



State of California – The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Bay Delta Region
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EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 2, 2014

Dear Landowner:

Subject: Voluntary Drought Initiative Information, Green Valley Creek

On April 25, 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued an Executive Order to strengthen the state's ability to manage water and habitat effectively in drought conditions. The Executive Order directs the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to work with other state and federal agencies and with landowners in priority watersheds to protect threatened and endangered species and species of special concern and maximize the beneficial uses of scarce water supplies, including employment of voluntary agreements to secure instream flows, relocation of members of those species, or through other measures.

CDFW has partnered with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to develop a California Voluntary Drought Initiative (Drought Initiative). The Drought Initiative identifies Green Valley Creek as a priority watershed and encourages the development of voluntary agreements between CDFW and other parties to provide instream flows for fish, associated monitoring and potential fish rescue actions. The Drought Initiative may provide benefits to landowners including improved regulatory certainty, development of Memoranda of Understanding for state-listed species, and technical assistance.

You are receiving this letter because your property may be important to protecting the sensitive aquatic ecosystem of Green Valley Creek. CDFW is currently working with several landowners in the watershed under the Drought Initiative to provide enhanced flows this summer and fall to support summer rearing habitat critical to the survival of coho salmon and steelhead. In addition to these cooperative efforts, we are encouraging residents in critical areas to take additional water conservation actions that will protect or enhance scarce water resources available to these species during this critical drought period. As such, we are providing the following information on potential voluntary actions that could be taken to protect threatened and endangered species and species of special concern and maximize the beneficial uses of scarce water supplies.

Such actions could include:

- Use of alternative water sources that will not directly or indirectly affect instream flow.

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- Coordination of diversions among adjacent landowners so that instantaneous diversion rates can be limited by withdrawing water at different times.
- Where possible, reduce instantaneous withdrawal rates.
- Where there is reservoir storage that may not be needed for irrigation or other uses, consider contacting CDFW staff to discuss coordinated releases to enhance downstream flow.
- Consider installing water conservation measures and forgoing irrigation of landscaping and lawns.
- Install low-flow devices such as toilets, washing machines, etc.

Any actions taken on your part could be instrumental in protecting instream resources of Green Valley Creek. Additional information on the program can be found at:
http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/salmon_steelhead/voluntary_drought_initiative.html

If you are interested in more information regarding potential conservation and management actions or participating with CDFW through the Drought Initiative, please contact Ms. Corinne Gray, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), at (707) 944-5526 or corinne.gray@wildlife.ca.gov; or Mr. Craig Weightman, Environmental Program Manager, at (707) 944-5577 or craig.weightman@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Scott Wilson
Regional Manager
Bay Delta Region