

EXHIBIT 16-C



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Catherine Bowie, Alternate (Cal-Am)

March 17th 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capital
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, I am writing to express our strong support for the San Clemente Dam Removal Project on the Carmel River in Monterey County* (Board member, Craig Anthony, General Manager, California American Water Company recused himself from this action). Recently, after many months of negotiation led by the State Coastal Conservancy, the owner of the dam, California American Water Company (CalAm), announced publicly that it would no longer pursue dam removal. After many years of study, state and federal agencies have consistently supported dam removal as the only remedy that will permanently address public safety, and also result in environmental benefits, including restoring the historically significant steelhead trout run impacted by the dam structure built in 1921.

The buttressing project is not viable. In its comments on the project to date, it is clear that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will issue a "jeopardy" opinion on the buttressing project which will result in lengthy and costly delays in resolution of the public safety issue. Benefits of dam removal have been investigated by the State Coastal Conservancy in partnership with NOAA. They conclude that removing the dam structure will open over 25 miles of spawning and rearing habitat critical to the recovery of steelhead trout which was designated with 'threatened' status under the Endangered Species Act in 1997. Additional benefits will result from restoring the natural sediment regime to the river, and contribute to reestablishing a healthy connection between the lower river basin and the watershed above the dam site. We applaud the past efforts of the State Coastal Conservancy and NMFS in their efforts to work cooperatively with CalAm to join in a public/private partnership to pursue dam removal. We will continue to work to support their actions and to encourage CalAm to reconsider its options to achieve dam removal.

Removing the dam is the only reasonable course of action, and we respectfully request your support to achieve this outcome by assuring that the buttressing project is not approved by any state agency, including the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Game. Furthermore, we request that you take action as Governor to encourage California American Water to resume joint efforts with the State Coastal Conservancy to develop a dam removal project. We further request that you exercise your full authority to assure that all state actions in this matter comply with all regulatory and public trust requirements under the Fish and Game Code and the Endangered Species Act.

Respectfully submitted,


Clive R. Sanders, President
Carmel River Watershed Conservancy

CC: Michael Chisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency
Kent Turner, President, California American Water
Russ Strach, Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries
Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy
Lester Snow, Executive Officer, Department of Water Resources
Dave Gutierrez, California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams
Donald Koch, Director, Department of Fish and Game
John Donnelly, Director, Wildlife Conservation Board
Senator Abel Maldonado, District 16
Assembly member Bill Monning, District 27
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