

February 23, 2011

Karen Waln
Public Works Dept.
City of San Buenaventura
P.O. Box 99
Ventura, CA 93002-0099

Dear Karen:

I apologize for not submitting these comments before the deadline but as you may be aware I have responsibilities that currently keep me focused on the upper, rather than the lower, Santa Clara River. That said, I would appreciate this letter being included as comments on the draft. I was not able to read the entire document, but focused mainly on the areas that cited my work. I would appreciate it if the following corrections were made:

1. Pages 121 and 128, at the top of each page. I did not conduct vegetation or saltwater fish surveys during my 2008 study. My references to plants and other fish species were from other sources and those were cited. Please have those sources, rather than my work, referenced in your report.
2. Page 128, last paragraph. Please do not cite me in this paragraph since my 2008 work did not express any expectations regarding the use of the SCRE as just a migration corridor. My 2008 study is only one season of data, and more work should be done to answer this question. Also, since my 2008 work focused only on smolts, and there isn't data on adult usage, including a citation to my 2008 report is misleading; we don't know if adults use the estuary only as a migration corridor. Finally, as the September 2010 breach of the SCRE showed, smolts were over-summering in the estuary. I think that the final sentence in that paragraph should be removed, and its conclusion restated to reflect what is known.
3. On page 132, my 2008 study is referenced prior to the following statement:
Although closed-mouth conditions may force extended periods of lagoon rearing, it is apparent from the discussion above that only low numbers of individual steelhead are currently using the SCRE for rearing, which may have consequences for the Santa Clara River population.

I would remove this sentence since my work was not extensive enough to make it "apparent" that low numbers of steelhead are using the SCRE, nor is it clear to me what population consequences would arise from low or high numbers of steelhead using the SCRE.

Lastly, I understand that you work with consultants, and perhaps you could stress to them that if my work is to be quoted and referenced, to please make sure it is in accordance with the work I've done, and that the conclusions drawn from my work reflect my own statements and conclusions.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Elise Kelley, Ph.D.
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