81% recovery of the fishery. Anything less than that should be totally unacceptable to the Executive Branch of the Federal Government whose duty it is to faithfully execute the laws passed by Congress. How can we expect the people of this country to have faith in the Rule of Law if the Executive Branch of the Federal Government ignores it.

Obviously, the Interior Department and your Agency are under heavy pressure from special interests to allocate flow in ways that will harm the fish and wildlife of the area. But those interests must be ignored unless and until Congress passes and the President signs a bill changing the mandate passed in 1955.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Heath

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Letter from Philip M. Hoadley Dated January 7, 2000

4311

January 7, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1125 16th St., Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

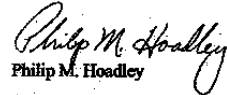
Dear Sir:

To restore the Trinity river, the only option is the Maximum Flow alternative.

It's time to live up to the commitment by the Federal government in 1955 to ensure that the Central Valley project would not harm the fish and wildlife. By failing to live up to their commitment, they have literally destroyed this fishery, and it's high time they lived up to their promises.

Anything but the Maximum Flow alternative will result in more listings under the Endangered Species Act, with drastic consequences.

Sincerely yours,


Philip M. Hoadley

932 W. Second Ave.
Escondido, CA 92025

4311-1

Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

} 4311-1

Letter from California Trout Dated January 6, 2000

4312-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

4312



January 6, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata CA 95521

Subject: Trinity River EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Polos:

I am writing to express my views on the upcoming Trinity River Flow Decision.

The Trinity is an example of a project that was completed during a time period when concerns for the health of fish and wildlife were not so great and when the public was not as environmentally conscious as today. As a result, and despite the assurances that fish would not be harmed by the project, the construction and operation of the Trinity project has led to the sharp decline of fisheries that we have today. The Trinity should be a showcase river for California and should be a large contributor to the \$60 billion recreation and tourism industry. Instead it is a disaster for fish, wildlife, habitat and California citizens.

I urge you to select an alternative that will meet the original "no harm" mandate of the project. That alternative is the Maximum Flow Alternative, which is the best alternative for a strong recovery of fish and wildlife. In addition, it is imperative that the decision be made as scheduled in April of this year to avoid the delaying actions of those who would continue to divert an excessive amount of water from the river.

} 4312-1

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft EIS/EIR. I hope you will seriously consider my points and similar ones that are being made to you.


Nick Di Croce
Board of Governors

606 Alamo Pintado, PMB-126
Solvang CA 93463

Bay Area Office: 870 Market Street, Suite 859 • San Francisco, CA 94102 • (415) 392-8887
Fax: (415) 392-8895 • <http://www.caltrout.org>



Letter from Glyn Jones Dated January 5, 2000

4313

January 5, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

RE: Trinity River Flows

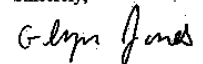
Dear Mr. Polos,

I am writing in support of maintaining the Trinity River at a minimum of 70% of its normal flow. In order for the salmon and steelhead of the Trinity River to have the best chance for reproduction and survival, the River needs to be at least 70% of its normal water flow.

As a person who has been involved with flyfishing and conservation projects for over 25 years, I know that once a species of fish is lost to an area, it is very hard to reintroduce it back into the environment.

Please make it possible for us to not lose the excellent fishery that currently exists on the Trinity River.

Sincerely,



Glyn Jones

4313-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

} 4313-1

Letter from Ed Keller Dated January 5, 2000

4314

Wednesday, January 05, 2000

Ed Keller
365 Yokayo Dr.
Idaho, CA 95482

Mr. Joe Polos
Fish & Wildlife Service
125 16th St., Rm 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Mr. Polos,

Please restore at least 70% of the water flows to the Main stem Trinity River. The following are my reasons for urging you to take this action:

The Trinity River Act of 1955, authorizing the dams, specifically mandated that the fish and wildlife of the basin not be harmed. The Interior Secretary was directed to ensure that fish and wildlife in the basin were protected. However, since the dams were completed in 1963, water diversions led to a nearly 90 percent decline in the fisheries by the early 1990's. The coho salmon now is listed under the Endangered Species Act, and steelhead are a candidate for listing.

The federal government's trust obligations to two Native American Tribes have gone unfulfilled for more than 36 years because of excessive water diversions from the Trinity River. The time has come for the federal government to begin fulfilling its legally mandated responsibilities to the Hoopa Valley and Yurok Tribes.

Two decades of study and scientific evidence have given us the needed information to make a good decision for the Trinity. While the science and study that produced the Flow Evaluation Report are sound, the recommendations were limited by an assumption about the amount of water that could be available for the river. However, more water can be made available since the legislation creating the Trinity River Division, and later legislation, clearly gives Trinity fish and wildlife priority over the diversion of any water to the CVP.

When the Trinity is restored, the commercial and sport fishing, rafting, and tourism economies of the Northern California and Southern Oregon will rebound.

The Trinity River and its restoration program are completely independent of the CALFED process. Restoration of the Trinity River is mandated in the 1955 legislation authorizing construction of the Trinity River Division, the Trinity River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Act of 1984, and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The CVPIA reaffirms the Trinity's unique position within the Central Valley Project (CVP) and clearly sets forth that restoration of the Trinity is to be considered independently from other California water issues.

The federal government's promise to maintain a healthy fishery in the Trinity River has been disregarded for the last 36 years, and past legislation mandated a flow decision by the end of 1996. If these legislated promises are not finally fulfilled, why should we believe any promises developed through CALFED? A restored Trinity River will allow Californians to have faith that the ongoing CALFED negotiations will produce meaningful improvement in our state's water policies.

I respectfully urge you to restore a minimum of 70% of Trinity River water to the river, its fish and wildlife and to those of us who use the river for recreation and our livelihoods. Thank you for our time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



- 4314-1 Please see thematic responses titled "Fisheries."
- 4314-2 Please see thematic response titled "Tribal Trust."
- 4314-3 Please see Response 4301-1.
- 4314-4 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

4314-1

4314-2

4314-3

4314-4

Letter from Larry Buckreus Dated January 4, 2000

4315

January 4, 2000
7123 Galli Drive
San Jose, CA 95129

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th St. Room 209
Arcata, CA 95529

Re: Trinity River Flow Study

Dear Mr. Polos:

I am writing this letter regarding the study of the flow for the Trinity River.

I believe that in the decision you will be reaching this year you must take into consideration what has happened to this once great fishery. The reduction of the flow has ruined not only the fishing but has created a great loss of revenue to all concerned.

I hope your decision will be to increase the flow.

} 4315-1

Thank you,


Larry Buckreus

4315-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Letter from The Hansen Family

4316
Dear Mr. Polos;

We are contacting you today regarding the (EIS/EIR) for the Trinity River. We are regular visitors to the Trinity River and we are deeply concerned about the staggering decline of the river's fisheries. Congress has dictated that the fisheries are to be maintained at historic levels, and that has not happened. We urge you to take steps immediately to restore flows to bring this fishery back to health.

Sincerely,

The Hansen Family
26625 Ave. Deseo
Mission Viejo, Ca. 92691
949-586-4928
wildtrout@home.com

4316-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

} 4316-1

Letter from Maury Swoveland Dated January 5, 2000

January 5, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th St., Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

I am a member of California Trout and have been following closely the struggle California is having with the Federal Government regarding the Trinity River.

The Trinity River Act of 1955, which authorized the dams, and diversions of water to the Central Valley Project (CVP) also mandated that the fish and wildlife of the basin were not to be harmed. Water was to be provided to the river to achieve that purpose. In 1984, Congress specified that the Secretary of the Interior was to implement a restoration program with the objective of restoring fish and wildlife population levels "to those which existed immediately preceding construction of the (dams)."

Since water was diverted from the Trinity River we have witnessed a 90% decline in the number of fish present in the river. The species of trout that had thrived in the Trinity now sadly have either been listed on the Endangered Species list or are candidates for the list.

The federal government's mandate to maintain a healthy fishery in the Trinity River has been a failure.

Although there are parties that would not divert any water back to the Trinity, this is a minority of vested individuals who lack the insight to see what is happening to our environment. We must choose the Maximum Flow Alternative, which would supply sufficient water to return the Trinity to a healthy condition. Nothing less is acceptable. I am also urging the Secretary of the Interior to choose the maximum Flow Alternative by the April 2000 deadline.



Maury Swoveland
23761 Saint Elena
Mission Viejo, CA 92691-3604

4317-1

Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

} 4317-1

Letter from Chad Wohlford Dated January 3, 2000

January 3, 2000

4318

Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Re: Trinity River Water Flows

Dear Mr. Polos:

I am concerned about water issues in California. As a father, citizen, businessman, sportsman and water enthusiast, I want to be sure that my family and I have sufficient quality water available for ourselves and the wildlife we enjoy. We especially enjoy fishing, which generally requires clean, natural, protected, and free-flowing rivers.

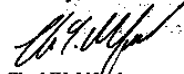
As you are no doubt aware, the rivers, streams, and bays of California are in poor shape. I want the situation to improve in California. My family does its part through conservation, low-impact use, river clean-ups, and advocacy. Nevertheless, we need help from you.

The restoration of the Trinity River and its fisheries and wildlife is important to me. As you are no doubt aware, Federal water policy for the Trinity has been disastrous for wildlife so far, with precipitous declines in certain fish species. Nevertheless, you have the opportunity to rectify this situation.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/EIR) prepared by the Federal Government finds that a primary factor in the decline of the Trinity River ecosystem is the result of decreased water flows into the river along with the resulting changes in river habitats. Consequently, the draft EIS/EIR recommends that 48% of the water be returned to the river for environmental purposes. However, I believe that this alternative does not go far enough. A better alternative presented in the EIS/EIR is called the *Maximum Flow Alternative*, which would return all of the Trinity water to the river and provides the maximum restoration of fisheries among the alternatives considered. Even this alternative would only provide for 81% recovery of the fishery, but it is the best alternative considered in the study.

The Maximum Flow Alternative should be selected without further delay. Any delays beyond April 2000 should not be tolerated, and will only result in greater damage and lost opportunities for our national resources. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Chad Wohlford
339 River Isle Way
Sacramento, CA 95831

4318-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

4318-1

Letter from Stephen Wierzbinski Dated January 6, 2000

4319-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

4319 119 E. Princeton St.
Ontario, Ca 91764
Jan 6, 2000

Mr Joe Polos
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th St. Rm 209
Arcata, Ca 95521


Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter
to support the maximum flow
alternative for the Trinity
River as noted in the draft
EIS/EIR report.

I also believe there is
no justification for delaying
a decision any further.
The fish need your help
now!

Thank you for your
consideration

Sincerely,
Stephen
Wierzbinski

 Stephen Wierzbinski
119 E Princeton St
Ontario, CA 91764-1708

} 4319-1

Letter from Harry G. Bubb Dated January 5, 2000

4320-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Harry G. Bubb

1-5-2,000

4320

Mr. Joe Poler
 45 Fish & Wildlife
 Arcata, Ca 95521

Dear Mr. Poler Re: Trinity River Flow

Ⓐ Simple justice requires adherence to the 2,000 April date for a decision on the above!

The truth of the adage that "justice deferred is justice denied" is especially true with regard to our depleted fisheries.

The continuation of the status quo is a violation of promises made 45 years ago and reaffirmed by the U.S. Congress in 1984 in direction given the Secretary of the Interior.

In brief - a decision is overdue!!

Ⓑ The Maximum Flow Alternative is the only one that will restore the Trinity River ecosystem to something more than tokenism. Sure, that will hurt corporate farmers such as Westlands Water District. Such losses, however, are more than offset by recreational benefits for individual citizens of Calif. and the entire nation.

Your favorable consideration of the above is appreciated

Harry G. Bubb
 Harry G. Bubb
 P.O. Box 1868
 Idylwild, Cal. 92549

} 4320-1

Letter from Gerald C. Young Dated January 5, 2000

4321

4321-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Gerald C. Young
1005 La Reina Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069-4946
January 5, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th Street, room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

RE: TRINITY RIVER WATER DIVERSIONS—Restore River flow to Maximum Flow Alternative.

Dear Mr. Polos

I urge you to reinstate the **Maximum Flow Alternative** to the Trinity River. Since 90 % of the flow were diverted to the Sacramento River starting in 1963, the salmon and steelhead population has dropped by 90 %. The Federal Government has welsshed on their promise not to harm this fishery, and it is time to take drastic steps to restore it. The alternative to restore the flow to less than 50% of the pre-diversion flow will not restore the fishery to historic levels, and I urge you to use the **Maximum Flow Alternative** for rapid restoration of this debilitated stream!

} 4321-1

The diversion benefited primarily the Westlands Water District in the first place, large landholders on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley who are politically powerful, but they have no right to cause the demise of a river and its biomass!

Sincerely yours

Gerald C. Young
Gerald C. Young

4322

5952 Redondo St.
 Bonsall, Ca 92003
 Jan. 5, 2000

Letter from H. J. Ron and Kathy Rose Dated January 5, 2000

4322-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Mr. Joe Polos
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 1125 16th St, Room 209
 Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Sir:

The Trinity River act mandated that the fish and wildlife not be injured. The decline in the fish population of 90% indicates that the mandate has not been taken seriously. An Environmental Impact Statement has been issued and the Interior Secretary will make a decision relative to this unacceptable situation as it currently exists.

The obvious reason for the current circumstance is the transfer of water to the Sacramento River.

The best alternative is the Maximum Flow Alternative with all waters returning to the Trinity River, and this will provide for 81% recovery of the fishery. There are farm oriented groups who want to delay this decision. This decision needs to be made this April.

Sincerely,
 HJR
 Kathy Rose

4322-1

January 7, 2000

4323

Dear Mr. Polos,

I am writing to support the maximum flow alternative for the Trinity River. Also, there should be no delays in determining this matter beyond April 2000.

4323-1

The Congress in 1984 specified that the Secretary of the Interior was to implement a restoration program with the objective of restoring fish and wildlife population levels "to those which existed immediately preceding construction of the (dam)."

Only by restoring maximum flow of the Trinity River can the mandate of Congress be met. Congress has spoken and their will should be carried out.

4323-1
cont'd

Sincerely,

Bill Wernett

Letter from Bill Wernett Dated January 4, 2000

4323-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

4324

Letter from Michael Lindquist Dated January 6, 2000

4324-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

January 6, 2000

Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th St., Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Mr. Polos,

I am writing to urge you to select the Maximum Flow Alternative for the Trinity River.

} 4324-1

The restored flows into the river system will have immense benefits for the Coho Salmon and Steelhead, in addition there will be a substantial economic return from recreation and tourism.

After 35 years of delays your help is urgently needed to expedite this plan in order to restore this once healthy fishery.

Best regards,



Michael Lindquist
Cal Trout Member
859 15th Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-325-7930

4325

Letter from Jack Peudet Dated January 6, 2000

January 6, 2000

4325-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Jack Peudet
527 Locke Haven Street
Pasadena, CA 91105

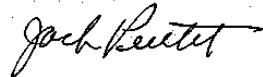
Dear Mr. Polos,

I urge you to recommend the return of the Trinity River to its original flows }
so that its native fish may be restored nearer to their past levels. The depletion } 4325-1
of these fish since the dam building is truly a sad state of affairs.

This country has the ability and the resources to provide water at a reasonable cost to the agricultural interests that require water for economic endeavors and at the same time not allow the unjust depletion of our fisheries.

I hope you will have the courage to withstand the special interests and stand by the individual citizens who need and are entitled to your understanding and support.

Sincerely yours,



4326

WILLIAM E. BECHER, JR.

January 5, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

RE Trinity River Flows Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Polos:

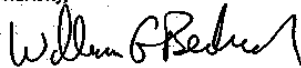
I am writing you to urge you to adopt the Maximum Flow Alternative in the draft EIR for the Trinity River.

It is my understanding that in 1984, Congress specified that the Secretary of the Interior was to implement a restoration program with the objective of restoring fish and wildlife populations levels "to those which existed immediately preceding construction of the (dams)."

The Maximum Flow Alternative is then only one that achieves this mandate.

While I realize that the wheels of justice grind slowly... 35 years is too long to wait for action... Please do not delay implementation of restoration of the Trinity.

Sincerely,



William E. Becher, Jr.

4239 ARROWHEAD CIRCLE • WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA • 91362-4204
PHONE: 805 497 7193 • FAX: 805 497 1253 • EMAIL wbecher@gte.net

Letter from William E. Becher, Jr. Dated January 5, 2000

4326-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

} 4326-1

4327

John Heckel

2335 7th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606

Letter from John Heckel Dated January 6, 2000

4327-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Joe Polos
U.S. Fish & Game
1125 16th St, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

January 6, 2000

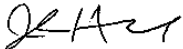
RE: Trinity River Water Flows

Dear Mr. Polos:

This letter is to express my desire to see the Trinity River revived through improved water flows. My family has flyfished the Trinity and hope to see this river left to my children in better shape than I found it. Besides, the Trinity River Act of 1955 promised that damming would not hurt habitat. To see returned flows would be a show of good faith. Thanks for your consideration.

} 4327-1

Sincerely,



John Heckel

Letter from Michael J. Daugherty Dated January 7, 2000

Michael J. Daugherty
4 Los Dedos
Orinda, CA 94563

4328-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Jan. 7, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1125 16th St., Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Mr. Polos:

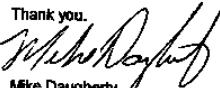
I am writing to request that the provisions of the Trinity River Act of 1955 be carried out, and that the Maximum Flow Alternative of the EIS be adopted.

4328-1

As a flyfisherman and former landowner on the Trinity River near Junction City, I can attest the the extreme negative impact upon fisheries caused by the construction of the upstream dams.

The Maximum Flow Alternative will at last begin to repair some of the damage done almost 40 years ago.

Thank you.



Mike Daugherty

Cc: California Trout

Ronald E. Cox, D.D.S.

70 Doctors Park Santa Rosa, California 95405-6682

707-528-2420

Letter from Ronald E. Cox, DDS Dated January 6, 2000

4329-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

1-6-00

MR JOE POLOS
US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1125 16th St. Room 209
ARCATA, CA 95521

Dear Mr. Polos

I AM WRITING TO YOU IN SUPPORT OF THE RETURN OF THE ORIGINAL (PRE 1955) WATER FLOW TO THE TRINITY RIVER. I BELIEVE THE MAXIMUM FLOW ALTERNATIVE IN THE EIS/EIR STUDY PROVIDED THE BEST SOLUTION TO RESTORING THE FISH AND WILDLIFE TO PRE-DAM CONDITIONS.

I TRUST YOU WILL GIVE MY REQUEST DUE CONSIDERATION.

THANK YOU!



4329-1

4330

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th St., Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

Jan. 7, 2000

Re: Trinity River Flow Study

Dear Sir:

It is time for the U.S. to keep its promise to protect fish in the Trinity River by immediately implementing the Maximum Flow Alternative plan. This is the only way to restore the fish to the river at predam levels.

} 4330-1

Sincerely



Walter J. Wilke
24641 Devonport Cir.
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Letter from Walter J. Wilke Dated January 7, 2000

4330-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

4331

January 5, 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1125 16th Street, Room 209
Arcata, CA 95521

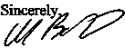
RE: Trinity River Flows

Dear Mr. Polos,

I am writing in support of maintaining the Trinity River at a minimum of 70% of its normal flow. In order for the salmon and steelhead of the Trinity River to have the best chance for reproduction and survival, the River needs to be at least 70% of its normal water flow.

As a person who has been involved with flyfishing and conservation projects for over 5 years, I know that once a species of fish is lost to an area, it is very hard to reintroduce it back into the environment.

Please make it possible for us to not lose the excellent fishery that currently exists on the Trinity River.

Sincerely,

Alexis Bertauche

Letter from Alexis Bertauche Dated January 5, 2000

4331-1 Please see thematic responses titled "Fisheries."

} 4331-1

4332

C. GRIFFIN NELSON
257 TULARE STREET
BRISBANE, CA 94005 U.S.A.

5 January 2000

Mr. Joe Polos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
125 16th St. Room 209
Fresno, CA 95521

Dear Mr. Polos:

I understand that a decision on the amount of water to return to the Trinity River will be made in April.

I urge you to recommend that the Maximum Flow Alternative be accepted by the Interior Department.

Though I am a fly fisherman and a member of Cal Trout and Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club among other fishing associations, I would like to address you as simply a sixty-three year old man who has for all his life been witness

Letter from C. Griffin Nelson Dated January 5, 2000

4332-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

} 4332-1

Letter from Letter from C. Griffin Nelson continued

C. GRIFFIN NELSON
257 TULARE STREET
BIRSBANE, CA 94005 U.S.A.

to the degradation of streams and forests. Mr. Polos please take a stand now to protect what is left of our country's rivers, lakes, and forests. If no one who can make a difference in our government cares, in another sixty three years -- well I hate to think of what the Trinity River will look like.

Please support the Maximum Flow Alternative for the Trinity River. }

Sincerely,
Griff Nelson

4332-1
cont'd

Letter from K. Mori Dated January 7, 2000

4333-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

4333

Jan. 7, 2000

Dear Sir:

I am member of Cal Trout and am eighty years old.

I have fished the Trinity River for many memorable years and I would like for our next generation to enjoy the same.

So please select the maximum flow alternative for the Trinity River.

} 4333-1

Thank you very much.

Very sincerely yours,
K. Mori

4334

Chris Bryer
5363 Encino Avenue
Encino, CA 91316

Letter from Chris Bryer Dated January 6, 2000

4334-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Memo

To: Mr. Joe Polos
From: Chris Bryer
CC: CalTrout
Date: 01/06/00
Re: Trinity River Water Flows

Mr. Polos:

I would like my input noted for the record in regards to the April 2000 decision regarding the water flows in the Trinity River.

I strongly urge that the Maximum Flow Alternative be adopted for the following reasons:

- The Federal Govt.'s promise that the Trinity River Act of 1955 would not harm the fish and wildlife of the basin. We must hold our lawmakers to their promises.
- Due to the Miller/Bradley Act, we were to have a decision back by the end of 1996. Obviously, special interests have delayed this decision. It is imperative for us not to tolerate any additional delays beyond this coming April.
- The Westlands Water District will argue that the economic impact would be too severe. However, the economic benefits of a restored river to our \$60 billion recreation and tourism industry will somehow be conveniently omitted from their skewed numbers.
- This is clearly an issue of public trust. Please fight for what the public wants.

Thank you kindly for your attention and support.

Sincerely,



Chris Bryer

• Page 1

4334-1

4335

Jan. 5, 1999

Joe Polos
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
1125 16th St. Room 209
Arcata, Ca. 95521

Dear Joe,

I am writing this letter to you regarding the water flows of the Trinity River. I have fished the Trinity and Klamath systems since 1960 and have witnessed the unfortunate habitat degradation that has occurred as a result of both dams and water diversions, as well as clear cutting the forests. We have a responsibility to speak up about the problems that have been created by government mis-handling of our resources. These resources, available in only finite amounts, are irreplaceable and precious. I encourage you to decide for a positive replacement of the water flows and increase the flow in the Trinity River to 70%. While this will never have the impact of 100% fisheries recovery, it will go a long way toward that goal. As an additional benefit, this should also provide sufficient flows to scour the anticipated sedimentation deposits that will occur as a result of the Big Bar fires in the region this past year. Spawning areas will be protected and others created.

4335-1

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours truly



Charles S. Rigg
304 Leeward Ct.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062

Letter from Charles S. Rigg Dated January 5, 2000

4335-1 Please see thematic responses titled "Fisheries."

Letter from Ron Wilmot Dated January 5, 2000

4336-1 Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted. No response is required.

Jan. 5, 2000
Re: The Trinity River 4336

The fish runs have dramatically decreased during my history of visiting this waterway. This has occurred because the river was de-watered to provide for the CVP. This project has done the same for many other rivers and would dry them all if possible.

The time it's taking to study and address the Trinity is mind boggling and a bureaucratic snafu.

Please get the most water possible back in the Trinity for the sake of all living creatures. No more delay beyond 4/2000. Get the job done!

Ron Wilmot
3109 Argonne Circle
Santa Barbara, Ca
93105

} 4336-1