



EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
JOHN LAIRD, Secretary for Natural Resources

July 14, 2011

Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro
Chair, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0001

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Dear Assemblymember Chesbro:

Thank you very much for calling attention to the critical water rights issues in the Trinity Division of the Central Valley Project. I appreciate you reiterating your support for the dual goals of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and opposition to H.R. 1837. Please know that the Trinity River flows are dedicated and will not change. As for the Humboldt County flows, we have not yet reached that level of detail in the planning process but will keep you closely informed.

In the operation studies used by the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, we assume that the water allocated by the Trinity Division of Central Valley Project includes a permanent annual flow allocation 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. This water is dedicated to those purposes, and is not planned for diversion into the Central Valley.

Regarding the 50,000 acre feet for Humboldt County and downstream water users, we have not been told by the Bureau of Reclamation how that water would be released and used, and how it relates to the above mentioned flows, so we cannot yet include that level of detail in our modeling. We will do so, when we receive this information from the Bureau.

Please let me know if you need any additional information on this subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Laird".

John Laird
Secretary for Natural Resources

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