



OFFICERS  
JOHN H. HYBARGER  
Chairman  
SANDRA ARONBERG, M.D., M.P.H.  
Vice-Chair

MEMBERS  
DOUGLAS S. DRUMMOND  
TIMOTHY JONES  
BRADLEY NUREMBERG

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012  
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### MINUTES

Thursday, April 7, 2005 Special Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Room 374 A

#### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

John Hybarger, Chairperson  
Sandra Aronberg, Vice Chairperson  
Douglas Drummond  
Brad Nuremberg

#### STAFF PRESENT

Peter Papadakis  
Garen Khachian

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hybarger called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### WATER, FISH AND WILDLIFE ISSUES SURROUNDING PIRU CREEK

Jim Edmondson, Southern California Manager, Caltrout discussed the pros of natural flows as opposed to the danger of controlled flows in Piru Creek. Mr. Edmondson reported the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) proposes shutting off all flows in Piru Creek below Pyramid Lake during drought years and revert to the original historic flow of the creek. However, the DEIR lacks consideration of the endangered species like the arroyo toad and southern steelhead trout, and natural ecosystem of the creek. Altering water flows in Piru Creek will also negatively impact recreational fishing. Further, the arroyo toad and the steelhead have coexisted in the same habitat and it would be unfortunate if one species was preserved over the other. Mr. Edmondson recommended further research to ensure the best alternative is chosen for the species and ecosystem. The American bullfrog is a non-native, predatory, invasive species that has a great effect on the arroyo toad population. Mr. Edmondson provided a January 11, 2005 letter from Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service to the Department of Water Resources regarding concerns for the steelhead trout.

Commissioner Aronberg asked how the Commission could assist with water flow and wildlife issues at Piru Creek. Mr. Edmondson stated the Commission could attend the April 8, 2005 public hearing at Agoura City Hall and express support for additional research before a final decision is rendered and advise the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee of the Commission's position on the issue.

Chairperson Hybarger asked for an explanation of the potential consequences regarding water issues if flow remains the same/alterd. Mr. Edmondson stated a healthy ecosystem requires natural flows and a natural transport of sediments to build and maintain stream ecosystems; and an unimpaired watershed is needed so species can migrate freely from harm.

Chairperson Hybarger asked if the Department of Water Resources' need to examine the current issues surrounding Piru Creek were provoked or forced. Mr. Edmondson reported he is unaware of any legal action preempting the Department conducting research on Piru Creek.

Chairperson Hybarger asked for the current status of the arroyo toad. Mr. Edmondson stated he is not aware of any definitive data/study demonstrating the current condition of the arroyo toad. Chairperson Hybarger asked for the status or consideration of plans to manage the bullfrog. Mr. Edmondson reported discussions occurred among Fish and Wildlife Service, United Water Conservation District, and DWR; one measure discussed was implementation of a temporary dam/pipeline dry the area, however, it is too expensive to develop.

Chairperson Hybarger inquired if the Commission's need to act on these issues is urgent. Mr. Edmondson stated time is not a factor due to the inordinate amount of rainfall received in California this year. Also, minimum stream in-flows are anticipated to be 15-18 cubic feet per second (cfs), and should not impede the species or the ecosystem. Further, the heavy rainfall endured has drastically changed the habitat, and moving forward with DWR's proposal under these circumstances is unnecessary.

**On motion of Commissioner Nuremberg, seconded by Commissioner Drummond, the Commission unanimously approved supporting the suspension activities and reexamination of the Department of Water Resources Draft Environmental Impact Report regarding the water flow at Piru Creek.**

Chairperson Hybarger thanked Mr. Edmondson for his presentation and requested staff draft a letter expressing its support to suspend and reexamine the Department of Water Resources DEIR regarding water flow at Piru Creek.

**Matters not Posted (To be Briefly Discussed and Placed on the Agenda for a Future Meeting)**

There were none

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

