

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

"An Advocate for Fisheries, Habitat and Water Quality"
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9 January 2009

Mr. William Guthrie U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District, Regulatory Division 1325 J Street, Room 1480 Sacramento, CA 95814-2922 william.h.guthrie@usace.army.mil

VIA: Electronic Submission Hardcopy if Requested

RE: Public Notice Number SPK-1999-00715

Dear Mr. Gurthrie:

The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) has reviewed the application for a Section 10 permit by the California Department of Water Resources to divert an additional 1,000 acre-feet (or 500 cfs) from Clifton Court Forebay and believes the application should not be granted until additional evaluation is conducted.

The collapse of the pelagic fisheries and severe decline of salmonid fisheries in the estuary, the new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinion on Delta smelt, the impending biological opinion by the National Marine Fisheries Service on listed salmonid species and green sturgeon, the egregious failure to implement the CalFed ROD's requirement to install state-of-the-art fish screens and the irrefutable identification of excessive export pumping as the major contributing factor in these declines mandate utmost caution in approval of additional increases in the level of export pumping.

Clearly, an EIR/EIS is required for this project. We further believe a public hearing is warranted and should be held before issuance of any permit. CSPA endorses and incorporates by reference, within our comments, the excellent attached comments submitted by South and Central Delta Water Agencies in this matter.

Thank you for considering these comments. If you have questions or require clarification, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Bill Jennings, Executive Director

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance