

March 20, 2001

TO: Hal Brown
John Kress
Cynthia Murray
Annette Rose

FROM: Steve Kinsey

REQUESTED ACTIONS: Accept the FishNet report *Effects of County Land Use Policies and Management Practices on Anadromous Fish and Their Habitats*; and endorse recommended action items

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to provide to you the FishNet report, *Effects of County Land Use Policies and Management Practices on Anadromous Fish and Their Habitats*. This report represents a major milestone in the work of FishNet 4C, and it documents an intensive assessment of county policies and management practices and their effectiveness at protecting our fishery resources in the six FishNet Counties, Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Monterey. Much credit for the production of the report must go to county staff who have worked diligently with the author of the report, Dr. Richard Harris, from the UC Berkeley faculty of Environmental Science, Policy and Management.

On page 2 of Appendix A you will find information specific to Marin County. While it is clear that Marin already has some practices and policies in place to protect our fisheries, more work must be done to ensure that our coho salmon and steelhead trout survive and are returned to sustainable levels. Marin County also faces a serious regulatory consideration in the newly imposed 4(d) rule of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which lists a remarkable variety of ways that individuals or public agencies can commit a "take" or cause harm to fish. I believe that if Marin County moves proactively to ensure that our practices are "fish friendly" we will significantly diminish our risk under the ESA.

I would like to thank Liz Lewis, Brian Crawford, Andrea Fox and Kallie Kull who worked hard to compile a list of broad goals (see attached) for all counties, then further distilled this analysis to identify priority tasks for Marin. Key among these recommendations is the need to make sure that we know where the fish are and which streams need the greatest protection. Once identified, we need to make sure that these streams and their riparian areas are protected with stronger, enforceable policies. Also important is the need to address Marin's many miles of dirt roads, as well as culverts and other barriers to fish passage. We must ensure that our winter grading ordinance is strongly enforced, and that emergency winter road projects (and the spoils from these projects) are followed up with sediment control measures. Training of staff is needed to support these efforts.

In order to move forward on these recommendations it is imperative that our Board appoint an interdepartmental fishery protection team to spearhead the County's efforts, beginning with five high priority short-term actions listed on the next page. Costs associated with these actions are identified, and will be funded by the Marin County Stormwater Protection fund through the Department of Public Works. Further, I recommend that the team also consider the more complex, longer-term actions (also identified below) which may have cost implications, and that they report back to our board regarding potential next steps. I suggest that our Board request the team to report on all actions and recommendations by the end of October, 2001.

It is with real satisfaction that I see the hard work of the past year resulting in the opportunity for tangible steps toward restoration of our coastal fishery. Please join me in building on these efforts by supporting the key actions identified below.

Sincerely,

Steve Kinsey

March 20, 2001 actions taken by the Marin County Board of Supervisors for fishery protection in Marin County

Initial Action

Problem or Need	Action
Fishery protection requires actions in and coordination between several departments	<p>Form a Fishery Protection Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Public Works – Liz Lewis • Community Development Agency – Andrea Fox • Open Space District – Mischon Martin • County Counsel – Nancy Grisham • Marin County Fire – Kent Julin • Administrator’s Office – Ian Roth

Short Term Actions – Projects for implementation

Problem or Need	Action	Cost
Public comment is needed	Arrange a public meeting to review the report’s key findings and to review action plan priorities.	0
Maintenance of dirt roads in salmon bearing watersheds	The County of Marin should participate in the Road Maintenance Memorandum of Understanding involving all groups that have responsibility for dirt roads in the Lagunitas Watershed. This MOU is currently being drafted under the leadership of Marin Municipal Water District.	0
Lack of information about where fish are and which streams need protection	Request the Department of Public Works and the Community Development Agency to initiate the creation of a map identifying all fish-bearing streams, for use by staff in carrying out work and permitting projects.	Staff time funded by existing Local Stormwater Protection funds
Barriers to fish passage such as culverts are a significant problem in Marin County’s salmon bearing streams	Request the Department of Public Works to submit a proposal to the California Department of Fish and Game’s Fishery Restoration grant program (deadline May 18, 2001) for an assessment of fish barriers in salmon bearing streams of biological importance, leading to prioritized list of projects which address barriers.	Staff time funded by existing Local Stormwater Protection funds
Staff are unaware of impacts of County practices and policies on our fish populations	Request the Department of Public Works and the Community Development Agency to work together to provide training to DPW engineers and Roads Division staff; CDA Planning and Building Department staff; and Fire and Open Space District staff who are responsible for maintenance of roads. Appropriate staff should participate in the Open Space District’s road maintenance demonstration project, recently funded by a Department of Fish and Game grant.	\$4,000 funded by Local Stormwater Protection Program

Long Term Actions – Recommendations for future efforts

Problem or Need	Action	
Ongoing public involvement and comment is needed	Ask the Marin County Fishery Protection Team to evaluate the need for ongoing public involvement in the County’s fishery protection action plan, and to recommend mechanisms and propose a budget for this participation.	To be identified
Initial staff analysis has identified other priorities to be addressed, including dirt roads, enforcement of the Winter Grading Ordinance, emergency project impacts, the need for a riparian buffer ordinance	Request the team to review the report and goals to create a prioritized list and associated budget identifying long term action items	To be identified