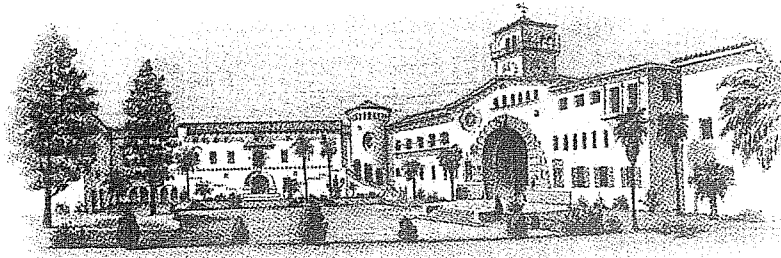


DOREEN FARR
Third District Supervisor



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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

January 12, 2015

Charlton Bonham, Director
Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Bonham,

Thank you for your letter of December 15, 2014. I appreciate the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) understanding of the importance of continued trout stocking at Lake Cachuma. I also appreciate you providing some clarity to the various steps involved in this process.

It is worth restating that Lake Cachuma is a renowned fishing and recreation resource that attracts fishing enthusiasts from around the State and nation. A key element of that fishing resource is trout fishing. Lake Cachuma relies on the stocking of triploid (sterile) hatchery fish to attract anglers to the lake by maintaining a sustainable quantity of trout. Additionally, Lake Cachuma is the only fresh water body for fishing in the County. The lake serves as an important economic driver for our local economy and serves as a recreational venue for both County and non-county residents. Additionally, the Neal Taylor Nature Center established in 1988 to encourage enjoyment and protection of Cachuma Lake is dependent on the spring Trout Derby. This annual fundraiser provides major funding for the Nature Center's day-to-day operation.

In your letter you state that DFW is in the process of completing a Pre-Stocking Evaluation (PSE) for Lake Cachuma and hope to have it completed by the end of this month. Specifically you state that, "The objective of the PSE is to identify potential impacts to sensitive native species that may result from (trout) stocking." While I'm sensitive to these concerns, I do sincerely hope that the DFW and the County of Santa Barbara can work collaboratively to find a common sense solution that meets the ecological, biological and recreational objectives of all interested parties.

I have asked Santa Barbara County staff to contact your department in early February to learn the results of this evaluation so we can then schedule our initial meeting to discuss a satisfactory resolution to this issue which is critically important for Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Doreen Farr
Third District Supervisor, Santa Barbara County

Cc: State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
Assemblymember Das Williams
Mona Miyasato, Santa Barbara County CEO
Paddy Langlands, Santa Barbara County, Community Services, Deputy Parks Director
Dan Yparraguirre, CDFW, Deputy Director, Wildlife & Fisheries Division
Susan LaGrande, CDFW, Deputy Director, Office of Legislative Affairs
Edmund Pert, CDFW, Manager, South Coast Region 5
Stafford Lehr, CDFW, Chief Fisheries Branch, Wildlife & Fisheries Division