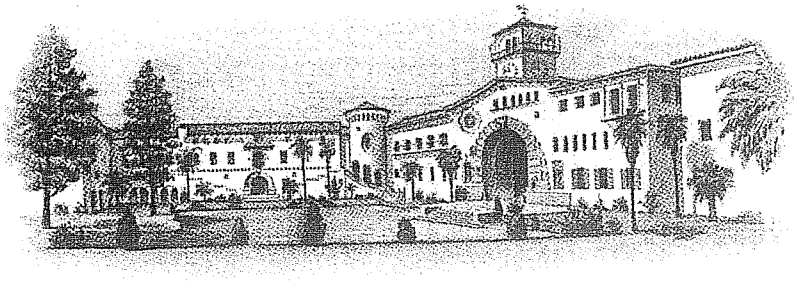
DOREEN FARR
Third District Supervisor



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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

November 21, 2014

Michael Sutton, President, and Commissioners
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Sutton and Commissioners,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Santa Barbara County Third District Supervisor, whose district includes Lake Cachuma. The County of Santa Barbara is deeply concerned with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) South Coast Region's staff opinion that the trout stocking program at Cachuma Lake is in violation of the Department's regulations and policies. The County has been stocking the lake for over 3 decades. In fact, even the State DFW planted trout in this lake for a number of decades as well. We see the County's continued stocking program as low risk and should not be halted before the Courts render a decision.

The trout planted by the County and State DFW were triploids (sterile trout), incapable of breeding. It is highly unlikely that these sterile stocked trout will escape over the dam and compete with steelhead for food or habitat; this had never been an issue. The program was successful and popular since the 1970s and enhanced recreation for local and visiting families. Cachuma Lake is the only fresh water fishing in the County. The lake is an important economic driver for our local economy.

At a minimum, the County requests it be allowed to continue the stocking program using triploids until the Courts render a decision. As needed, we will work with State DFW on

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appropriate mitigation measures to ensure adequate habitat protection while allowing the public to enjoy, and our local economy to prosper, with this popular and benign planting program.

In closing, it is hard to imagine that the concerns raised that are preventing future trout stocking would not have already come to fruition given the over thirty year practice at Lake Cachuma. Given this, I respectfully ask that you reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

Doreen Farr

Santa Barbara County, Third District Supervisor

Cc: Assemblymember Das Williams

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson

Edmund Pert, Regional Manager, South Coast Region