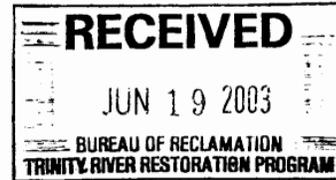




THE
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FOR
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RESOURCES



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June 19, 2003

Via fax: (530) 623-5944

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

Re: Comments on Trinity River Bridges EA/ Draft EIR

Dear Mr. Schleusner:

The Institute for Fisheries Resources (IFR) appreciates this opportunity to express support for the Proposed Actions contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for the Trinity River Bridges Project. IFR has a ten-year history of supporting the fisheries research and conservation needs of California's working fishing men and women.

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.

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

The Institute for Fisheries Resources is a Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Organization, affiliated with the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, working for sustainable fisheries.

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Mr. Douglas Schleusner, Executive Director
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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.

Concerns surrounding Alternative 2 notwithstanding, IFR strongly supports the proposed Trinity River Bridges Project reflected in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,



Natasha Benjamin
Fisheries Program Director

RESPONSE TO COMMENT: 36

The Institute for Fisheries Resources (Natasha Benjamin)

36-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.