



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION • P.O. Box 942896 • Sacramento, CA 94296-001

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March 8, 2004

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Board of Directors
Monterey Peninsula Water
Management District
P.O. Box 85
Monterey, CA 93942

Dear Directors:

California State Parks wishes to express our support for continuation of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's Mitigation Program. State Parks manages the Carmel Lagoon and Wetlands Natural Preserve within Carmel River State Beach. Water withdrawals from the Carmel River are having significant adverse impacts on the ecology of the lagoon.

Your mitigation program includes maintaining the lagoon elevation gauge, data collection from the groundwater monitoring wells around the lagoon, and monitoring of the lagoon vegetation, bathymetry, and water quality. MPWMD is also involved in fish rescue efforts in the lagoon and discussions with DFG and NOAA fisheries regarding management of the lagoon to benefit steelhead. These efforts provide important data necessary for the ongoing management of the struggling steelhead and red legged frog. Both of these species are federally-listed threatened species. Water withdrawals from the Carmel River has degraded habitat; it is appropriate that mitigation efforts be undertaken to minimize the impacts on these species.

California State Parks believes that the Mitigation Program is important, valuable, and that it should continue. If MPWMD were to end its monitoring program, State Parks would not be able to undertake the monitoring efforts around the lagoon. We urge that MPWMD continue the program.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Ken Gray at 649-2862 or kgray@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Jenkins
District Superintendent

cc: Ken Gray