



June 2, 2010

Subject: California Department of Fish and Game Big Sur River Instream Flow Assessment Activities

Dear Interested Stakeholder:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) has interest in assuring that water flows within streams are maintained at levels which are adequate for long-term protection, maintenance and proper stewardship of fish and wildlife resources. This letter is to inform you and invite your participation in the instream flow study activities that are planned to take place on the Big Sur River by the Department and contractors. The Department anticipates field work (transect selection) commencing in the summer of 2010 and would like to invite your participation as part of an Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) approach for instream flow assessment.

The Big Sur River has been identified as one of the Department's priority streams in 2008 for future instream flow assessments pursuant to the Public Resource Code (PRC) sections 10000-10005. The PRC mandates the Department to develop stream flow requirements for the long-term protection, maintenance and proper stewardship of fish and wildlife resources. Pursuant to the PRC, the Department needs to conduct field studies to identify stream flow requirements for the protection of South-Central California Coast Steelhead in the Big Sur River.

The overall goal of the current investigation is to quantify or characterize south-central steelhead habitat as a function of flow in the Big Sur River using modeling, hydrologic, and empirical methods. Development of habitat and flow relationships will allow the Department to identify flow requirements needed to protect south-central steelhead in the Big Sur River. Using data generated from the flow study, the Department intends to develop stream flow recommendations for the Big Sur River and to transmit those stream flow recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) for consideration as set forth in 1257.5 of the Water Code.

If you are interested in participating in upcoming field activities, receiving future updates or notices related to project activities, or have any questions please contact Robert Holmes by email at rholmes@dfg.ca.gov .

The Big Sur River Study Plan – *Habitat and Instream Flow Relationships for Steelhead in the Big Sur River, Monterey County* can be viewed at:

www.nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=19997

The Department of Fish and Game Priority Streams List can be viewed at:

www.dfg.ca.gov/water/instream_flow_docs.html

The Public Resource Code sections 10000-10005 can be viewed at:

www.dfg.ca.gov/water/docs/PRC_Section_10000-10005.pdf

Sincerely,

[original signed]

Carl Wilcox
Chief, Water Branch

cc: Neil Manji, Branch Chief
Chuck Armor, Regional Manager
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