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CALIFORNIA TROUT

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

June 16, 2003

VIA FAX AND USPS

Mr. Douglas Schleusner, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program
PO Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Comments on Trinity River Bridges Draft EA/EIR

Dear Mr. Schleusner:

This letter is to express support on behalf of the more than 6,000 members of California Trout, Inc., for Proposed Actions contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for the Trinity River Bridges Project.

The Proposed Actions at each of the four bridges are critical to protect public health and safety, to improve the safety of Trinity Dam, and to allow higher water releases for the purposes of fishery restoration. Provision for higher flows also will allow for an improvement in water quality and compliance with the Trinity River Total Maximum Daily Load requirement.

The Proposed Action also will provide for improved compliance with Trinity County's Floodplain Management Ordinance, Federal Executive Orders on Floodplain Management and Trinity County's Fire Safe Ordinance. Overall, the Proposed Action will result in significant enhancement of public safety and dam safety and in potential environmental benefits for fish. a.

While we support public access to navigable waterways such as Trinity River, we do not support Alternative 2 at Salt Flat because it would require condemnation of private lands against the wishes of private property owners. The Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Coastal Salmon Recovery Program and the Trinity River Restoration Program both are based on cooperative efforts with local landowners, agencies and non-governmental organizations. To condemn private property would establish a bad precedent for both programs and would significantly reduce cooperation of private property owners in the Trinity River Basin. In addition, it would jeopardize future funding through DFG's grant program.

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California Trout and its members support strongly the proposed Trinity River Bridges Project reflected in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment.

Yours very truly,

Byron W. Leydecker
Governor

BWL/mw

RESPONSE TO COMMENT: 16

California Trout (Byron W. Lydecker)

16-a: Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted, and will be transmitted to the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and federal officials for their consideration in connection with the merits of the proposed project. No further response is required.