

Main Stream

Mission Peak Fly Anglers

PO Box 7263 • Fremont, CA 94537



February 2006

Club Meeting

PLACE: Silliman Community Activity Center
6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560
(510) 742-4400

DATE: Wednesday, February 22nd, 2006

TIME: 7:00 PM (Social hour begins at 6:30 PM)(**New hours for meeting**)

COMING EVENTS

- Sat. Feb 11th CLUB BREAKFAST : At the Denny's in Hayward on Whipple – 9:00 AM
- Tues. Feb 14th FLY TYING - 7:30 PM Loc same as Club Meeting
Fly Tying on 2nd Tues of the month from now on
- Wed. Feb 22nd CLUB MEETING 7:00 PM “*New Time*”
Silliman Community Activity Center, 6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560
- Wed, March 1st BOARD MEETING 7:30 PM – Bill Peakes
- Sat. March 11th CLUB BREAKFAST : At the Denny's in Hayward on Whipple – 9:00 AM
- Tues. March 14th FLY TYING - 7:30 PM Loc same as Club Meeting
Fly Tying on 2nd Tues of the month from now on
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Silliman Community Activity Center, 6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560

MISSION PEAK FLY ANGLERS –2006 DUES PAYMENT FORM – Due before April 1st , 2006

Member Name: _____

Amount Enclosed (@ \$30 per member/family. \$20 per member under 18 or living outside a 100 mi radius)

PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL FORMS WITH CHECKS TO BILL PEAKES.

MPFA Presidents message



Hi Fellow Fly Fishers,

This is my first message to the members of Mission Peak Fly Anglers after being elected as president of the club. Last year I enjoyed serving as your vice president, and I want to thank all the people who helped make 2005 a success. All the chairpersons of the committees did an outstanding job. Our annual dinner fund raiser was successful because of the efforts of Tom Knoth, Steve Culp, Craig Gittings, Bill Peakes, and Doug Fear who all helped in organizing and procuring the prizes. Auctioneer Gene Kaczmarek was the greatest. Bids were high for the works of art that were in the auction. Kaye Hayes and Cynthia Randall did a wonderful job on the ladies prize table.

Late last year our club got involved in the "Trout in the Classroom" program. It's a program that involves local schools, teachers, DFG, East Bay Regional Parks, and local fly fishing clubs. Our club sponsored the equipment for raising trout from eggs to fish, procured the eggs from the DFG hatchery in Yountville and delivered the eggs to the schools. The teachers are responsible for the maintenance of the aquariums. These fish will be released into Lake Chabot and Horseshoe Lake at Quarry Lakes. My thanks to Ken Brunskill and Larry Dennis for coordinating this project. This project was possible due to the generous donations of certain members of MPFA, (special thanks to them for their generosity) and the Fremont Elks Lodge. The club now sponsors three classrooms.

We need some help for our monthly fishouts. If you have a favorite place to fish and you want to share your experience with members of the club, please contact Jeff Lorelli, general fishmaster, to coordinate the dates.

Tight Lines,
Malcolm Dunn
President MPFA

Program for February Club Meeting



For those that cannot make it to the San Rafael Fly Fishing Show mid February, we have a surprise for you. Dry fly, bamboo aficionado A. K. Best will make his bi annual visit at our February meeting. The retired music teacher from Michigan is quoted as saying, "I would have left Michigan sooner, but the fishing was too good." A stint as a fly shop manager in Boulder, turned production fly tier, A K now only ties for one shop because, "I found out I could get paid on delivery of my flies!" A. K. is also an innovator, writer, photographer, videographer and yet still finds time to be John Gierach's (fictional or otherwise) fishing partner between projects. The evening's topic will be Labrador Brookies.

Craig Gittings
Program Chairperson

January Club Meeting Summary

Submitted by Dave Heyes

The meeting was held on Wednesday, January 25th at the Sillimen Community Center in Newark with newly elected president Malcolm Dunn presiding. Mike Carlson, from the Tracy Fly Club was a visitor. Attendance at the meeting was good.

It was a welcome surprise to see Tom Knoth attend the meeting as he is now living near Lake Don Pedro (near Yosemite). His father, who lives in Fremont, fell off of a 16-foot high ladder and seriously injured his spine. Tom says that he will be visiting Fremont weekly for some time, until his father recovers. Our best wishes to Tom's father for a full recovery. On an incidental note, Tom says he welcomes club members who wish to fish the Yosemite area. His house is within 15 minutes of Moccasin Creek and Lake Don Pedro.

Larry Dennis, our Conservation Chairperson reported that a meeting was held in Sacramento on increasing exports of water from the delta. Anglers dressed in black conducted a mock funeral for the fishery. Also, 4000 post cards protesting the plan to increase water exports were to be presented at a DWR (California Department of Water Resources) meeting in Stockton on Thursday.

Don't forget! The San Rafael Fly Fishing Show is on February 17th through the 19th. On the 19th the NCFFF (Northern California Federation of Fly Fishers) is holding a dinner at the Marin Rod and Gun Club honoring Marty Seldon. Very easy to stop by on the way home from the show, have dinner, meet some interesting flyfishers and help the cause. If interested, talk to Gene Kaczmarek.

The NCFFF is making available a liability insurance program for member clubs. Our club is a member of the NCFFF and each year pays \$50 plus \$1 per member. The NCFFF promotes fly fishing and represents fly fishing clubs in the political arena.

Malcolm Dunn and Ken Brunskill report that the project to provide aquariums to raise steelhead fry in classrooms is on schedule. The aquariums are in three classrooms in the tri-city area and San Leandro and are now ready for delivery of eggs. They thanked the persons who donated funds to get this program going and to Ken Brunskill who pushed it forward, and also obtained matching funds from the Elks Club. The steelhead fry will probably be released into Quarry lakes and Lake Chabot.

Craig Gittings announced that people who signed up for the spring trip with Al Smatskey of Excellent Adventures need to pay a deposit to reserve a seat on a boat.

The club is raffling off on a restored bamboo rod to pay the monthly rent for the fly tying room. If you have ever thought about owning a beautiful bamboo fly rod, be sure to enter the raffle

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The featured speaker was Trent Pridemore on Fly Fishing Lake Tahoe. Trent is a retired dentist from Livermore who moved to his retirement home in Grass Valley about a year ago, and also has a condo on the water at the north shore of Lake Tahoe. Trent is also a writer and has an article in the February 2006 issue of California Fly Fisher on "Private Still Waters". Following is a brief summary of his presentation on fly fishing opportunities at Lake Tahoe.

Lake Tahoe is a very large and relatively sterile alpine lake, which accounts for its deep blue color. In the late 1800's the only game fish present in the lake were Lahontan cutthroat trout. Lahontan cutthroat grew to very large size, but they were decimated by a variety of factors relating to water diversion on the Truckee River and tributaries, the demands of supplying timber and food for mining the silver deposits of the Comstock Lode in Nevada, and the planting of Lake Trout (Mackinaw) in the 1880's.

Game fish stocked in the lake early this century include Rainbow trout, Brown trout and Kokanee salmon (land-locked Sockeye salmon). These fish have all adapted and evolved in the lake, but there are relatively few fish for the size of the lake, meaning the fish cannot be caught consistently. To catch fish takes knowledge of where and how to fish, plus some luck. The Rainbow trout are usually large and silvery, like steelhead and can be shallow to deep. At times the fish can be concentrated. Add to that, the Lake trout usually are located at depths of hundreds of feet and you can see the problem for fly fishers.

The main food sources are several types of native bait fish, especially the Tahoe sucker, dace and sculpin; blow-in drops of insects such as ants, termites and beetles; and crayfish.

The best areas to fly fish are boulder fields around the edge of the lake. Sandy areas without boulders are not usually productive. The mouths of the 63 tributaries that discharge into the lake are good areas to fish, but can only be fished between July 1st and September 30th. Other good areas to fish are the shallows at the mouth of Emerald Bay and the boulder fields at Meeks bay. The highly developed Tahoe Keys area at the south end of the lake has a local population of trout, black bass, bluegill, crappie and other warm water species.

The fishing is such that you may catch fish only one out of 4 trips, but you could do very well on that 4th trip with fish as large as 9 pounds.

The fish are very sensitive to light and are leader shy (need 8# to 10# fluorocarbon tippets).

Be sure to watch weather conditions as the lake can become very choppy and dangerous in a short time when the winds blow. Trent showed us a picture of a water spout about 300 yards across so be very careful of changing weather conditions.

Also, only 4 stroke motors can be used in Lake Tahoe in order to help keep the water blue.

Trent is still learning how to fish the lake and plans to spend a lot more time learning.



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REALTORS

February Board Meeting Summary

Submitted by Dave Heyes

The meeting was held at the home of Ken Brunskill on Wednesday, February 1st. with Malcolm Dunn presiding. Nine officers and members were present. Dave Heyes read the minutes from the last meeting.

Treasurer Bill Peakes presented a detailed current financial report and also passed out an itemized breakdown of income and expenditures for 2003 through mid-January 2006. Overall, income from the banquet was down a little compared with the last three years and some minor “belt tightening” is desirable. A motion was made and approved to reduce the cost of the newsletter by providing a “hard copy” of the newsletter to only those members who do not have a computer capable of receiving E-mail (or some other good reason to justify receiving the newsletter by US Mail). Several companies have gone out of business and will also cease receiving copies of the newsletter.

The “Fish Bum Award” proposed by Ken Brunskill was discussed. Generally, to compete for the award one would have to fish ten different waters beginning January 1, 2006 and make a presentation on each fishing trip, either in writing for the newsletter or orally as a presentation at a club meeting. The Board was favorable to the idea and Ken Brunskill was directed to develop specific criteria for the award.

Terry Henry discussed the need for club members to return videos checked out of the library many months ago. Members need to check and make certain they do not have videos checked out more than 3 months ago.

Tom Knoth will try to arrange a “pre pay” fishout at Kistler Ranch on April 29th. It will take ten members signing up for the fishout for the club to break even, if the club decides to advance the funds.

Ken Brunskill announced that the “Trout in the Classroom” program is proceeding well. A total of four packets of trout eggs, with 35 eggs per packet, were delivered to three classrooms. All but one egg has hatched. After the alvins lose their egg sac the fry will be planted in local waters, probably Quarry Lakes and Lake Chabot. An invitation to watch the trout plant will be offered to those who contributed startup funds and possibly to all members in future years. It was suggested that a local newspaper be contacted about carrying an article on the program. It was directed that a letter be sent to the Elk’s Lodge thanking them for providing \$500 in matching fund for the program.

Program Chairman Craig Gittings announced that the featured speaker for the February Club meeting will be A.K. Best. The pre-meeting dinner will be at the Olive Garden in Fremont at 5:00 PM on February 23rd.

Steve Korbay will be the featured guest tier at Fly Tying on February 14th, (tying the czech. nymph, Oliver Edwards type flies) It will be a tie-along and he will provide all materials except thread, etc. (Note that this is Valentines Day)

2006 MPFA Board Members



(Right to Left) President Malcolm Dunn – Vice-President Craig Gitting – Treasurer Bill Peakes – Secretary Dave Heyes
Board Members – Douglas Fear – Ken Brunskill – Wayne Culp – Terry Henry

March MPFA Board Meeting

Host: Bill Peakes

Date: March 1st @ 7:30 pm

Place:

Noted in Fish Alaska magazine

Curt Muse, 54, known as Curt Trout of the Alaska Troutfitters guide service in Cooper Landing, Alaska passed away on October 22th doing exactly what he loved- fishing the Kenai River from a drift boat. It was reported that after having released a nice trout the weakened Curt layed down in the driftboat for his final nap before the take out. Curt was so attracted by the fishing in Alaska that he made the state his home over 20 years ago. His fishing prowess, perfected downstream drifts, amazing effortless roll casts with 2 3/0 split shot and elfish grin made Curt the scourge of the Kenai if you had clients fishing behind him. While an electrician by trade, he was diagnosed with an immunological disorder that attacked his kidneys and Curt was left with a mysterious muscle disorder after a series of chemo treatments. The physician that initially diagnosed Curt's ailment gave him 6 months to live. That "6 months" was spent guiding on the Kenai River for the next 10 years while his illness went into remission only to resurface in the last couple of years, thus not allowing him to either row or fish with the customary 5-7 wt rods. It had weakened Curt to the point that he fished behind the guide with 3 wt. off the back of the boat. He is now fishing and methodically covering all of the big water with ease in search of the bigger rainbows.



DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF EVENT	CONTACT	COMMENTS
Feb 11 th , 2006	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
Feb 14 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	7:30 pm
Feb 17 th , 18 th , & 19 th , 2006	Marin County Civic Center	The Fly Fishing Show, San Rafael		11am – 6pm Fri 9am – 5:30pm Sat 9am – 4:30pm Sun
Feb 18 th , 2006	Marin Rod & Gun Club	Hall of Fame Dinner		6:00 pm Sat
Feb 22 nd , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Malcolm Dunn	7:00 pm (New Hours)
March 1 th , 2006	Bill Peakes Garage	Board Meeting	Bill Peakes	7:30 pm
March 11 th , 2006	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
March 14 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	7:30 pm
March 22 nd , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Malcolm Dunn	7:00 pm (New Hours)
March 25 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Intro To Fly Fishing Class	Craig Gittings	TBD
April 5 th , 2006	Terry's House	Board Meeting	Terry Henry	7:30 pm
April 8 th , 2006	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
April 11 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	7:30 pm
April 26 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Malcolm Dunn	7:00 pm (New Hours)
May 3 rd , 2006	TBD	Board Meeting	Wayne Culp	7:30 pm
May 9 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	7:30 pm
May 13 th , 2006	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
May 24 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Malcolm Dunn	7:00 pm (New Hours)
June 7 th , 2006	Bill Peakes House	Board Meeting	Doug Fear	7:30 pm
June 10 th , 2006	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
June 13 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Fly Tying	Mitch Matsumoto	7:30 pm
June 28 th , 2006	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Malcolm Dunn	7:00 pm (New Hours)

The Fishing Dictionary

Afternoon: Time of day you begin fishing after rising at 5 a. m., eating breakfast at a local diner, stopping for coffee and donuts at a convenience store, and talking with the guys at the fly shop for an hour.

Amateur: A guy who doesn't fall asleep after 10 minutes on a boat.

“Big one that got away”: What they refer to you as down at the fly shop because they couldn't get you to buy the \$600 fly reel.

**MISSION PEAK FLY ANGLERS
2006 FISHOUT LIST**

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF FISH	FISHMASTER	COMMENTS
<i>Feb 18</i>	<i>Lower Stanislaus – Below Goodwin Dam</i>	<i>Trout</i>	<i>Tom Knoth</i>	<i>Saturday fishout</i>
Mar	Trinity River	<i>Steelhead</i>	Steve Oldfield	
Mar - April	Lake Nacimiento	Bass	Joe Abinanti	Weather permitting – decision to go week before.
April				
April 29th	Kistler Ranch	Bass, Panfish	Craig Gittings	\$25 per person with 12 person minimum. Potluck BBQ. Get your spot reserved today!
May				
June 10, 2006	Manresa Beach – Santa Cruz	Surf Perch	Craig Gittings	Leave Fremont at O-Dark Thirty
June	American River	<i>Shad</i>	Ken Brunskill	
June 17th & 18th	Manzanita Lake	<i>Trout</i>	Mark Kaharick	Potluck BBQ
June - July	TBD	<i>Shad</i>		
Aug				
Sept 9th, 10th	Clark's Fork	<i>Trout</i>	Bill Peaks	Potluck BBQ
Sept	Feather River	<i>Salmon</i>	August Abellar	
Sept				
Oct	Yellowstone	<i>Trout</i>	Gene Kaczmarek	
Oct	Eastern Sierra	<i>Trout</i>	Jeff Lorelli	
Oct	American River	<i>Salmon</i>	Calvin Chin	
Nov				
Dec				

The above fishout calendar is tentative and subject to change. Always contact the fishmaster the week of the fishout to be notified of changes due to weather and unforeseen circumstances. Also check the newsletter for detailed information on fishing tackle, flies, directions and accommodations, as recommended by the fishmaster.

Note that only the fishouts shown in **BOLD** on this calendar are actually confirmed at this time; all others are tentative.

The actual dates of wintertime fishouts are highly dependent upon the weather conditions and will be confirmed by the fishmaster the week of the fishout. Your ideas for fishout locations are always welcomed by the club. The qualifications for a fishmaster are that you have a place in mind, know how to get there, and would welcome some fishing companions. That is it, so sign up now!

Pictures From Annual MPFA Club Awards and Officers Installation Dinner



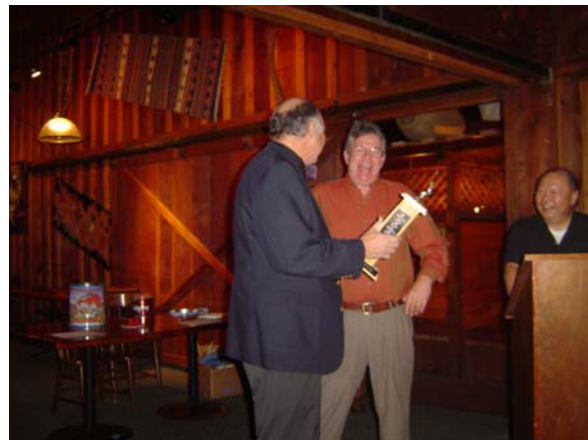
Members eating dinner



Mitch turning the club over to Malcolm



Craig receiving the Fisherman of the Year award



Mike receiving the Schlepp award



Doug receiving the President Pin award



Tom with his Service award

2005 Donation from People & Companys

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Live Eyeware
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Patago
Percy's Flies
Pflueger Fly Rods – Shakespeare
Pro Trim / Alu-marine
Pure Fishing [Fenwick]
R. L. Winston Rod Company
Rajeff Sports LLC.
Rec componts – Edgewater Intl.
Regal Engineering
Renzetti Inc.
Ross Reels
San Jose Fly Shop
Scott Fly Rod Company
Simms Fishing Products
Solitude Fly Company
Sorensen's
Teton Fly Reels Inc.
The Creek Company
Thomas & Thomas Rodmakers
Umpqua Feather Merchants
Wasatch Custom Angling Products
William Joseph
Wind River
August Abellar
George Bouvoine
Douglas Fear
John Fukumoto
Craig Gitting
Bob Hendricks
Gene Kaczmarek
Jeff Lorelli
Bill Peakes
Jerry Reynolds

New Annual Award

Annual Trout Bum award

Starts Jan 1st, 2006

Awarded by MPFA Board of Directors at December board meeting

Requirements:

Candidates must:

Have fished 10 or more waters during the calendar year (**no private pay to play waters**)

Waters may be tributaries of any river or lakes domestic or international

Used fly fishing tackle only

Have fished for trout (**This is a Trout Bum Award**)

Have reported to the club and shown photos to the club at a regular meeting

This description to be affixed to the back side of the plaque

Chairperson: Ken Brunskill

The Fly Tyer for February

Guest Steve Korbay



Fly Tying Chronicles.com proprietor, Steve Korbay, will be our February 14th guest fly tier. The Czech nymph will be the featured fly, as Steve demonstrates the nuances of a technique that has been around for a while, but just recently reintroduced / recycled in the states. A few of us had an opportunity to tie these patterns with Andy Burk at a Mt Tamalpais Fly Fishers pre meeting tying session and tying along side us was Steve Korbay - Andy's main supplier of nymph skin and flat lead for tying Andy's impressionistic caddis and scud patterns in the Oliver Edwards style. Steve will also have some of his tying materials available for sale at the meeting for those interested.

Steve will provide tying materials for these patterns, so bring your vise, 6/0 or 8/0 thread, in olive and black, whip finisher and bobbins as this will be a tie along evening.





Welcome to
San Rafael, California

Fifth Year

San Rafael, California
The Fly Fishing Show
Marin County Civic Center
Feb 17, 18, 19, 2006

- ◆ [Celebrities, Authors & Fly Tiers](#)
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Hours: Fri 11 - 6 , Sat 9 - 5:30 , Sun 9 - 4:30

Admission \$14 per day for adult; two day pass \$24; three day pass \$32. \$2 per day for kids under 12

FREE PARKING!

*The Northern California/ Nevada Chapter Federation of Fly Fishers
invites you to attend the induction of*



Mr. Marty Seldon
*into the
Fly Fishing Hall of Fame*



*Saturday Evening February 18th, 2006
(Just after the Fly Fishing Show in San Rafael)*

Marty's contribution to the sport of fly fishing will be formally recognized as he becomes the 25th inductee into the NCCFF Fly Fishing Hall of Fame

Join local fly fishing personalities and national celebrities for a lively evening of dinner, induction ceremony and fund raising as we celebrate Marty's accomplishments in both local and national fishery conservation

To be held at the Marin Rod and Gun Club, San Rafael, California.

Social hour and silent auction starting at 5PM. Dinner at 7PM. Followed by live auction

For more information and reservations to this special event please visit our web site at
www.nccff.org

Federation of Fly Fishers
Conserving – Restoration – Education through Fly Fishing

Registration forms along with payment must be received by February 11, 2006 to reserve your space. Event limited to 250 guests

Conservation News

By
Larry Dennis, February 2006

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.” -- Margaret Mead

SF Bay-Delta

Not much has come out concerning the just completed Public Hearings on the SDIP (South Delta ‘Improvement’ Project). One article I did find follows.

Delta plan has anglers furious; Project would ship more water south

By Warren Lutz, staff writer - **Stockton Record** -1/27/06

STOCKTON - Delta fishermen lashed out at state water officials at a public hearing Thursday night, saying their plans to pump more water south would deal a fatal blow to Delta fish.

Even the project's name - the South Delta Improvements Program - failed to escape the anglers' ire. "Any plan that requires more pumping from the Delta cannot have the name 'improvements' on it," said Stockton bass fisherman Dave Hurley.

About two-thirds of Californians drink water from the Delta, much of which is sent south through pumps near Tracy for drinking and irrigating farmland. The project involves permanent water barriers in Delta canals, which officials say will allow the state to protect fish, deliver water to local farmers and send more water to the southern part of the state. The state uses temporary stone walls to steer fish away from those pumps.

State water department official Kathy Kelly told the crowd of about 120 people, "The project doesn't necessarily mean more water sent south. Water quality needs alone mean the project must be built," she said. "We need those gates right now," she said.

While the hearing in downtown Stockton was supposed to be about the project's environmental report, most speakers focused their complaint on the project itself. Most saw the plan as being driven by politics and profits at the cost of Delta fish and local water needs. Others referred to recent studies that suggested water exports probably contributed to the recent population decline of Delta smelt. Biologists watch the tiny fish closely because it is considered a barometer for the Delta's overall health.

At one point during the hearing, dozens of outdoorsmen showed off their numbers by dumping 4,000 postcards from project critics into a black plastic basket as water officials looked on.

Supporters of the plan - mostly water agencies, farm groups and cities south of the Delta - say the plan would only allow 5 percent more water to be sent south through large pumps near Tracy (*which is a lie because the 'plan' calls for an increase of up to 27%*).

Early on, a Santa Clara Water Agency official spoke in the project's favor, followed by many more against it.

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance Chairman Bill Jennings, who said he waded through the environmental report, doubted the project would meet any of its goals except increased exports. "It is simply a stalking horse for accelerated exports," he said. Jennings said he and other opponents probably wouldn't be able to stop the project, predicting the matter would end up in court. Regarding state water officials, "They're on a freight train," he said.

This was the last of three public hearings on the project. Public comments will be accepted until Feb. 7.

For more information, go to the Web site www.sdip.water.ca.gov. #

It was reported that Dan Bacher of the Fish Sniffer fishing newspaper characterized the SDIP as standing for “Suck the

Delta Into the Pumps!

One bright spot in this whole mess might be that the State Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether a state-federal (CalFed) water agency considered effects of water supplies and the environment in its planned shipments from the Delta to Southern California.

Earlier a state appeals court ruled the CalFed's environmental study of its plan, conducted in 2000, failed to consider the option of reduced water pumping to protect the Delta. The court also agreed that CalFed failed to show that enough water was available to meet the project's needs. This ruling will be set aside temporarily with the high court's acceptance of the case. LA's MWD and Southern California water users (including Westlands) were instrumental in seeking the Supreme Court review.

Klamath River Basin

Federal Energy regulators (FERC) have decided that irrigators using water from the Klamath River Basin should not be insulated from anticipated energy cost increases. The decision could multiply irrigators pumping costs up to 20 times. The Dept. of Interior, parent agency of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), has requested a rehearing from the commission and plans to file its arguments within 30 days.

BOR spokesman said that if the FERC decision stands it would mean a big financial hit to irrigators.

The original 1917 contract agreed to keep Upper Klamath Lake at a certain level for irrigation, provide water for irrigation and provide power for pumping. Any leftover water was to be sent downstream to generate power for other customers. The current cost to the irrigators is .006 cents per kilowatt hour of electricity. This is the cost set by the original 1917 contract and was reauthorized in 1956. *I just checked my last PG&E bill to find that I was charged .1378 cents per KWH.* The primary crops produced in the Klamath River Basin are alfalfa and potatoes.

Ukiah Hatchery Accident

On January 20th when an oxygenating pump failed and its alarm malfunctioned resulting in the death of 100 adult and 100,000 juvenile steelhead. The pump is housed in an underground concrete vault and is coupled to an alarm system which is supposed to activate in the event of flooding in the vault. The hatchery was constructed as mitigation for the creation of Lake Mendocino in 1959 and Lake Sonoma in 1983.

The hatchery hopes to replace the dead fish with those from nearby hatcheries. Current steelhead returns number about 5,000 each year, so the loss of 100,000 soon to be released steelhead could have a devastating impact on the threatened species.

Bill Introduced to Permanently Fund Salmon Restoration

State Senator Wesley Chesbro of Arcata has introduced SB 1125 which would permanently protect state funding for environmental programs including salmon habitat restoration on the North Coast.

"California's natural resources infrastructure must be a high priority throughout the state," said Chesbro in a press release. "On the North Coast the restoration of historic salmon and steelhead runs are critical for both our economic and environmental well being. SB 1125 will lead the state to a sustainable use of revenue from leasing resource leases in a way that protects our marine and coastal environment."

The measure would permanently establish the Resources Trust Fund (RTF), which authorizes amounts of revenue generated by oil and gas leases for environmental programs. Resources Trust Fund would be allocated among the Salmon and Steelhead Trout Restoration Account, The Marine Life and Marine Reserve Management Account, Fish and Game Fund, the State Parks System Deferred Maintenance Account and the Natural Resources Infrastructure Fund. It is expected to annually allocate around \$12 million for the Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Program.

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