

July 19, 2005

CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program
Attn: Rebecca Fris
650 Capitol Mall, 5th floor,
Sacramento, CA, 95814,
Fax # 916-445-7297

Subject: Opposition to funding of the Battle Creek Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Fris,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the funding of the Battle Creek Restoration Project. I am a property owner on the South Fork of Battle Creek directly across from the proposed project, and will be directly impacted by it. Please do not approve this project as it is currently designed.

I am concerned about the massive construction project that will occur across the creek from my property. I use my property primarily for fly-fishing and some hunting. Trying to decipher the true outcome of the project in the tons of reading materials that have been produced leaves me with many more questions than answers. I am disturbed to hear from my neighbors and knowledgeable folks regarding the extensive nature of the construction that will occur.

My family has owned this property for over 20 years. My 145 acres on South Battle Creek is a private recreational retreat. I have many concerns that must be addressed within the context of this project. I have not been directly contacted regarding this huge construction project in my recreational backyard and worked hard to find out what details I do know.

Who will notify us when it is safe to visit? What assurances do I have that blasting will not harm my property? During this time it will surely be dangerous for my wife, children, and me to visit and recreate on our land.

How long will it take to demolish the existing fish ladder and build the new even larger fish ladder and parking lot directly across from my property?

How long will the creek be silted up from the massive construction?

When will the native trout fishery that I currently enjoy return to its current state?

How many years will it take for the natural riparian vegetation to regenerate?

What will the agencies do about the increasing number people having access to possibly trespass on my property?

Who will control access during and after construction?

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What happens if there is a fuel spill upstream of my property?

How can such a gigantic construction project be considered environmentally sound?

Who gets to decide that the canyon will have more infrastructures?

What happens if the construction project starts a wildfire?

Will it really take 1,000 concrete truck trips for the to build the fish ladder?

Is this the best way to promote salmon and steelhead in South Fork Battle Creek?

Do you think the budget for this project would be reduced if PG&E were financing it?

I also have property on Mill Creek and have observed spring-run Chinook salmon swimming upstream over a large natural falls at Black Rock. Most importantly, I question whether that with some additional water releases upstream on Battle Creek the salmon and steelhead could utilize the current fish ladder. The fish need more water not a huge concrete building and associated roads and parking lots. Please don't spend public money to fix a PG&E problem. And don't permanently destroy the natural environment that currently exists adjacent to my property.

Sincerely,

Peter Seward

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