



PISCES

Volume 30, Number 3, Summer-Fall 2001

President's Message

Larry Brown, President

It is traditional for the first President's Message to outline an annual workplan. This message is no exception; however, I must note that this workplan is probably no different than others you have read before. In fact a past-President, Mike Meinz, recently noted that his old workplan was still on the web page. I went to the web page to have a look at Mike's message and saw that it had many of the same elements I was planning to mention! Most of the goals and activities revolved around communication and increasing membership involvement in Chapter activities. Does this mean that nothing has been accomplished in the last couple of years? No! I think this merely highlights that the Cal-Neva Chapter and other professional organizations face constant challenges in the areas of communication and participation. The activity level of the Chapter is highly dependent on the activity level of the membership! My major goals include the following:

- Continue to improve the Cal-Neva website. The web site has been up and running for several years now but it has been updated only sporadically. One of my first goals will be to update the material on the website to reflect current activities. We will also be improving housekeeping on the site so that information remains current. If you think something important is missing from the website or have an idea about something to include, please contact me or our webmaster, Wayne Lifton.
- Improve communication between the Executive Committee and the membership and among members. The website, mentioned above, is one

way of addressing both of these goals. *Pisces* is another venue that has been underutilized in recent times. The Executive Committee and I will continue to use *Pisces* to communicate with the membership but I would like to strongly recommend that members use *Pisces* to communicate with each other! We are all involved in interesting issues and projects. Lets share! The annual meeting remains our major method of information exchange. I and the other members of the EXCOMM will strive to keep the quality of our annual meeting high. I have also recently become aware the National AFS can provide help with establishing list-servers for Chapters and Sections. Because the issue of establishing a Cal-Neva mailing list was raised at the Annual Meeting I will be researching the requirements for establishing such a list. One thing we will likely need for this project is a volunteer to moderate the list. Contact me if interested.

- Continue outreach to Nevada members and members interested in marine resources. Marine issues were an important part of the annual meeting last year and will be an important part of our meeting in 2003 when we will be meeting with the Western Division (see article inside). We expect Nevada participation to be high at this years meeting in Lake Tahoe.
- Continue to promote student involvement in the American Fisheries Society. I place the stress on continue because I think the Chapter has been doing a good job in this area. Reduced student registration fees and sponsored lodging at the annual meeting will continue, as will outreach activities.

Cal-Neva Chapter Will Host the 2003 Meeting of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

Larry Brown, President

At the Annual Meeting in Phoenix, the Cal-Neva Chapter and the Western Division reached agreement that Cal-Neva will host the 2003 Division meeting. Time and place for the meeting have not yet been decided. Tentatively, the meeting will take place sometime in the spring of 2003 and will be planned to accommodate 600-800 participants. Although a location has not been selected, the Western Division leadership would like to strongly encourage participation of members working in marine systems. Therefore, a coastal venue will be selected. In preliminary informal discussions, San Francisco, Monterey, and San Diego have all been mentioned. We will be forming an official planning committee in the very near future. If any of the Cal-Neva membership would like to participate now, in the planning process, or later, as participants in the many activities are required for a successful meeting, please contact Larry Brown. In this early part of the planning process we would especially like to hear from members that would be willing to help with local arrangements in the coastal venues mentioned above or any alternatives they would like to propose.

Nominations Needed for President-elect and Secretary

Larry Brown, President

Yes, it's that time again. We need nominees for President-elect and Secretary of the Cal-Neva Chapter. If you would be interested in running for either office please contact Fred Feyrer, who has generously agreed to act as interim Chair of the Bylaws and Nominations Committee. I know it is often difficult to commit limited free time to service activities such as the American Fisheries Society; however, I believe that the professional and personal rewards and growth are worth the effort. If you would like more information about an office please contact Larry Brown regarding President-elect or Mike Saiki regarding Secretary.

Committee Chairs and Participants Still Needed

Larry Brown, President

The Chair of the Bylaws and Nominations Committee

remains vacant. If you would be interested in filling this position please contact Larry Brown. Duties of the position include finding nominees for annual elections, conducting the election, making sure the Bylaws remain up-to-date and relevant, and helping keep Committee Chairs filled. All Committee Chairs are members of the Executive Committee and provide an excellent opportunity for you to learn how the Chapter works. If you are not interested in serving as a Committee Chair but would like to help with Chapter activities please contact the appropriate person on the Executive Committee. Similarly, if you aware of an issue in which you believe the Chapter should be involved, contact the appropriate member of the Executive Committee.

***Pisces* Welcomes Material from the Membership**

Larry Brown, President

Are you aware of a meeting or activity that other Chapter members might enjoy? Are you working on an issue or program that you would like other members to know about? Have you just taken an excellent training class that other members should know about? All of these items would be excellent topics for short articles in *Pisces*. Jim Orsi, our new Newsletter editor, is always looking for material to make *Pisces* bigger and better. If you are interested in providing material to *Pisces*, contact Jim Orsi, and let him know what you have in mind.

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Meeting

**California-Nevada Chapter, American
Fisheries Society**

Bakers Square, Vacaville, August 14, 2001, 6:30 p.m.

Attendees: Elise Holland (President), Larry Brown (President-elect), Mike Saiki (Secretary), Fred Feyrer (Membership), Robert Blizzard (FIN Manager), Kathy Hieb (Continuing Education), Dave Manning (Time & Place), Chuck Knutson (Annual Meeting Program Coordinator), Amy Harris (Member).

Call to Order: Elise Holland called the meeting to order at 6:46 PM.

Verification of Quorum: A quorum was present.

President's Report: Elise Holland

1. Chapter-owned computer equipment (formerly used by Lauren Buffaloe, former Pisces Editor). Only three EXCOM members responded to Elise's email concerning disposition of Chapter-owned computer equipment. The consensus was that the Chapter should keep the equipment. Fred Feyrer volunteered to store the equipment until someone needs it.
2. Salmon Festival: The Chapter has agreed to cosponsor the Salmon Festival (scheduled for Oct. 13-14, 2001) by donating \$1,500. As a cosponsor, we will link this event to our website. Larry Brown moved (Fred Feyrer seconded) that we also sponsor a booth to sell t-shirts; the motion was passed unanimously. Anyone interested in volunteering to work in our booth should contact Sharon Shiba. EXCOM members should spread the word about our need for volunteers.
3. Hosting the WDAFS Annual Meeting in 2003: Chuck Knutson moved (Larry Brown seconded) that our Chapter shall host the WDAFS Annual Meeting in 2003, with the time (dates) and location to be determined later. Elise will email Dave Lentz with our decision, and Larry Brown will coordinate with Dave at the AFS Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

President Elect's Report: Larry Brown—nothing new to report.

Past-President's Report: Mike Meinz was absent.

Treasurer's Report: Alice Low was absent.

Secretary's Report: Mike Saiki

Mike requested approval for minutes from the July 2001 meeting. Elise moved (Larry Brown seconded) that the minutes be approved with a minor correction (spelling for Almo Cordone's name should be corrected). The motion passed unanimously.

Pisces: Jim Orsi was absent.

Finance: Wayne Lifton was absent.

Policy and Resolutions: Dan Logan was absent.

Nominations/Bylaws: Position is vacant.

Membership: Fred Feyrer.

Fred will generate a list of new Chapter members so that the distribution list for recipients of Pisces can be updated. The list will be sent to Jim Orsi.

Continuing Education: Kathy Hieb

1. Monique Born and Jim Harrington have requested \$6,500 from the Chapter's Continuing Education Fund to cover publication costs for the 3rd edition of their training manual, "Measuring the Health of California Streams and Rivers." Discussion by EXCOM members yielded six issues that Kathy will present to Born and Harrington. For example, we need to know how the manual will benefit our Chapter. Elise indicated that the issues must be addressed before the EXCOM can vote on a decision.
2. The class on statistics is filling rapidly (scheduled for October).

FIN: Robert Blizzard

Robert is looking for ideas from EXCOM and other Chapter members on what to include as part of FIN business. He is thinking about listing items such as upcoming fish-related events, new fish issues, interesting fish websites, etc., for publishing in Pisces.

Conservation: Ted Frink was absent.

Time and Place: Dave Manning

Alice Low will issue a check to reserve the Granlibaken for the Chapter's Annual Meeting in 2002.

Annual Meeting Program: Chuck Knutson

1. Chuck distributed a proposed program for our Chapter's Annual Meeting (April 18-20, 2002) at Lake Tahoe. The agenda will include two Thursday symposia, a General Session on Friday (Peter Moyle has been asked to serve as Session Chair), and about 10 technical sessions on Friday and Saturday. Chuck is still looking for a banquet speaker. Contact Chuck if you want a copy of the program or have suggestions.
2. The call for papers will be issued in September or October for posting by Wayne on our Chapter's website.

Awards: Pat Coulston was absent.

T-Shirt Sales: Sharon Shiba was absent.

Cal-Neva Student Subunit: Martin Koenig was absent.

New Business: Chuck Knutson indicated that John Carlson (Wildlife Society) had alerted him to a pending Assembly bill (AB 955) that would give authority to the California Department of Food & Agriculture to regulate the destruction of fish and wildlife in case of disease outbreaks (a responsibility currently handled by the California Department of Fish and Game).

Old Business: Fred Feyrer mentioned that the unofficial Sacramento/Davis Subunit has scheduled a meeting with guest speaker for tomorrow (August 15) at the Sudwerk in Davis.

Future Meetings: The next EXCOM meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2001, at 6:30 PM. Amy Harris volunteered to find a new meeting location (not Bakers Square Restaurant in Vacaville).

The meeting was adjourned by Elise at 8:00 PM.

Submitted by:

Mike Saiki

New Members

The Cal-Neva Chapter continues to grow. The ExCom would like to recognize the addition of the following new members, extend a warm welcome to them, and encourage them to become active in Chapter activities!

Jan Coredes - Davis
Carson Cox - Ann Arbor, MI
Lia McLaughlin - Redding
Alice Cascorbi - Monterey
David Hines - Sebastopol
Diana Windham - Dixon
Gaines Eastreling - Sacramento
Heather Brashear - Pacific Grove
James R. Smith - Lodi
John Andrew - Sacramento
Katherine Seefloth - Sacramento
Kunio Yanagida - Gardena
Monica D. Martinez-Guaracha — Los Alamitos
Donald Tennant - Billings, MT
Douglas Parkinson - Arcata
Eric Miskow - Reno, NV
Gary Johnson - Elko, NV
Robert Palmer - Chula Vista
Ryon Kurth - Chico
Scott Engblom - Ventura
Thomas Keegan - Roseville
Tom Greiner - Antioch
Steven Slater - Sacramento
Justin Schaefer - Ashford, CT
James Salerno - Burlingame
Lawrence Travanti - Vacaville
Lynell Garfield - Nevada City
Jay Jeffrey - Walla Walla, WA
Phillip Lebednik - Emeryville
Aric R. Lester, Elk Grove
Jim Long, Sacramento
Paul J. Randall, Berkeley
Paul Uncapher, Redding
Veronica Wunderlich, San Pablo

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Conservation Committee

State Water Resources declares TMDLs (water quality pollution control programs) Highest Priority

At a meeting of the Public Advisory Group (PAG) for TMDLs (mandated by AB982) on October 10, 2001, Tom Howard (Deputy Director of the SWRCB) declared that the State of California's TMDL program is the State Boards highest priority.

This comes after over a year of meetings held by the PAG and a pending report not yet delivered to the legislature that was critical of the State's TMDL program as the State has shown virtually no progress in addressing the long list, over 800 TMDLs, needing to be completed on polluted and impaired waterbodies across the state.

The Division of Water Quality has been reorganized and an Action Plan developed to address the lagging TMDL and impaired waterbody problems. There are now over 100 staff on TMDL projects, with 23 at the State Board, and the rest at the 9 Regional Boards. That is over \$10,000,000 per year in staffing expenses dedicated to TMDLs. This financial commitment may not be subject to budget cuts affecting other State agencies.

As part of the reorganization Tom Mumley (from Region 2) will be a statewide coordinator, Craig J. Wilson will work on listing and monitoring policy, and Val Comer will work on policy and implementation guidelines.

This seems to be a good step for water quality management in California, especially for impaired waters. However, it will remain to be seen whether the emphasis on the program will be on urbanized waters or include rural regions and streams that support salmon and steelhead.

Chapter Seeks Award Nominees



One of the highlights of the Chapter's Annual Meeting is the presentation of awards to deserving individuals for their professional excellence and fisheries conservation efforts. Your Chapter Awards Committee is currently seeking nominees for awards to be presented at the 2002 Annual Meeting. Four categories of awards are presented by the Chapter. They are:

- 1) **Distinguished Professional Achievement** – recognizing chapter members for professional excellence in research, management, education, publication, or outstanding contributions to the profession or fisheries conservation.
- 2) **Special Contribution** – recognizing members and others for outstanding service to the Chapter.
- 3) **Conservation Achievement** – recognizing non-member individuals or groups for outstanding contributions or service to fisheries conservation.
- 4) **Award of Excellence** – recognizing a Chapter and Parent Society member for exemplary depth and breadth of professional achievement, combined with significant publication and/or conservation activities, and participation in Chapter activities. Nominees for this

Photos from the Awards Presentation at the Annual Meeting in Santa Rosa Meet-

ing, March 29-30. Not all award winners were present. See Pisces 30(2):5 for the story.



Pat Coulston presents a Conservation Achievement award to Tom Furrer.



Brian Finlayson accepts his distinguished personal achievement award from Pat Coulston.



David Lentz holds his Special Contribution award.



Pat Coulston hands over James Canaday's Conservation Achievement award.



Pat Coulston and David Vanicek shake hands on David's Distinguished Personal Achievement award.



Pat Coulston presents a special contribution award to Lauren Buffaloe.

Letter Regarding Global Warming

Larry Brown, President

As Chapter President I received the letter below. The letter on global warming referred to in the letter is not included in *Pisces*. Please note that the American Fisheries Society has **NOT** officially endorsed or adopted the views expressed in the referenced letter. However, I recognize that this letter drive is something that many of our members would wish to join as a **PERSONAL** action. If you decide you would like to see a copy of the global warming letter please contact the Carline's at: bcarline@home.com.

Text of cover letter:

Dear Chapter President:

A 1.5-day symposium entitled "Fisheries in a Changing Climate" was held at the AFS Annual Meeting in Phoenix. Twenty-seven papers were presented at this symposium with the overall goal of developing benchmarks for our current understanding of climatic influences on fish, associated aquatic resources, and fishery dynamics.

Specific goals of the symposium:

- Summarize and evaluate current knowledge of the subject,
- Identify key information and research needs,
- Develop policy considerations for fisheries management in an era of global climate change.
- Energize ongoing efforts to achieve predictability and anticipatory management for fisheries and related biological resources, and
- Provide a platform for exchanging and archiving scientific information on the topic

At the conclusion of the symposium, a Stakeholders' Forum was convened. The forum, which was jointly sponsored by AFS and the National Wildlife Federation, included representatives of government agencies, scientists, fisheries professionals, and representatives from several non-profit conservation groups. Forum participants explored ways in which they could individually or collectively inform the public about their concerns regarding the consequences of climate change, encourage appropriate research programs, and develop ways to influence public policy.

Many AFS members and others felt strongly that immediate steps needed to be taken to alert national policy makers about our concerns regarding the consequences of global climate change and the need for the United States

to take a lead role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As a result of these discussions, the attached open letter to President Bush was drafted and circulated during the last day of the meeting. To date several hundred AFS members have signed this letter.

Be aware that this letter is not originating from AFS nor does it in any way suggest that its contents reflect AFS policy. The procedure for producing AFS policy statements are guided by AFS Constitution and Rules; this procedure is lengthy and at this time is uncertain how and when such a policy may be presented to the AFS membership for consideration.

This open letter to the President has been drafted by individuals who feel that it is important for President Bush and Congress to understand how many U.S. scientists and resource professionals are gravely concerned about the prospects of global climate change.

Our intent is to circulate this open letter to other professional societies and obtain as many signatures as possible during the next three months. Our goal is to obtain several thousand signatures and present them to the President in early December with copies forwarded to appropriate members and committees of Congress. The actual presentation will be made by an appropriate non-profit conservation organization.

We ask that you circulate the attached letter to your Chapter members, and to other professional colleagues. Signed letters (even with only one signature) should be sent to:

Allison Associates
1271 Quaker Hill Drive
Alexandria, VA 22314

Please remember that the deadline for receipt of letters with original signatures is November 30.

If you feel it is inappropriate for you to distribute the attached letter, please so inform us.

Sincerely,

Bob Carline and Dave Allison

Marge & Bob Carline
748 Cornwall Road
State College, Pa. 16803
bcarline@home.com.

First-Rate Facilities, Camaraderie, and a Spectacular Setting Awaits Cal-Neva Members at the 2002 Annual Meeting in North Lake Tahoe

by David Manning, Time & Place Committee Chair

The next Cal-Neva annual meeting will be held April 18-20, 2002 at the Granlibakken Resort and Conference Center in Lake Tahoe. Nestled in a valley 1½ miles from Tahoe City, Granlibakken offers a first-rate facility in a beautiful mountain setting. One hundred sixty-five lodging rooms and 16,000 square feet of meeting space are situated on 74 wooded acres. Interlaced with hiking trails, the grounds include a ski rental shop, snow play area, two cross-country ski trails, year-round pool, spa, and sauna, and (if weather permits) five tennis courts. All rooms have private baths, cable TV, and phones with dataports. Many of the rooms have fireplaces, decks, and patios. With its natural setting, rustic charm, and modern conference facilities, Granlibakken is the perfect location for our group of fisheries and natural resource professionals.

To take full advantage of the “retreat-like” feel of Granlibakken, Cal-Neva has reserved the entire resort for our meeting. Unlike our previous meetings held at hotels in urban areas, all meals will be included in your conference registration fees. Once you arrive at Granlibakken, you can relax with colleagues and enjoy excellent food, hosted social events, and the banquet at no additional cost. Because we will be utilizing the full facility, lodging and food costs have been designed to match the state and federal per diem rates for the Lake Tahoe area (\$84 plus tax per night for single occupancy rooms and \$40 per day plus tax for meals). Lodging taxes will be exempted for Federal employees paying for rooms with a check from the Federal government. Ninety of the resort’s 165 rooms will be available at the \$84 rate. The remaining 75 rooms range in price up to \$114 but still represent a substantial

discount from the resort’s regular nightly rate. The rate structure provides hassle-free accounting for government employees and a great value for individuals from the private sector. The food at Granlibakken is excellent and bountiful. Breakfast is served buffet style and includes omelettes, eggs, blintzes, sausage, bacon, French toast, pancakes, breads and pastries, fresh fruits, cereals, juices, and coffee. Buffet lunches include two entrees, a vegetarian dish, salads and vegetables. Dinners will be served buffet and banquet style and include salad, steaks, fresh fish, poultry, vegetarian dishes, and decadent desserts.

While meals will be included in the registration fees, we have elected for meeting participants to make their own lodging arrangements directly with Granlibakken. Just like conventional hotels used in the past, you can reserve your room with a credit card and pay as you like when you arrive. Contact the Granlibakken at (530) 583-4242 and reference the Cal-Neva American Fisheries Society Meeting to get our conference rate. Because Tahoe is a significant drive from most cities in California, we are trying to foster a “retreat” atmosphere, and your meal package will begin with breakfast on either Thursday (April 18) or Friday (April 19), we encourage you to book a room for two or three nights. Granlibakken has a number of condominium style units. If you will be attending the meeting with a group of colleagues, you may want to inquire about these units. Multiple occupancy per diem rates are less than single occupancy rates. You may search for alternative lodging in Tahoe City, but your registration fees will still include meals. We realize that some meeting participants may object to the meal package requirement. However, the inclusion of meals in the registration fees allows us to receive government per diem rates and helps minimize total meeting costs. If you choose to search elsewhere, we think you’ll find that the lodging rates we’ve arranged with Granlibakken are an excellent value and you will be only steps away from the meeting activities. Details about the various meal packages will be included with the registration materials you will be receiving this winter – check for meeting updates on the Cal-Neva web site at www.afs-calneva.org.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Symposium and 36th Annual Meeting
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
California-Nevada Chapter

***Theme - "Human Impacts on
Aquatic Resources"***

April 18-20, 2002

**Granlibakken Resort and Conference
Center
Tahoe City, California**

Potential presenters: If you are interested in submitting a paper or poster for any of the sessions below, please contact the Session Coordinator directly to verify that there is room in the session for your presentation. The Session Coordinator will supply information on abstract format and audiovisual needs. The deadline for submission of abstracts to the Session Coordinators is 22 February 2002. Late submissions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Thursday-Saturday, April 18-20, 2002
(8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)**

Poster Session

Coordinator: Robert Blizard, CA Dept. of Transportation,
(510) 286-6238, robert_blizard@dot.ca.gov

**Thursday, April 18, 2002 (8:00 AM -
5:00 PM)**

***Symposium 1: Wild and Native Trout Management
and Restoration***

Coordinators: Bill Somer, CA Dept. of Fish and Game
(530) 647-9120, wsomer@dfg.ca.gov and Tom Mar-
tens, California Wildlife Foundation (916) 446-2956,
tom_martens@californiawildlifefoundation.org

***Symposium 2: Current Issues in Fish Passage: Screens,
Ladders, and Culverts***

Coordinators: Marcin Whitman, CA Dept. of Fish and
Game (916) 653-0161, mwhitman@dfg2.ca.gov

Marianne Hallet, Natural Resources Conservation
Service (530) 792-5624, marianne.hallet@ca.usda.gov

**Friday, April 19, 2002 (8:30 AM - 11:45
AM)**

**Plenary Session: *Human Impacts on the Aquatic
Environment***

Coordinator: Dr. Peter Moyle, University of California,
Davis (530) 752-6355, pmmoyle@ucdavis.edu

**Friday, April 19, 2002 (1:30 PM - 4:30
PM)**

Technical Session #1: *Native Species Management*

Coordinator: Dr. Gary Scoppettone, U.S. Geological
Survey (775) 861-6396, gary_scoppettone@usgs.gov

**Technical Session #2: *Specific Invasive Species
Problems and Solutions***

Coordinator: Susan Ellis, CA Dept. of Fish and Game
(916) 653-8983, sellis@dfg.ca.gov

**Technical Session #3: *Protecting Marines from Fish
(Why MPAs are good for the other guys)***

Coordinator: Ed Ueber, NOAA, Gulf of the Farallones
Marine Sanctuary (415) 561-6622,
ed.ueber@noaa.gov

**Technical Session #4: *Fire Management and Impacts
on Aquatic Habitats.***

Coordinator: Kevin Shaffer, CA Dept. of Fish and
Game. (916) 327-0713,
kshaffer@dfg.ca.gov

**Technical Session #5: *Reservoir Research and Man-
agement***

Coordinator: Dennis Lee, CA Dept. of Fish and Game
(916) 358-2833, dlee@dfg.ca.gov

**Saturday, April 20, 2002 (8:30
AM - 11:30 AM)**

Technical Session #6: *Conservation Genetics*

Coordinator: Dr. Mary Peacock, University of Nevada,
Reno (775) 784-1958, mpeacock@unr.nevada.edu

**Technical Session #7: *Recent Developments in Aquac-
ulture***

Coordinator: Dr. Joe Cech, University of California, Davis
(530) 752-3103, jjcech@ucdavis.edu

Technical Session #8: *Contributed Papers*

Coordinator: Dan Logan, National Marine Fisheries
Service (707) 575-6053, dan.logan@noaa.gov

Technical Session #9: *Impacts of Development on*

Lake Tahoe Coordinator: Dr. Charles Goldman, University of California, Davis (530) 752-1557,
crgoldman@ucdavis.edu

Technical Session #10: *Evaluating Watershed Restoration for Fish Habitat*

Coordinator: Barry Collins, CA Dept. of Fish and Game
(707) 725-1068, bcollins@dfg.ca.gov

Discussion Group: *Information Sharing on Lyme Disease Threats to Natural Resource Field Personnel*

Coordinator: Cindy Watanabe, CA Dept. of Fish and Game (916) 635-7022, skwatanabe@juno.com

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
TO PROVIDE
BAY-DELTA AND TRIBUTARIES
SCIENCE SUPPORT SERVICES
(RFP No. 498)**

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is seeking a Consulting firm(s) (Consultant) to provide scientific and technical services to support Metropolitan's involvement in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay-Delta and its upstream tributaries. These services will be arranged through written direction on an as needed basis. Metropolitan seeks expert science and statistics support with Bay/Delta and tributary activities in the following disciplines: Biological Sciences, Physical Science, and Ecosystem Restoration.

Please submit a request for RFP 498 by fax, to Wendy Miller at 213/217-7518. Metropolitan will provide a bound copy of RFP 498 to the requestor when the RFP becomes available.

Prospective consultants are encouraged to review Metropolitan's Web Site on a regular basis at www.mwdH2O.com for contracting opportunities.

Urban Stream Council Seeks Members

Hello ES's and others. I belong to the Sacramento Chapter of the Urban Streams Council. We've been in existence since the 1980s and many of the Board members that started the Chapter are still involved. Our mission, among other things, is to install a sense of stewardship and increase public awareness as to the value of urban creeks. Although our materials are state-wide and we partner with neighboring counties, our focus is Sacramento County. We are desperate for new members. Last meeting, in my absence, I was volunteered for the nominating committee. Although most of you local types may not want to make a commitment to be on the Board, we are looking for folks to come to meetings and bring fresh, new ideas and perspectives. Although we are small, we are probably the most active and productive Chapter in the state. We sponsor Creek Week, which is a week-long series of creek related activities including awards for good creek stewards. The week culminates in a day of creek clean-ups and celebration. We have published several educational materials including an award winning teacher's packet, a dip-kit that educators can borrow and use to carry out scientific studies along creeks, and other awareness brochures. We also sponsor educator workshops. We are in particular need of persons interested in supporting and expanding upon these activities as well as someone to edit and publish our quarterly newsletter. If you are interested, please respond with your name, address, phone, and e-mail address and we'll contact you.

Bonnie G. Ross
Environmental Specialist III
Department of Water Resources
Division of Flood Management
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1641
Sacramento, CA 95814
Work Phone 916-654-4202

California Hopes for Wet Winter to Avoid Wider Problems

U.S. Water News Online, October 2001.
San Francisco - California's farmers and power producers will be casting a wary eye at long-term weather forecasts, hoping for a wet winter to replenish reservoirs drained to levels not seen in decades. At stake is the state's \$27

billion agricultural sector - the biggest in the nation - and the hydroelectricity that accounts for up to 25 percent of California's power needs.

"If we have a second dry winter, it will be hard for all water users in California," said Jeff McCracken, a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation which operates one of two large water projects in California. "This year was dry, the driest ever in the Klamath River basin (on the California-Oregon border), and a repeat would cause more problems in the state," he said.

From 1994 to 2000, the state benefitted from six straight years of average to above-average precipitation, leaving most reservoirs brimming. But a thin snowpack this past winter, increased demands from a growing population, few new reservoirs, and strict federal environmental rules have created tight water supplies for many of California's 34 million residents. "It used to take a few years for water problems to develop. Now it takes just a year for people to get concerned, and I think population growth has been key to that," said Jeff Cohen, a spokesman for the California Department of Water Resources. California has called a series of special meetings for late October to summarize 2001 water conditions and the preparations water suppliers are taking to cope with a possible drought.

Meanwhile squabbles over water rights have raised tensions among several groups, especially farmers, who use about 45 percent of all water consumed in the state. The Bureau of Reclamation, bound by federal law to provide enough water to sustain endangered salmon, cut irrigation flows this summer to hundreds of farmers in the drought-stricken Klamath basin, leaving crops and pastures parched. Angry Klamath farmers succeeded four times in breaking open water headgates managed by the bureau, prompting the dispatch of armed federal marshals to guard the headgates.

In parts of California's vast Central Valley, home to most of the state's fruit and vegetable growers, many farmers have worked with only 39 percent to 45 percent of the water requested from two of the region's main water projects. To fill the gap, many farmers have switched on electric well pumps, a costly alternative given California's high energy prices, or have simply reduced their planted acreage.

Warnings have also been issued near Sacramento, the state capital, to reduce residential water consumption. And state legislation buried last year has been unearthed, aimed

at requiring housing developers to show they have enough water to meet planned growth before any ground is broken.

Perhaps the only water-driven industry unscathed by last year's poor rainfall was hydropower production, which was pegged "just a little below average" due to a reservoir cushion build up over the past six winters, Jim McKinney, a hydro specialist at the California Energy Commission, said. But hydroelectric generation could be trimmed if 2002 is dry because that reservoir cushion would be depleted, he said. What all these problems...indicate is we don't have the flexibility in the water system we need. The pie from which to draw water has basically been the same but demands have grown...Our belief is that shortages will occur quicker and to a greater degree," Dave Kranz, a spokesman for the California Farm Bureau, said.

California has moved to ease the pressure building in its water system. Last year, the state and the U.S. Interior Department signed an \$8.5 billion deal, known as CalFed, in an ambitious effort to smooth out water disputes over the next 30 years. CalFed would greatly expand state reservoir capacity, fund water recycling programs, improve drinking water, and repair damaged fish and wildlife habitat. But the benefits CalFed eventually provides are unlikely to offer much short-term relief, leaving many hoping Mother Nature will be more generous with rain and snow this winter than last. "We hope 2002 will be a lot better. What we're hearing from members is they're fairly confident they'll get through a moderately dry year due to water efficiency programs implemented in the last drought in 1987-1992," said Jennifer Persike, a spokeswoman at the Association of California Water Agencies. But the group, whose 440 public water agency members deliver about 90 percent of the water used in California, doubts more conservation benefits can be squeezed out in the immediate future, Persike said.

2001-2002
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