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BUDGET

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1
JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND
TOXIC MATERIALS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Assembly
California Legislature



WESLEY CHESBRO
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001
(916) 319-2001
FAX (916) 319-2101

DISTRICT OFFICES
1710 E. STREET, SUITE 150
EUREKA, CA 95501
(707) 445-7014
FAX (707) 445-6607

50 "D" STREET, SUITE 450
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
(707) 576-2526
FAX (707) 576-2297

311 N. STATE STREET
UKIAH, CA 95482
(707) 463-5770
FAX (707) 463-5773

June 20, 2011

Mr. John Laird, Secretary
Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Laird:

The purpose of this letter is to call your attention to provisions of law that must be taken into account as you prepare a water budget for the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan.

The federal act establishing the Trinity Division of the Central Valley Project (CVP) (Pub. L. 84-386) allocates project water for two distinct purposes in the Trinity-Klamath River basin:

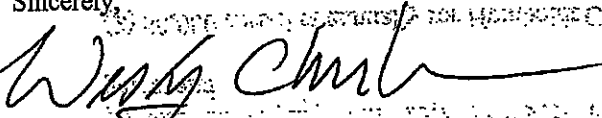
- (1) permanent annual flow allocations for recovery and maintenance of Trinity River fish and wildlife populations ranging from 815,200 acre-feet in extremely wet years to 368,600 acre-feet in critically dry years; and
- (2) 50,000 acre-feet annually for Humboldt County and downstream water users.

These two allocations have priority over all Trinity Division diversions into the Central Valley. Each one is protected by the federal laws and state permits that authorized construction and operation of the Trinity Division and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Pub. L. 102-575 Title XXXIV). Both allocations are especially important to the work of the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture and California's North Coast communities, Indian tribes, and fisheries.

Your June 2, 2011 testimony in the United States House of Representatives identified several critical issues raised in pending federal legislation (H.R. 1837). You observed that H.R. 1837 would adversely affect a decades-old federal-state relationship that has been the foundation for operation of the State Water Project (SWP) and the CVP that are critical to our State's economy and environment. Your testimony referred to the two goals that the California Legislature established for the conservation of the Bay-Delta: first, to provide a more reliable water supply for California including protection, restoration, and second, enhancing the Delta ecosystem. I wholeheartedly agree with your testimony and fully support those goals.

As you pursue the Bay-Delta conservation goals in coordination with federal officials please take all appropriate steps to inform planners that neither of the aforementioned volumes of Trinity Division CVP water is available for diversion from the Trinity basin. Your attention to this request is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,


WESLEY CHESBRO
Chair, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture

cc: David Nawi, Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior

