



July 7, 2014

Mr. Tom J. Paul, Acting Director
Water Resources Department
State of Oregon
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Limited License 1533 Application

Dear Mr. Paul:

The Smith River is the only major undammed river in Northern California and is recognized as one of the premier salmon strongholds along the entire Pacific Coast. In 1972, the North Fork of the Smith River was designated a California Wild and Scenic River, and for decades, the people of California have invested in protecting this vital salmon and trout habitat and watershed. The Smith River is also the primary source of drinking water for the downstream communities of Gasquet, Hiouchi, and Crescent City in Del Norte County. Additionally, the California Water Resources Control Board has declared the water rights of the Smith River system to be fully appropriated year-round. Accordingly, the state of California and the California Natural Resources Agency have significant roles in the protection of the Smith River basin.

In light of the public trust significance of the Smith River watershed, the California Natural Resources Agency respectfully asks for additional consultation with the state of California and requests that the subject application be denied at this time.

The Smith River remains one of our last best free flowing treasures. The state of California has a strong interest in maintaining the Smith River's abundant natural flows for salmon and trout. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Laird'.

John Laird
Secretary for California Natural Resources

cc: Brett Brownscombe, Policy Advisor, Natural Resources, Office of Governor Kitzhaber
Dick Pedersen, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Roy Eliker, Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Dr. Vicki McConnell, State Geologist, Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries
Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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