



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 South Coast Region
 3883 Ruffin Road
 San Diego, CA 92123
 (858) 467-4201
 www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
 CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



*Reviewed 4/9/14
 10-10 am.
 [Signature]*

March 27, 2014

Thomas D. Fayram, PE, CFM
 Deputy Public Works Director
 County of Santa Barbara
 130 E. Victoria Street
 Santa Barbara, California 93101

Dear Mr. Fayram:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's South Coast Region staff recently reviewed the current webpage for Lake Cachuma and found that the County of Santa Barbara is stocking the lake with out-of-state rainbow trout. It is noted that these fish are sterile triploids that prevents them from spawning with wild and native species. These stocking events are, however, in violation of the Department's regulations and policies.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 14. Natural Resources. Division 1. Fish and Game Commission – Department of Fish and Game, Section 238.5 reads in part:

"Only publicly owned lakes covered by a cooperative stocking agreement between the department and the lake operator and privately owned reservoirs, lakes and ponds in the following counties or portion thereof may be stocked without a stocking permit:... Santa Barbara...".

While rainbow trout is an exempted species and Santa Barbara County is an exempted county, we do not have a cooperative stocking agreement with the County of Santa Barbara, nor is the lake a private lake, reservoir, or pond. To proceed with stocking rainbow trout at Lake Cachuma, the County would need, at a minimum, a Private Stocking Permit from the Department. The difficulty with a Private Stocking Permit is that a Pre-Stocking Evaluation would have to identify Lake Cachuma as an appropriate water to stock. Department staff has conducted the Pre-Stocking Evaluation process in the past and identified Southern California Steelhead as a species that could be adversely affected by stocking rainbow trout, even triploid rainbow trout. We therefore cannot stock our hatchery-raised fish in the lake and would be unable to approve a Private Stocking Permit for the County to stock trout. All of this leads us to the conclusion that the County's stocking activities are in violation of the State's regulations on the stocking of aquaculture-produced fish and that for the County to comply with the regulations, stocking activities at Lake Cachuma must cease immediately.

We are fully aware of the recreational opportunities the County's stocking activities provide and view these opportunities as important to the region's anglers. We are, however, required to consider the effects of any stocking activity on listed and sensitive species in proximity to the stocking. We are hopeful that we may be able to work out a solution in the coming years for the waters in the range of the Southern California steelhead. Unfortunately, Lake Piru, Lake Casitas, and Lake Cachuma are all in the same difficult position when it comes to the impacts of stocking on steelhead.

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It is unfortunate we must take these steps; however, it is clear the continued stocking of rainbow trout at Lake Cachuma violates State regulations and cannot continue. If we can help to clarify our position, please contact me at (858) 467-4210.

Sincerely,



Edmund Pert
Regional Manager
South Coast Region

ec: Stafford Lehr, CDFW, Sacramento

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WATER RESOURCES
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