

## Alternatives

The alternatives presented were divided into discrete segments to address impacts because the overall DFG Program can be considered as separate and distinct operations. These segments were:

- Hatchery Operations
- Trout Stocking
- Salmon and Steelhead Stocking
- The Fishing in the City Program
- The Classroom Aquarium Education Project (CAEP)
- The Private Stocking Permit Program

None of the alternatives propose changes to hatchery operations, the Fishing in the City program, or the CAEP because no significant, unmitigable effects were found for these overall Program elements.

**Alternative 1:** This alternative is considered to be a continuation of the existing Program. This is consistent with direction provided in CEQA guidelines section 15126.6(e)(3)(A) where “No Project is the continuation of an existing plan, policy or operation into the future.”

*No project:* For the Purposes of CEQA, the No Project alternative is considered to be a continuation of the existing Program. For the baseline period, operational characteristics from 2004 through 2008 were used.

*No action:* The No Action alternative, pursuant to NEPA, would be for the USFWS to eliminate all SFRA funding to DFG for the Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program.

**Alternative 2:** This alternative would adjust the current Program by implementing pre-stocking evaluation protocols (PSEPs), hatchery genetic management plans (HGMPs), and recommendations for alterations in issuing private stocking permits.

**Alternative 3:** This alternative would continue the current Program with a permanent restriction on trout stocking as required in the “Interim Court Order.”

**Preferred Alternative:** DFG and USFWS are identifying Alternative 2 as the Preferred Alternative. This means that Fish and Game intends to continue to operate its hatchery and stocking into the future based on the guidelines and mitigation measures presented in Alternative 2. The USFWS would continue to fund associated eligible activities.

