



STANFORD UNIVERSITY
LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

December 6, 2012

Ms. Sheila Larsen
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Ms. Larsen:

Thank you for your recent efforts to finish the Stanford HCP Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Notice of Availability that was published in the Federal Register on November 23, 2012. This was the culmination of many years of constructive conservation planning by both our organizations.

As you know, Stanford has initiated a Searsville Alternatives Study to address the future of Searsville Dam and Reservoir. This is a very complex issue that involves water supply and storage, impacts to downstream and upstream flooding, fish passage, biological resources, and academic resources within the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, etc. This study is being directed by a Steering Committee consisting of six eminent faculty members in related fields and seven senior administrators with operational responsibilities. Stanford recently hired the engineering firm URS, recognized experts with regard to dam issues. As this Study process proceeds and technical studies are underway, it is clear that any future actions involving Searsville Dam and Reservoir will have ramifications for species downstream of the dam.

A key component of the conservation program in the San Francisquito/Los Trancos Basin will be a permanent conservation easement that allows only those uses described in the HCP. It has become apparent that constraints in the easement may inadvertently preclude desirable future actions at Searsville Dam and Reservoir, including potential actions intended to enhance steelhead conditions and habitat below the Dam. Therefore, we would like to temporarily suspend processing those portions of our Section 10(a) permit application located in the San Francisquito/Los Trancos Basin until such time as the Searsville Alternative Study is complete or sufficiently advanced to a point where we better understand the best future for Searsville Dam and Reservoir and how future structural or operational changes to address Searsville may affect the basin.

This has been a very difficult decision for the University, especially when we are so close to completing the HCP and incidental take permit process. However, we believe that this is the best decision for the species in the basin, the watershed, and the Searsville Alternatives Study.

Stanford will submit a revised application to you within a couple of weeks that will remove the Covered Activities, the Covered Species, and the conservation program associated with the San Francisquito/Los Trancos Basin. The resulting Section 10(a) permit application and supporting HCP will include the CTS Basin, the Matadero/Deer Creek Basin, and the central campus. We would like to continue to work with you on processing of the revised Section 10(a) permit application as quickly as possible.

Thank you again for your efforts over the past many years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Palter".

Catherine Palter
Associate Director, Land Use and Environmental Planning

cc: Mr. Gary Stern, NOAA Fisheries