



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
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**EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor**  
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**State of California**  
**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

## **M e m o r a n d u m**

Date: March 10, 2014

To: Kevin Thomas  
Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

From: Ben Ewing  
District Fisheries Biologist  
Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, and Lake Counties  
Ca. Fish and Wildlife

Cc: Fish Files

Re: Putah Creek Backpack Electrofishing Survey and Demonstration for Lake County  
Elementary Schools

On May 3, 2013, two California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) fisheries biologists conducted a backpack electrofishing demonstration on Putah Creek (Lake County). The purpose of the demonstration was to inform elementary students as to how the Department uses electrofishing to gather information on fisheries. Multiple electrofishing passes were made on a 75 foot stretch of water at 38° 45' 33.37 N 122 36' 42.67 W situated at 1,083 feet above mean sea level (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Putah Creek Electrofishing Transect (Lake County, CA).

The shoreline is a mix of grass, rocks, and oak woodland. The creek bottom appears mostly rock. The estimated depth of the creek where the survey was conducted was six inches to one foot. The creek receives water from rain and snowmelt runoff from the Mayacamas Mountain range. Putah Creek flows into Lake Berryessa. Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Sacramento sucker (*Catostomus occidentalis*), riffle sculpin (*Cottus gulosus*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), California roach (*Lavinia symmetricus*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), and Sacramento pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus grandis*) have been documented in the upper part of Putah Creek before it reaches Lake Berryessa (DFG Files).

Table 1 presents the species, number, mean length and weight, and length ranges for species collected.

Table 1. Species composition from Putah Creek, May 3, 2013.

Mean Total Length (TL) was measured in millimeters (mm). Average Weight was in grams (g)

	Species	Number	Percent	(TL)	Weight	Length Ranges
1	Rainbow trout	5	38.5%	70.4	4.7	50 - 95
2	Sculpin	4	30.8%	68.5	4.7	60 - 75
3	American bullfrog	3	23.1%	86.7	12.4	35 - 115
4	Green sunfish	1	7.7%	57.0	5.9	NA
	Total	13				
	Water Temperature	66° F				

Due to the low number of fish collected for each species, no summaries were made from the information collected. The Department will likely sample the same stretch of water next year in which case, any sculpin will be collected and identified to species.

