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01 PUBLIC HEARING  
02 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
03 DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
04 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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08 SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF CITY OF LOS ANGELES' WATER RIGHT  
09 LICENSES FOR DIVERSION OF WATER FROM STREAMS THAT ARE  
10 TRIBUTARY TO MONO LAKE

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14 Held in  
15 Resources Building  
16 Sacramento, California  
17 Tuesday, December 7, 1993

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19 VOLUME XIX

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23 Reported by: Kelsey Davenport Anglin, RPR,  
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SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1993, 8:45, A.M.  
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HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Ladies and Gentlemen,  
this hearing will come to order.  
Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the continuation of  
the hearing before the State Water Resources Control  
Board in consideration of the amendment of the licenses  
held by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power on  
the streams tributary to Mono Lake.  
My name is Marc Del Piero. I'm the Vice-Chairman  
of the State Water Resources Control Board.  
Ms. Cahill, when last we left, you were on tap.

14 MS. CAHILL: Yes. Mr. Del Piero, our first  
15 witness today will be Darrell Wong, and when we finish  
16 with him, we propose a panel on our Rush and Lee Vining  
17 Creek studies. That panel will be made up of six  
18 experts.

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. CAHILL

20 Q Good morning, Mr. Wong.

21 A Good morning.

22 Q Would you please state your name and spell it for  
23 the record?

24 A Darrell M. Wong, D-A, double, R-E, double L, last  
25 name W-O-N-G.

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01 Q Mr. Wong, I'm handing you DFG Exhibit 1. Are you  
02 familiar with that document?

03 A Yes.

04 Q And is that an accurate copy of the testimony you  
05 submitted in these proceedings?

06 A Yes, it is.

07 Q And I'm passing you now -- do you have any changes  
08 to make in Exhibit 1?

09 A No, I don't.

10 Q I'm passing you now DFG Exhibit 2. Is that an  
11 accurate statement of your experience and  
12 qualifications?

13 A Yes, it is.

14 Q Would you please briefly summarize your education  
15 and experience?

16 A I received a bachelor's degree in biology from  
17 California State University Long Beach in 1969. I also  
18 received a master of arts degree in biology with  
19 emphasis on fisheries and aquatic ecology from the same  
20 institution in 1975. My master's thesis involved the  
21 life history of the trout population in the White  
22 Mountains of Mono County.

23 Q Mr. Wong, let's go briefly over the exhibits that  
24 accompanied your testimony. DFG Exhibits 63 through  
25 69 -- I'm sorry, 65 through 69, are those photographs?

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01 A Yes, they are.

02 Q And did you submit them to illustrate points in  
03 your testimony?

04 A Yes.

05 Q And were they taken in the Mono Basin?

06 A Only DFG 65 was taken -- photos of Rush Creek.

07 The rest of them are from outside the Basin and were  
08 used for illustrative purposes.

09 Q And with regard to DFG Exhibits 70 through 72, are  
10 those articles that you relied on in preparing your  
11 testimony, or at least referred to?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Would you please summarize your testimony for us?

14 A First of all, as far as work experience, I'm an  
15 associate fishery biologist with the Department of Fish  
16 and Game. I began work in the Mono County and Inyo  
17 County areas in 1968. I have been employed permanently  
18 there as a fishery biologist since 1975. My management  
19 responsibilities include the management of fish,  
20 amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates in the Mono  
21 areas.

22 I've also been involved with project review for  
23 numerous hydroelectric projects as well as other water  
24 development projects in the area. For over 25 years, I  
25 have gathered quite an extensive amount of experience  
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01 regarding fish populations and fish sampling in the  
02 Mono County area and the waters involved.

03 As far as my testimony goes, it actually addresses  
04 three main issues: What constitutes instream flows in  
05 good condition, because the department is making  
06 recommendations based on some information that we've  
07 gathered. On -- also, we will be covering Mono Lake  
08 ecology, as well as some comments on the Upper Owens  
09 River.

10 Regarding instream flow determination of good  
11 condition, Department of Fish and Game Code Sections  
12 5937 and 5946 require that "sufficient water be passed  
13 over, around, or through a dam to keep in good  
14 condition any fish that may be planted or exist below  
15 the dam." This requires the identification of  
16 requisite criteria to keep fish in good condition.

17 Fish -- as we have heard before, but I think it's  
18 worth repeating again, fish are defined in the Fish and  
19 Game Code in Section 45 includes both wild fish,  
20 mullosks, or other crustaceans, invertebrates or  
21 amphibians, including any parts, spawn, or ova  
22 thereof. So it is a fact that really maintaining good  
23 condition, from a biological perspective, requires  
24 maintaining good conditions for the entire stream  
25 ecosystem.

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01 This fits in very well with the mission statement  
02 of the California Department of Fish and Game. which is  
03 behind me here for those of you that can read it, but  
04 it basically says, "The mission of the Department of  
05 Fish and Game is to manage California's diverse fish,  
06 wildlife, and plant resources and the habitats upon  
07 which they depend for their ecological values and for  
08 their use and enjoyment by the public."

09 Q We had not previously submitted that, although  
10 it's consistent with the submitted testimony, and I  
11 would like now to give it DFG Exhibit No. 154. And we  
12 have copies.

13 MR. BIRMINGHAM: May I ask, Mr. Del Piero,  
14 Ms. Cahill a question?

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Certainly.

16 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Is this an official document by  
17 the Department of Fish and Game?

18 MS. CAHILL: It's my belief that it is.

19 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I've got no objection.

20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you. It will be  
21 entered then.

22 (DFG Exhibit No. 154 was  
23 admitted into evidence.)

24 MR. WONG: And, of course, as an area biologist  
25 who's responsible for managing the area for all the

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01 values, ecological as well as enjoyment by the  
02 public --

03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham, did

04 you need another copy?

05 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'll get one from Mr. Smith at  
06 the break. Thank you very much.

07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Pardon me, Mr. Wong.  
08 Please proceed.

09 MR. WONG: As far as management in the Mono Basin,  
10 management of fish, we've got one coming here, brown  
11 and rainbow trout have been --

12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: It appears you've got  
13 that one under control.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. WONG: As far as management of the Mono Basin,  
16 brown and rainbow trout have been the most valuable  
17 recreational fish, vertebrate or fin fish that the  
18 department has managed before for the last 50 years in  
19 the Mono Basin. What you have here is a depiction, a  
20 mounted specimen, which is a brown trout about 20  
21 inches long. If it were alive, it would probably weigh  
22 approximately four pounds, just to get some idea of  
23 what a desirable fish might be in Mono Basin. This is  
24 not to be entered as an exhibit, by the way.

25 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: That's good, Mr. Wong,  
0012 because my five-year old is coming up here later today.  
01 I'm going to take that and show it to him and tell him  
02 I caught it.

04 (Laughter.)

05 MR. WONG: The question is will he believe you.  
06 I've worked with too many anglers for too many years.

07 But this brown trout, as depicted in that photo  
08 that I presented, which is Exhibit 66, of a trout which  
09 is in very good condition and appears to be  
10 disease-free. The one I have in the picture, though,  
11 is a live fish, other than this one.

12 But as far as presenting or providing these kinds  
13 of fish to the public, we're trying to do it in a  
14 natural context, and so our goal is to make fish like  
15 this or ones that are desirably -- desirable to the  
16 public available to the recreational public as part of  
17 the natural ecosystem. That's the -- more or less, the  
18 pinch that we have.

19 So the Department of Fish and Game seeks to  
20 maintain natural systems of fish and wildlife with  
21 self-sustaining populations of trout which are  
22 desirable to the public, which means those which are  
23 over ten inches in total length.

24 I see in the Mono Basin really an emphasis on wild  
25 trout. By "wild trout," I mean self-sustaining

0013 populations. We see no expansion, to speak of, of the  
01 catchable trout program, our typical rainbow  
02 trout-stocking program in the Mono Basin. That is  
03 being stretched to the limit as it is. So flows to  
04 maintain fish such as this in good condition would  
05 result in self-sustaining, desirably-sized adult  
06 populations of fin fish, in this particular case, which  
07 are in good condition, well proportioned, such as that  
08 specimen behind me, and disease-free.

10 There really should be no artificial limitations  
11 from a lack of cover or food or poor water quality or

12 reproductive habitat. Ideally, you have good numbers  
13 of different age classes, which results in a good  
14 stable population, and habitat should not be  
15 artificially limited. So there's a real need with  
16 whatever flow regime is in a stream to maintain  
17 adequate physical, biological, and chemical parameters  
18 which together constitute the ecology of the stream.  
19 The whole stream ecosystem.

20 The ecological health of the stream is dependent  
21 on aquatic and riparian ecosystems together. We've  
22 heard a lot of testimony regarding riparians so far.  
23 This requires natural stream processes with  
24 well-vegetated banks and a diverse riparian system.

25 There's general agreement among researchers that  
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01 there is a linkage between stream ecology and fish  
02 populations, and the paper that I presented in my  
03 testimony by Hill, Platts and Beschta 1991, which is  
04 DFG Exhibit 72, says this very well, and I'll quote a  
05 very short section from it.

06 Quote, healthy fish populations are dependent on  
07 stream flow regimes that protect the ecological  
08 integrity of their habitat. Fish habitats are the  
09 consequence of linkage among the stream, flood plane,  
10 riparian, and upland zones, and watershed geography."  
11 These authors maintain that there are really four  
12 different types of flows that will result in this  
13 linkage, and those are instream flows, channel  
14 maintenance flows, riparian maintenance flows, and  
15 valley maintenance flows.

16 Now, the instream flow incremental methodology,  
17 which you've already heard so much about, characterizes  
18 in-channel trout habitat, for the most, part the way  
19 the department is normally using it. However, it's  
20 very important that out-of-channel flows be maintained  
21 as well to keep the system functioning.

22 Flushing flows are usually determined for  
23 in-channel sediment transport, and these are fine for  
24 the streams that we're talking about now, but as these  
25 streams become restored, things should be re-evaluated  
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01 because over-bank flows would be necessary to really  
02 maintain them and restore the riparian -- riparian  
03 ecosystem.

04 Now, the stream biota, or the animals living in  
05 the stream, and other -- and plants as well for that  
06 matter, evolved with natural rates of stream flow  
07 change. Controlled stream flows should try to mimic,  
08 as we've heard so much, the natural hydrograph. That's  
09 all we're trying to do here. This is not anything  
10 really highly technical. We're just trying to somehow  
11 imitate nature.

12 Especially important on ramping, though, would be  
13 the recessional flows for aquatic organisms. Hill,  
14 Platts and Beschta and others recommend flow changes of  
15 less than 10 percent per day to reduce fish stranding,  
16 stream bank damage, and to enhance vegetative seeding,  
17 and I maintain that these still should be used with a  
18 baseline for determining controlled recessional flows.

19 Physical conditions that would result in good

20 condition should result in adequate water depths and  
21 velocities, water quality, including temperature,  
22 substrates that are suitable in the entire reach all  
23 year long for all life stages of aquatic animals. Good  
24 water temperatures are necessary for growth and  
25 reproduction, substrate with a low embeddedness, depth

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01 is important for cover, feeding, and over-wintering  
02 habitat.

03 Good velocities are necessary for fin fish  
04 spawning, especially, sediment transport, food  
05 transport, and habitat diversity.

06 Good riparian strip is necessary for good water  
07 quality, stable banks, shading, and to create a deep  
08 and narrow channel. A lot of things that you've  
09 already been hearing about so far.

10 So, in summary, then, basically, adequate flows  
11 would result in a riparian and aquatic system which is  
12 in good condition. This results in a stream system  
13 which is in good condition, which also will result in  
14 fish being in good condition.

15 Now, the current streams or the streams that we're  
16 involved with during the Mono Basin, are, as we heard  
17 yesterday for many hours, very degraded, and so it's  
18 difficult to quantify these conditions now. That's  
19 part of the problem we all have.

20 So I recommend that we re-evaluate in five to ten  
21 years once active or passive restoration has occurred  
22 in these streams, re-evaluate the instream needs,  
23 channel maintenance, and riparian needs as things  
24 progress.

25 Regarding the Mono Lake ecology. The Draft

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01 Environmental Impact Report, or the DEIR, basically  
02 states that there really is no mitigation for any  
03 declines in brine shrimp. There's only one mitigation  
04 measure offered for the alkali or brine fly for any  
05 possible adverse impacts there. It also states that  
06 little is known about the shrimp declines and how that  
07 might affect the population survival of that species or  
08 the birds that depend upon them.

09 In addition, the brine shrimp is the Federal  
10 Category One candidate for listing pursuant to the  
11 Endangered Species Act of 1973. All of these  
12 considerations would compel someone interested, such as  
13 the department, in maintaining these animals, it  
14 compels you to be conservative in whatever lake levels  
15 are chosen because of the uncertainties involved. The  
16 Draft Environmental Impact Report indicates that 6390  
17 has the greatest benefit to shrimp and flies and,  
18 therefore, for those two species, appears to be a lake  
19 level which is at least in the range that should be  
20 considered or definitely the lake level that should be  
21 strongly considered.

22 However, the Mono Lake ecosystem consists of more  
23 than just flies and shrimp, and from the broad-base  
24 ecosystem approach that the department has in our  
25 mission statement, we must look at the entire ecosystem

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01 not just two species within one. The Draft

02 Environmental Impact Report states that there are  
03 species of zooplankton or small animals that live there  
04 that were extricated above salinities of 70 grams per  
05 liter. The restoration of these public trust values  
06 would require the restoration of that functioning  
07 ecosystem as it once was.

08 The Draft Environmental Impact Report also states  
09 that 53 grams per liter of pre-divergence salinities to  
10 70 grams per liter would be required to restore that  
11 diversity. The impact report or DEIR states that 6390  
12 is equivalent to approximately 79 grams per liter of  
13 salinity, so it appears that a level incrementally  
14 higher than 6390 would be required to restore that  
15 original or even close to the original natural  
16 diversity.

17 Regarding the Upper Owens River, the river above  
18 the east portal, and basically its natural state, has  
19 very good to excellent habitat with a desirable  
20 fishery, a very desirable fishery. Below the east  
21 portal, due to exported water, the river is degraded  
22 but provides still a good recreational fishery, in my  
23 opinion.

24 The Department of Fish and Game recommends that  
25 natural flows, including tunnel bank, remain in

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01 the Upper Owens River channel, as described in Stream  
02 Evaluation Report 93-1, and that augmentations from the  
03 Mono Basin are acceptable but only to the extent that  
04 they can be maintained without affecting the needs for  
05 the Mono Lake tributaries or Mono Lake itself.

06 Due to reduced flows from the east portal, it is  
07 my professional opinion that with better land  
08 management practices in particular, the Upper Owens  
09 River has the potential to come to equilibrium with its  
10 new flow regime and could provide good to excellent  
11 angling, especially within the time frame that we're  
12 looking at for the lake to come to its new  
13 equilibrium. Mitigation measures that could be  
14 implemented in the Upper Owens River could expedite  
15 this process.

16 Also, since my testimony is written, it has come  
17 to my attention that there's some new information  
18 available to me regarding the potential for restoration  
19 of spring flows in the Rush Creek bottom lands.

20 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me, Mr. Del Piero. I'm  
21 going to interpose an objection at this point on the  
22 grounds that Mr. Wong is going beyond the scope of his  
23 written testimony.

24 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Ms. Cahill?

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01 the written testimony. It's information Mr. Wong  
02 didn't have at the time he put the written testimony  
03 in.

04 MR. BIRMINGHAM: May I confer with Ms. Cahill for  
05 just a moment, Mr. Del Piero?

06 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Sure. Go ahead.

07 (Discussion held off the record.)

08 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'll withdraw my objection.

09 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Wong, proceed.

10 MR. WONG: That leads me to now conclude that my  
11 recommendation would be that diversions from Parker and  
12 Walker Creek -- I should say the lack of diversion of  
13 Parker and Walker Creek, as the City of Los Angeles has  
14 offered in their land management plan, would be a  
15 desirable situation for Parker Creek and Walker Creek,  
16 as well as the spring flows that might be restored in  
17 the Rush Creek bottom lands.

18 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much.

19 Q BY MS. CAHILL: Does that conclude your testimony,  
20 Mr. Wong?

21 A Yes, it does.

22 MS. CAHILL: Thank you very much.

23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much,  
24 Ms. Cahill.

25 Mr. Wong, you're being called only by the

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01 Department of Fish and Game?

02 MR. WONG: Yes, Sir.

03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham?

04 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Thank you very much,  
05 Mr. Del Piero.

06 Also, at this time, I'd like to introduce for the  
07 record Diane Lockareff, who is going to be helping us  
08 out. I'm tempted to ask Ms. Lockareff to cross-examine  
09 Mr. Wong because I'm confident that she is as prepared  
10 as I am and probably could do as good a job.

11 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I assume this is  
12 Ms. Lockareff?

13 MR. BIRMINGHAM: This is Ms. Lockareff right here.  
14 She is not a new admittee, but will be in a few days.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Congratulations, and  
16 my sympathies.

17 (Laughter.)

18 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. BIRMINGHAM

19 Q First, I'd like to ask you some questions,  
20 Mr. Wong, about that beautiful fish that you've put up  
21 on the easel.

22 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Get that right,  
23 Mr. Birmingham. That's my fish.

24 (Laughter.)

25 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: You said that fish was about 20

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01 inches long. Is that correct?

02 A Yes.

03 Q And you said that that fish, when it was alive,  
04 probably weighed somewhere in the vicinity of four  
05 pounds?

06 A Yes.

07 Q In terms of the fishery that existed in Lee Vining  
08 Creek prior to the diversions by the City of Los  
09 Angeles, would you have expected to find an abundant  
10 number of fish like the fish you put up on the easel in  
11 Lee Vining Creek at that time?

12 A I don't personally know what existed in Lee Vining  
13 Creek. From what I have heard and from what I know of  
14 fish of that size, it would probably be unlikely that  
15 you find a fish that large.

16 Q And it would be unlikely that you find a fish that  
17 large in the area of Rush Creek below the Grant Lake

18 Reservoir. Isn't that right?

19 A No. That's not right. I don't know what was  
20 there at the time, but I've heard -- Rush Creek's quite  
21 a larger stream and a fish like that just requires  
22 good-size pools, and if there's adequate habitat, fish  
23 like that can occur in waters much smaller than that of  
24 Rush Creek.

25 Q I, first, would like to ask you about the opinions  
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01 that you've expressed concerning Mono Lake  
02 productivity, which are Paragraphs 18 and 19 of your  
03 testimony. You say that almost nothing is known about  
04 how declines in the brine shrimp population might  
05 threaten the population's survival or bird populations  
06 dependent upon brine shrimp as food. Now, you have  
07 heard the testimony of Dr. John Melack; is that  
08 correct?

09 A Portions of it.

10 Q And when forming the opinion that you've expressed  
11 in Paragraph 18 of your written testimony, did you  
12 consider all of the research that has been done by  
13 Dr. Melack and his colleagues at Mono Lake over the  
14 course of the last 14 years?

15 A Well, what I wrote in my testimony, that was based  
16 entirely, as I mentioned, on the Draft Environmental  
17 Impact Report information which very clearly states  
18 that.

19 Q That was not my question. In forming this  
20 opinion, I take from it your answer that you did not  
21 consider the research that was conducted by Dr. Melack  
22 and his colleagues over the course of the last 14  
23 years?

24 A No. When I heard -- when I heard Dr. Melack give  
25 his testimony, that was after I had already written my  
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01 testimony. That's what I was getting at. So all I had  
02 available to me at the time were the statements which I  
03 took as factual within the DEIR.

04 MR. DODGE: I object to this line of questioning  
05 on the grounds that it assumes that the DEIR did not  
06 take into account Dr. Melack's work. I don't know how  
07 this --

08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham, do you  
09 have a response to that?

10 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm not sure a response is  
11 required.

12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: My inclination is to  
13 overrule the objection because, One, I'm not sure the  
14 witness had any way of knowing that one way or the  
15 other but, Two, that's not the point of the question.  
16 Proceed.

17 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Thank you.

18 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Now, in forming the opinions that  
19 you expressed in Paragraph 18 concerning the potential  
20 effect that the brine shrimp population decline might  
21 have on bird populations dependent upon the brine  
22 shrimp as food, did you consider the research that was  
23 conducted by Dr. Jehl over the course of the last 14  
24 years?

25 A Again, this is -- these are statements that were

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01 made by Jones and Stokes who wrote the Draft  
02 Environmental Impact Report. You have to understand  
03 that my role here is not to be a research scientist.  
04 My role is to take information that's available that I  
05 can find to network with other experts and academic or  
06 agency people that I know and utilize that information  
07 to make management decisions. So the Draft  
08 Environmental Impact Report, which looked at all of  
09 these things, would be the basis and which is what I  
10 use for the basis of my recommendations and my opinions  
11 provided in my testimony.

12 Q If an expert ornithologist like Dr. Jehl came to  
13 you as a staff biologist for the Department of Fish and  
14 Game and said to you that the -- there were -- there  
15 was no threat to any bird population at Mono Lake  
16 because of a declining population of Artemia Monica,  
17 you would consider that, wouldn't you, in forming any  
18 policy with respect to Mono Lake?

19 A As a fishery biologist, I wouldn't be really able  
20 to integrate what he had said into my basic discipline  
21 without consulting some other people in our department.

22 What I did hear was -- that's why I was very  
23 clear, the Draft Environmental Impact Report made these  
24 statements, and I'm assuming that they are correct.

25 Q I'd like to talk about the fishery aspect of your

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01 testimony, instream flow determination. You apparently  
02 have taken a number of courses on IFIM; is that  
03 correct, Mr. Wong?

04 A Yes.

05 Q From whom did you take those courses?

06 A A variety -- a variety of agencies, institutions,  
07 primarily, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service courses.  
08 There also have been some in-house courses and as well  
09 as one private consultant-provided course.

10 Q The courses that you took from the U.S. Fish and  
11 Wildlife Service, were any of those courses taught by  
12 Dr. Hardy who testified here?

13 A No.

14 Q You -- you indicate in Paragraph 7, with respect  
15 to a good condition, you state that, "The good  
16 condition requirement must include the protection and  
17 maintenance of physical, biological, and chemical  
18 parameters which constitute the ecology of the  
19 stream." Is that correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q If -- and I take it that what you're saying is  
22 that in order to protect fish in good condition, you  
23 must maintain these parameters in good condition.

24 MR. DODGE: Objection. Unintelligible.

25 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Sustained. Rephrase

0027

01 the question, Mr. Birmingham.

02 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Well, let me ask a different  
03 question.

04 Mr. Wong, if fish in a stream are in good  
05 condition, is it safe to assume, then, that the  
06 parameters that you have listed in your testimony are  
07 not having a negative impact on fish?

08 A Yes. I would agree with that.  
09 Q Now, you would agree with me, wouldn't you, that  
10 the fish in Rush Creek are in good condition?  
11 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Objection. Ambiguous. It is  
12 unclear whether Mr. Birmingham is referring to the  
13 fishery; namely, the population of individual fish as a  
14 whole, or to individual fish in isolation.  
15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Sustained.  
16 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: As part of the instream inflow  
17 incremental methodology, do you consider condition  
18 factors?  
19 MR. THOMAS: Objection, ambiguous. "Condition  
20 factors" is an overly broad term.  
21 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham?  
22 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I believe that "condition  
23 factors" is a term of art that is used as part of the  
24 IFIM. I'll ask the witness that question. I think a  
25 better question -- objection might be lack of  
0028  
01 foundation.  
02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Well --  
03 MR. THOMAS: I'll accept your suggestion.  
04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Somehow I knew you  
05 were going to do that, Mr. Thomas. I'll sustain the  
06 objection.  
07 Mr. Birmingham, why don't you proceed, okay?  
08 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Mr. Wong, are you familiar with  
09 the term "condition factor" as it relates to IFIM?  
10 A No.  
11 Q Have you reviewed the IFIMs that were prepared  
12 for, say, Lee Vining Creek?  
13 A No.  
14 Q You haven't reviewed the IFIM on Lee Vining Creek?  
15 A You have to explain what you mean by "reviewed the  
16 IFIM," please.  
17 Q Isn't it correct that an IFIM report was prepared  
18 by the Department of Fish and Game for Lee Vining  
19 Creek?  
20 A Well, the report, yes.  
21 Q Have you reviewed the report?  
22 A I have read the report.  
23 Q On page -- do you have a copy of the report in  
24 front of you?  
25 A No, I don't.  
0029  
01 I might add, too, that any specific questions  
02 regarding those reports should be addressed to the  
03 panel that will be coming on later. I am not -- I am  
04 not very intricately involved with the preparation of  
05 those reports. So rather than waste a lot of time on  
06 the record, it would be more appropriate to ask  
07 specific questions of the panels that will be coming  
08 up.  
09 Q I'll do that. Thank you.  
10 Let's talk about fish in good condition. And I  
11 don't want to raise any objections, so I'm just going  
12 to ask you these questions in a very straightforward  
13 manner, and I'm going to lay the foundation so we don't  
14 have any objections from the very beginning.  
15 Is there a distinction between the Department of

16 Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Would you please explain to us what is the  
19 distinction between the Department of Fish and Game and  
20 the Fish and Game Commission?

21 A I am not sure enough about that to really explain  
22 it to you. I wouldn't feel comfortable doing that.

23 Q Is it correct that the Fish and Game Commission  
24 establishes fishing and hunting regulations for the  
25 State of California?

0030

01 A That's true.

02 Q And is it correct that the Fish and Game  
03 Commission periodically reviews hunting and fishing  
04 regulations for various parts of the State of  
05 California?

06 A That's my understanding.

07 Q And based upon that review, it periodically amends  
08 the fishing and hunting regulations for various parts  
09 of the State of California?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Has the Fish and Game Commission recently  
12 considered amendments to fishing regulations for the  
13 Mono Basin?

14 A I believe so.

15 Q And as part of the public review process -- is  
16 there a public review process that occurs in connection  
17 with the review by the Fish and Game Commission of  
18 fishing regulations?

19 A No. The reason why I say that is it's not really  
20 a public review. There's an opportunity for public  
21 input and public recommendations, but I don't believe  
22 they review anything the Commission does.

23 Q In connection with the recent consideration by the  
24 Fish and Game Commission of new fishing regulations for  
25 the eastern Sierra, was there an opportunity for the

0031

01 public to comment on the proposed regulations?

02 A I believe there were public hearings held, yes.

03 Q Do you know if the -- the organization California  
04 Trout, Incorporated, commented on proposed regulations  
05 for Rush, Lee Vining, Walker, and Parker Creeks?

06 A I do not know that for a fact. I don't know that  
07 for a fact.

08 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Can I have this marked next in  
09 order?

10 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: What do we have here,  
11 Mr. Birmingham?

12 MR. BIRMINGHAM: It's a document that I'll  
13 identify after I've given a copy of it to opposing  
14 counsel.

15 MR. CANADAY: Mr. Birmingham, that will be marked  
16 L.A. DWP 90.

17 (L.A. DWP Exhibit No. 90 was  
18 marked for identification.)

19 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Mr. Wong, I'm giving you a  
20 document that has been identified as L.A. DWP Exhibit  
21 90 and, if I may, I'll give a copy of it to the Hearing  
22 Officer.

23 MR. FRINK: He's got one.

24 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: L.A. DWP Exhibit 90 is a summary  
25 of recommendations received by the Fish and Game  
0032  
01 Commission, December 8, 1991, through November 21,  
02 1993. Is that correct, Mr. Wong?  
03 MS. CAHILL: Objection.  
04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Who's objecting?  
05 MS. CAHILL: He has no personal knowledge.  
06 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm sorry. I can't  
07 see --  
08 MS. CAHILL: I think we need -- first, before he  
09 asks that question, we should establish whether  
10 Mr. Wong even recognizes the document. He's asking him  
11 to validate a document he may never have seen before.  
12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I doubt that anybody's  
13 seen this. I'm assuming that this is not a document  
14 prepared by the Fish and Game Commission. Is that  
15 correct, Mr. Birmingham?  
16 MR. BIRMINGHAM: No. In fact --  
17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Is this a summary of  
18 the public record of the hearing that took place that's  
19 been prepared by L.A. DWP?  
20 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I believe, in fact, this is a  
21 summary that was prepared by the Fish and Game  
22 Commission.  
23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Oh, this is a document  
24 of the Fish and Game Commission?  
25 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Yes, I believe so.  
0033  
01 MR. THOMAS: Objection. This has not been  
02 prepared by the Fish and Game --  
03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I would have expected  
04 at least a seal or a standard letterhead on the cover  
05 of it.  
06 MR. THOMAS: Right.  
07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: That's why I assumed  
08 it was prepared by L.A. DWP.  
09 MR. BIRMINGHAM: This is not a document that's  
10 prepared by L.A. DWP. We obtained this document from  
11 the Department of Fish and Game.  
12 MR. THOMAS: This may have been prepared by the --  
13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Is this a staff  
14 summary?  
15 MR. THOMAS: Staff summary of the Department of  
16 Fish and Game.  
17 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Which I established --  
18 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Why don't -- okay.  
19 I'm going to sustain her objection, and I want you to  
20 ask him whether or not he's ever seen that document  
21 before, and then we can proceed that way.  
22 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Have you ever seen this document,  
23 Mr. Wong?  
24 A No. Not to my recollection.  
25 Q I'm going to ask you to assume that -- well, that  
0034  
01 it is a summary of comments prepared by the Department  
02 of Fish and Game, and we'll lay the appropriate --  
03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Excuse me,  
04 Mr. Birmingham. Can I ask a question?  
05 Mr. Wong, do you provide staff services to the

06 Fish and Game Commission?  
07 MR. WONG: How do you mean "staff services"?  
08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Do you assist them  
09 during the course of their public hearings?  
10 MR. WONG: Not really assist. We're only there if  
11 called upon for input.  
12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Have you done work for  
13 them in the past specifically in relationship to their  
14 policy and responsibilities?  
15 MR. WONG: Other than modifying written  
16 recommendations from the public and such -- I'm not  
17 real clear on if that's what you mean or not. We  
18 provide input in that way, also, in terms of  
19 recommendations, but nothing directly with the  
20 Commission.  
21 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Let me ask you some further  
22 questions about this document, L.A. DWP Exhibit 90.  
23 I'd ask you to turn to Page 26 of L.A. DWP Exhibit 90,  
24 Mr. Wong. And at the bottom of Page 26, there is a --  
25 there's a Paragraph 1 that states, "Edmondson -- "

0035

01 excuse me. "Edmondson, Jim, California Trout, July 12,  
02 1993," and that appears under a subheading, "Number  
03 Number Number New Subsection 98.7 Lee Vining Creek."  
04 Do you see the paragraph that I'm talking about?  
05 A Yes.  
06 Q Now, do you know whether or not California Trout  
07 made a recommendation of a zero bag limit artificialed  
08 only on Lee Vining Creek from the Lee Vining conduit  
09 downstream to Mono Lake, Mono County, California?  
10 A I was aware, as far as the Bishop office  
11 personnel, that some recommendations had been made, but  
12 I had really had no personal involvement with their  
13 evaluation or any recommendations regarding them.  
14 Q Are you aware of what the Bishop -- did anybody in  
15 the Bishop office review the proposal by California  
16 Trout?  
17 A I would assume so, but I have no personal  
18 knowledge in specifics.  
19 Q Now, I'd like you to turn to Page 34, and at the  
20 top of Page 34, there appears, a heading Subsection  
21 153, Rush Creek, Mono County -- Mono County,  
22 California, and there's a Summary 1 from California  
23 Trout, "Mr. Edmondson recommends a zero bag limit and  
24 artificials only for Rush Creek from Grant Lake Dam  
25 downstream to Mono Lake."

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01 Are you aware of a recommendation of this kind  
02 from California Trout with respect to new regulations  
03 for Rush Creek?  
04 A Leekewise as for Lee Vining Creek. I was aware  
05 that some recommendations were being provided, but I  
06 don't know the details.  
07 Q And your answers would be the same for Parker and  
08 Walker Creeks; is that correct?  
09 A Yes.  
10 Q There is, in fact, a reference to Walker Creek on  
11 Page 40 of this document, L.A. DWP Exhibit 90; is that  
12 correct?  
13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Next to the last

14 paragraph on Page 4.  
15 MR. WONG: Yes, I see it now.  
16 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: And on Page 31 of L.A. DWP  
17 Exhibit 90, there's a similar recommendation for Parker  
18 Creek. Is that correct?  
19 A Page 41, did you say?  
20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: 31.  
21 MR. WONG: 31, I'm sorry.  
22 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Right in the center of  
23 the page.  
24 MR. WONG: Yes, I see it.  
25 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm sorry, Mr. Wong.

0037

01 Were you aware?  
02 MR. WONG: I'm sorry, you'll have to repeat the  
03 question. I'm sorry.  
04 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Were you aware of that  
05 recommendation from Cal-Trout?  
06 A Leekewise, as the others, just dimly aware that --  
07 I didn't know the details.  
08 (L.A. DWP Exhibit No. 91 was  
09 marked for identification.)  
10 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I guess this would be L.A. DWP 91  
11 now.  
12 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm handing you a document,  
13 Mr. Wong, that has been identified as L.A. DWP Exhibit  
14 91, and I will -- I will represent that this is a  
15 document, L.A. DWP Exhibit 91, is a document obtained  
16 from the State Headquarters for the Department of Fish  
17 and Game, and it contains a -- what appears to be a  
18 department recommendation concerning the Cal-Trout  
19 proposal for a zero bag limit on artificials only for  
20 Rush Creek on Grant Lake Dam downstream from Mono Lake.  
21 And the document states as part of the analysis,  
22 where it states as the recommendation, "Do not accept."  
23 And then under analysis it states, "Special  
24 restrictions were applied to this stream in 1991. The  
25 bag limit is five. The maximum size limit is ten

0038

01 inches, and only artificial lures with barbless hooks  
02 maybe used. Mr. Edmondson proposes that the bag limit  
03 be reduced to zero. He believes that angler harvest is  
04 masking the effectiveness of efforts to restore the  
05 trout population following rewatering of the section  
06 downstream of the Lee Vining conduit. The department  
07 maintains that the trout population is responding well  
08 to the special regulations. The population is in good  
09 condition and further restrictions are unnecessary at  
10 this time."  
11 Were you aware of the analysis by the Department  
12 of Fish and Game that the population of trout in Rush  
13 Creek is in good condition?  
14 Q Could you restate that, again, please?  
15 A I'm asking you were you aware of the analysis by  
16 the Department of Fish and Game that is purportedly  
17 reported in L.A. DWP Exhibit 91 that the population of  
18 trout in Rush Creek is in good condition?  
19 A No. I'm not aware of the analysis.  
20 MR. DODGE: Just for the record, I want to hand  
21 the text that was being read to the witness.

22 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'd already given him a copy of  
23 the text.

24 MR. WONG: I have a copy. I guess I might ask the  
25 question I'm not sure what you mean by "analysis."

0039

01 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: There is an analysis here on L.A.  
02 DWP Exhibit 91; is that correct, Mr. Wong?

03 A If you're referring to what's in writing here as  
04 being the analysis, then yes, that represents an  
05 analysis that somebody did something, yes.

06 Q And if my representation is correct, and I will  
07 call a witness later to lay the foundation for this  
08 document, that is an analysis prepared by the  
09 Department of Fish and Game?

10 A Yes, it is. With their ideas of definitions.

11 Q With -- with -- when you say "their," you mean the  
12 Department of Fish and Game definition of "good  
13 condition"?

14 A Whoever wrote this particular item, which I don't  
15 know who wrote it.

16 Q And if my representation is correct that this is  
17 an analysis prepared by the Department of Fish and  
18 Game, this was the official analysis of the Department  
19 of Fish and Game submitted to the Fish and Game  
20 Commission in connection with proposed regulations;  
21 isn't that correct?

22 MS. CAHILL: Objection. This is asking him to  
23 assume something and then asking if it is true.

24 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham, I'm  
25 going to sustain the objection. If you want to ask

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01 that question, you need to lay a foundation.

02 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I believe, Mr. Del Piero, I began  
03 my question by asking to assume my representation was  
04 correct.

05 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Then you asked him a  
06 very specific question as to whether or not he believed  
07 it -- not whether or not he believed it, whether or not  
08 that document was, in fact, the official position of  
09 the department, and you've not laid the foundation for  
10 that question.

11 MR. HERRERA: Excuse me, Mr. Birmingham, your 20  
12 minute time is up.

13 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I make an application for an  
14 additional 20 minutes.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Granted.

16 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm handing Mr. Canaday a  
17 document which I have identified as L.A. DWP Exhibit  
18 92, and I'll give Mr. Wong a copy of it.

19 (L.A. DWP Exhibit No. 92 was  
20 marked for identification.)

21 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Again, Mr. Wong, I'll represent  
22 to you that L.A. DWP Exhibit 92 is a document that we  
23 obtained from the State Headquarters of the Department  
24 of Fish and Game. It appears to be similar to L.A. DWP  
25 Exhibit 91.

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01 And under the analysis paragraph of L.A. DWP 92,  
02 analysis purportedly states that, "The department  
03 maintains that the trout population is responding well

04 to the special regulations. The population is in good  
05 condition and further restrictions are unnecessary at  
06 this time." This appears to be an analysis to support  
07 a recommendation that the Fish and Game Commission not  
08 accept Cal-Trout's proposed regulation.

09 Were you aware of an analysis by the Department of  
10 Fish and Game that the population of trout in Parker  
11 Creek is in good condition?

12 A I presume again you're referring to this paragraph  
13 as being an analysis.

14 MS. CAHILL: Objection --

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Wait. Wait. Wait.  
16 Wait. Wait. Mr. Birmingham, you can clarify your  
17 question, then I'll take your objection, Ms. Cahill.

18 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm asking about the analysis  
19 that is contained under the heading Analysis L.A. DWP  
20 exhibit -- L.A. DWP Exhibit 92.

21 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Wong, do you  
22 understand the question?

23 MR. WONG: I believe I do now.

24 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Now, Ms. Cahill, do  
25 you have an objection?

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01 MS. CAHILL: Could he just repeat the question,  
02 please?

03 (Whereupon the record was read as requested.)

04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: That's it.

05 Now, Mr. Wong, do you understand the question?

06 Ms. Cahill, did you have an objection?

07 MS. CAHILL: I withdraw the objection.

08 MR. WONG: If you're referring to this as being  
09 the analysis, then apparently something was done, but I  
10 was not -- I didn't have personal knowledge of it being  
11 done. But it doesn't surprise me that they did produce  
12 this.

13 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: "They" being the Department of  
14 Fish and Game?

15 A Meaning staff personnel, apparently, and inland  
16 fisheries divisions, who apparently prepared these.

17 Q I'm handing the Staff and am now circulating among  
18 opposing counsel a copy of a document that has been  
19 marked as DWP Exhibit 93.

20 L.A. DWP exhibit 93, Mr. Wong, appears to be --  
21 and, again, I'll represent this is a document that we  
22 obtained from the State Headquarters of the Department  
23 of Fish and Game. But it contains a paragraph on an  
24 analysis of -- supporting a recommendation that the  
25 Fish and Game Commission not accept the California

0043

01 Trout proposed regulation.

02 And at the bottom it says, "The department  
03 maintains that the trout population is responding well  
04 to the special regulations. The population is in good  
05 condition and further restrictions are unnecessary at  
06 this time." And again, this is a -- an analysis of a  
07 regulation proposed for Walker Creek.

08 Were you aware of the Department of Fish and Game  
09 analysis of the fishery -- or the fish population in  
10 Walker Creek that concluded the population is in good  
11 condition?

12 A I have to answer again, I'm not aware this was  
13 actually being done, but apparently someone did do it.

14 Q So, if the fish -- and I'm going to ask you a  
15 hypothetical question about Rush Creek. If the fish  
16 population is in Rush Creek -- let me restate the  
17 question.

18 Hypothetically, if the fish population in Rush  
19 Creek is in good condition, can it not be safely  
20 assumed that the physical, biological, and chemical  
21 parameters which constitute the ecology of Rush Creek  
22 are not negatively affecting the fishery in Rush Creek?

23 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Objection.

24 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Grounds?

25 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: If Mr. Birmingham is referring  
0044

01 to L.A. Exhibits 91 through 93 and their analysis that  
02 the fishery in those creeks are in good condition, he  
03 has not laid the foundation that those analyses refer  
04 to Section 5937. And, therefore, the question is  
05 confusing apples and oranges and asking this witness to  
06 relate these analyses to his testimony.

07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham?

08 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'll stand by the question.

09 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Well, I'm going to  
10 sustain the objection, Mr. Birmingham.

11 Let me suggest to you, Sir, that if you want five  
12 additional minutes, I'll grant that five additional  
13 minutes, no more than that, but in order for you to lay  
14 the foundation. You've taken a rather long time to  
15 introduce four short paragraphs related to the  
16 recommendations of the department on the stream. So if  
17 you need five additional minutes to lay the foundation  
18 in order to ask that question, you can have that.

19 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I appreciate that.

20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: It's taking a very  
21 long time to get to your point. I know what your point  
22 is, but --

23 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I apologize for taking the time,  
24 but I wanted to lay the appropriate foundation so I  
25 wouldn't have the objection.

0045

01 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm asking you a biological  
02 question, not a legal question, Mr. Wong. Putting  
03 aside 5937 of the Fish and Game Code -- you're a  
04 fisheries biologist; is that correct?

05 A Yes.

06 Q Now, I'm going to ask you, in your capacity as a  
07 fisheries biologist, a biological, hypothetical  
08 question. I'm going to ask you to assume that the fish  
09 population in Rush Creek is in good condition  
10 biologically. If you make that assumption, based upon  
11 your earlier response to one of my questions, I take it  
12 that it can be safely assumed that the physical,  
13 biological, and chemical parameters which constitute  
14 the ecology of Rush Creek are not negatively affecting  
15 the fish population which is in good condition.

16 MS. CAHILL: Objection. The question's unclear  
17 because of the reference to an answer to a previous  
18 question. I'm not sure it's at all clear what the  
19 meaning of this entire question is.

20 MR. DODGE: I object on the grounds that the term  
21 "negatively affect" is ambiguous.

22 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm going to sustain  
23 the objections.

24 Mr. Birmingham, you need to break it up, okay?

25 MR. BIRMINGHAM: May I ask Ms. Anglin, who now, I  
0046  
01 think, has the ability to do a computer search, and  
02 she's frowning, I would like her to search my  
03 cross-examination of Mr. Wong for the term "parameters"  
04 because I asked Mr. Wong a question about the  
05 parameters that are contained in Paragraph 7 of his  
06 direct testimony. And after I -- after I ask her to  
07 find those questions, I will then ask Mr. Wong this  
08 hypothetical question.  
09 (Whereupon a short recess was taken.)

10 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: We're back in session,  
11 Ladies and Gentlemen.

12 Mr. Birmingham?

13 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Thank you.

14 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Mr. Wong, during the recess, I  
15 had an opportunity to go back and look at the  
16 transcript of this morning's proceeding, and I asked  
17 you the following question: "Question, Mr. Wong, if  
18 fish in a stream are in good condition, is it safe to  
19 assume, then, that the parameters that you have listed  
20 in your testimony are not having a negative impact on  
21 fish?" And your response to my question was, "Yes, I  
22 would agree with that."  
23 Now, when I asked you that question, the  
24 parameters that we were talking about -- and we can go  
25 back and get this from the record, if necessary, the  
0047  
01 parameters that we were talking about were those listed  
02 in Paragraph 7 of your written testimony. Is that  
03 correct?  
04 A Chemical, physical --  
05 Q Physical, biological, and chemical parameters.  
06 A Yes.  
07 Q And you said that you would agree with me that if  
08 fish in a stream are in good condition, it is safe to  
09 assume, then, that the parameters that we have listed  
10 are not having a negative impact on fish?  
11 A That's correct, but maybe some clarification is  
12 required. We are speaking very generally here, Sir,  
13 and biological systems are very frequently changing.  
14 So at any given moment, some of those may not be  
15 exactly what you want to see, but overall, things might  
16 be all right. So you see the quandary that -- the  
17 problem I have with some of your very general  
18 questions.  
19 Q Let me ask you -- your testimony is very general,  
20 so apparently my questions have to be very general.  
21 And I don't want to be argumentative, but let me ask  
22 you a general, hypothetical, biological question.  
23 If, at a given point in time, fish in a stream  
24 like Rush Creek are in good condition biologically,  
25 then isn't it safe to assume that the parameters -- the  
0048  
01 physical, biological, and chemical parameters which

02 constitute the ecology of the stream are not having a  
03 negative impact on fish?

04 MS. CAHILL: Objection. Ambiguous whether "fish"  
05 means individual fish or fish in a larger population  
06 sense.

07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Rather than have you  
08 restate the question, Mr. Birmingham, and having me  
09 sustain the objection, can you just specify what you're  
10 talking about so we can move on?

11 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Sure. I'll ask two questions.

12 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: First, with respect to that  
13 individual fish that you've got up there on the board,  
14 if that fish were alive and in a stream and in good  
15 condition, would it not be safe to assume that the  
16 physical, biological, and chemical parameters which  
17 constitute the ecology of the stream are not having a  
18 negative impact on that fish?

19 A No.

20 Q Generally, Mr. Wong, if that fish is in good  
21 condition, isn't it safe to assume that these physical  
22 parameters are not having a negative impact on fish?

23 MS. CAHILL: Asked and answered.

24 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Asked and answered.

25 MR. DODGE: Same question.

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01 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Forgive me, I'm  
02 sorry.

03 (Whereupon the record was read as requested.)

04 MS. CAHILL: Asked and answered. The most recent  
05 question was identical to the one before it.

06 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I disagree.

07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Overruled. Answer the  
08 question, Mr. Wong.

09 MR. WONG: I think I better have it read again,  
10 also.

11 (Whereupon the record was read as requested.)

12 MR. WONG: All these double negatives throw me for  
13 a loop sometimes.

14 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Do you understand the  
15 question?

16 MR. WONG: I thought I did the first time.

17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: If you don't, I'll --

18 MR. WONG: Could you state in it positive sense,  
19 Sir?

20 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Let me ask you just a different  
21 question. Let's go back to the question you answered  
22 before and make sure that we understood the answer to  
23 that question. Now -- and I wrote this down very exact  
24 because I don't want there to be any confusion. I  
25 don't want there to be any objections because it's

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01 ambiguous. I just want to clear up the record.

02 Now, before when I asked you if fish in a stream  
03 are in good condition, is it safe to assume, then, that  
04 the parameters that you have listed in your testimony  
05 are not having a negative impact on fish, you said,  
06 "Yes, I would agree with that."

07 Now, let's take it to the specific. If that fish  
08 that you've got up there were alive and in a stream,  
09 was in good condition biologically, then is it safe to

10 assume that the physical conditions that you've listed  
11 in Paragraph 7 of your testimony are not having a  
12 negative impact on that fish in general terms, because  
13 your testimony's general?

14 MR. THOMAS: Objection. Ambiguous as to point in  
15 time. What the questions are doing is he's taking a  
16 single point in time and confusing it with a continuum,  
17 and the witness can't understand the difference unless  
18 we're clear.

19 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Overruled. Answer the  
20 question.

21 MR. WONG: The question's not clear to me in that  
22 you said it's in good condition biologically?

23 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Yes, biologically.

24 A I'm not sure what your definition is. What does  
25 that mean?

0051

01 Q Well, I'm not a fisheries biologist, Mr. Wong, so  
02 maybe you can tell me --

03 A It's not easy.

04 Q Well, your written testimony talks about fish in  
05 good condition. "Good condition" is a term that you  
06 used throughout your written testimony; is that  
07 correct?

08 A Yes.

09 Q And now you're telling me you don't know what that  
10 means in biological terms?

11 A I'm not sure what your definition is, but it's key  
12 to the answer to that question.

13 Q I'm asking a question about your understanding.  
14 Now, you have an understanding of what "good condition"  
15 means; is that correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Now, my question is based on your understanding of  
18 good condition because I'm not a fisheries biologist.  
19 You are. Okay? And again, I apologize if I'm being  
20 argumentative, but if that fish that we're talking  
21 about were alive and in Rush Creek and in good  
22 condition, then would it be safe to assume that at the  
23 point in time you took that fish out of the stream and  
24 determined that it was in good condition, wouldn't it  
25 be safe to assume that the physical parameters that are

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01 set out in Paragraph 7 of your testimony are not having  
02 a negative impact on the fish?

03 A I'm still troubled somewhat by your -- the  
04 question being that if you're equating good condition  
05 to meaning that that fish is alive and in the stream,  
06 then it would, in effect, be the answer to that  
07 question.

08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Wong, I want you  
09 to assume that the fish at the point in time at which  
10 Mr. Birmingham has asked you the question is one moment  
11 away from being hooked and removed from the stream.  
12 Now answer the question.

13 MR. WONG: So it's just alive in its current  
14 state.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: One moment away from  
16 being hooked and removed. A single moment in time.

17 MR. WONG: I believe, from what I understand the

18 question to be, the answer is no.  
19 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Now, I'm going to ask you a  
20 question about a fish population. If a fish population  
21 in Rush Creek is in good condition, and let's just make  
22 sure that we're talking about the same term because in  
23 your Paragraph 7, you talk about what "good condition"  
24 is. And you say, "Good condition includes the instream  
25 flows necessary to keep fish in good condition,

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01 including those which will maintain a self-sustaining  
02 population of desirably-sized adult vertebrate fish  
03 which are in physically condition; i.e.,  
04 well-proportioned and disease-free." Is that what you  
05 mean by "good condition"?

06 A That's only a part of it.

07 Q Let's just talk about this part of it because  
08 that's the only part that we've got in your testimony.

09 MR. DODGE: Objection. You have to read the rest  
10 of Paragraph 7. That's really outrageous.

11 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Let's --

12 Mr. Birmingham, there are other portions -- there are  
13 other statements in his testimony. If you wish to  
14 focus on that aspect of it, then we'll focus on that  
15 aspect of it. But your representation that that's the  
16 only part of it is not appropriate.

17 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Okay. I withdraw the  
18 representation.

19 Let's focus on that aspect of what "good  
20 condition" is. All right? If the fish population in  
21 Rush Creek is in good condition; i.e., it is a  
22 self-sustaining population of desirably-sized adult  
23 vertebrate fish which are in good physical condition  
24 and well-proportioned and disease-free, isn't it safe  
25 to assume that the physical parameters which constitute

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01 the ecology of the stream listed in Paragraph 7 are not  
02 having a negative impact on the fish population?

03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: He's asking you for an  
04 assumption, Mr. Wong.

05 MR. WONG: Again, if you're using the -- if you're  
06 wanting me to assume that the fish in Rush Creek are in  
07 good condition, I cannot agree with the assumption.  
08 But given the assumption --

09 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Whether you agree with  
10 the assumption or not, Mr. Wong, is not the point.  
11 He's asking you to answer a question based on that  
12 assumption.

13 MR. WONG: The answer is at any given point in  
14 time, the answer would be no. Not necessarily.

15 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Before I started to ask you a  
16 question about condition factors. Do you recall  
17 that -- never mind. Let me just go to the page.

18 On Page 47 of the Lee Vining Creek Stream  
19 Evaluation Report 93-2, Volume One -- you said you'd  
20 read this report; is that correct?

21 A I did some time ago. I'm not -- I'm not entirely  
22 familiar with the report.

23 Q Do you have a copy of the report in front of you?

24 A No, I do not.

25 Q Let me give you one of my copies, and I'll ask

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01 that you return this to me at the conclusion of the  
02 testimony.

03 I'd ask you to turn to Page 47 of the report. On  
04 Page 47 of the report in the first full paragraph, it  
05 discusses the term "condition factor." Is that  
06 correct?

07 A Yes.

08 Q Is that a biological term with which you are  
09 familiar?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Page 47 says that, "A condition factor assessed by  
12 habitat type indicated that fish in pools, paren, mean  
13 K equals 1.07, end paren, were growing well. Only one  
14 fish had a condition factor less than 1.0; i.e., 0.9.  
15 Trout in runs, paren, mean K equals 1.09, end paren,  
16 and riffles, paren, mean K equals 1.124, end paren,  
17 also appeared to be growing well but showed greater  
18 variability and condition. The high-condition factors  
19 calculated from several of the small trout caught in  
20 riffles may be an artifact of small errors in  
21 measurement of weight or fork length relative to the  
22 length and weight of the small fish."

23 First, Condition Factor K. What does that term  
24 mean?

25 A In plain and simple terms it just means how fat is

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01 the fish.

02 Q Now, if -- in biological terms, to put aside 5937,  
03 you're not a lawyer. You're a biologist. In  
04 biological terms, if a condition factor for a single  
05 fish is equal to or greater than one, isn't it correct  
06 that that fish is in good condition?

07 A It means you have a fat fish. If you've got  
08 something -- it means you've got a fish that is  
09 well-proportioned. If you're looking at a single fish,  
10 that isn't necessarily indicative of the entire  
11 population.

12 Q I'm asking you, Mr. Wong, about a single fish.

13 A Very well.

14 Q Put aside the entire fish population. You said it  
15 means you've got a fat fish, well-proportioned. Now,  
16 does that -- that's included in your definition of good  
17 condition, isn't it?

18 A I'm sorry. Would you repeat the question?

19 Q Yes. In response to my question about a single  
20 fish with a condition factor equal to or greater than  
21 one, I asked you if that fish was in good condition,  
22 and you said what it means is you've got a fat fish,  
23 well proportioned. Is that right?

24 A What it strictly means is you have a fish with a  
25 condition factor which may be greater than one.

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01 Q And that means that the fish is in good condition;  
02 isn't that correct?

03 A I would not agree with that, Sir. It depends --  
04 see, the problem with all of this is that it's a matter  
05 of semantics and what "good condition" means. I think  
06 we'll be talking a lot about that in awhile, but right  
07 now it means that you have -- when you say "fish in

08 good condition," you have a fish that has a certain  
09 condition factor. Its potential could be greater or  
10 less than what you see, or it could be the only one in  
11 the population like that.

12 Q If -- are condition factors calculated for an  
13 entire population of fish?

14 A They're conducted on individual fish.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham?  
16 Mr. Wong, if -- help me to understand, okay? If I went  
17 out and I caught a brown trout out of Rush Creek with a  
18 condition factor of one, describe for me what that  
19 trout would look like.

20 MR. WONG: It would appear to be a pleasantly  
21 plump fish, in plain terms.

22 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Would it have -- from  
23 a biological standpoint, would it be a healthy fish?

24 MR. WONG: It could be, but also it may not be.  
25 These factors are all independent of each other.

0058

01 HEARING OFFICER DEP PIERO: Tell me -- would you  
02 only be able to know whether, from a biological  
03 standpoint, it was a healthy fish if you did an  
04 analysis, cut it open, and figured out what its innards  
05 looked like?

06 MR. WONG: You could tell externally as well.

07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Okay. With a  
08 condition factor of one -- would a fish that externally  
09 was not -- did not appear to be healthy have a  
10 condition factor of one? Did you understand the  
11 question?

12 MR. WONG: Yes. The reason why I'm hedging is --

13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: If it has a fungus,  
14 okay, would it have a condition factor of one?

15 MR. WONG: It could.

16 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: It could. Okay. I'm  
17 sorry, Mr. Birmingham.

18 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: You've stated that fish  
19 populations -- or condition factors are not calculated  
20 for fish populations?

21 A Generally, that I'm aware of.

22 Q So if I were to ask you if a fish population had a  
23 condition factor equal to or greater than one, you  
24 wouldn't be able to tell me whether or not that fish  
25 population was in good condition?

0059

01 A I wouldn't. No.

02 Q Now, in your testimony, you said that the  
03 Department of Fish and Game manages resources on an  
04 ecosystem basis. Is that right, Mr. Wong?

05 A Yes.

06 Q In managing an ecosystem, in your opinion, is it  
07 appropriate to focus on a non-native species such as  
08 brown trout?

09 A How do you mean "appropriate"? You'll have to  
10 define that for me, please.

11 Q Is it a good idea to focus the managing of an  
12 ecosystem -- is it a good idea to focus on a non-native  
13 species such as brown trout?

14 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Del Piero, rather than  
15 object, I would just ask that Mr. Birmingham clarify

16 whether he's asking about a good idea in legal terms or  
17 biological terms.

18 MR. DODGE: I would object to the question as  
19 irrelevant because the legislature has resolved that.

20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm going to overrule  
21 the objection. If you could specify what -- to a  
22 greater extent than you have, Mr. Birmingham, then we  
23 can move along. Okay?

24 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Biological terms. All of my  
25 questions to Mr. Wong have been biological questions.

0060

01 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Wong, do you  
02 understand the question?

03 MR. WONG: I would like to have it repeated,  
04 please.

05 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Ms. Anglin, would you  
06 read it, please?

07 MR. BIRMINGHAM: It may be easier for me to --

08 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: In biological terms, Mr. Wong,  
09 when managing an ecosystem like the Mono Basin, is it a  
10 good idea to focus on a non-native species like brown  
11 trout?

12 A Again, "good idea" troubles me as much as anything  
13 else.

14 MR. BIRMINGHAM: That's fine. Thank you,  
15 Mr. Wong.

16 MR. THOMAS: The witness --

17 MR. BIRMINGHAM: If --

18 MR. THOMAS: -- is about to finish his answer.

19 MR. WONG: It's meaningful here that we resolve  
20 what that means. I think I know what you want to get  
21 at, but you'll have to get there on your own, I'm  
22 afraid.

23 MR. BIRMINGHAM: If you don't understand "good  
24 condition," Mr. Wong, or "good idea," I have no further  
25 questions. Thank you.

0061

01 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much,  
02 Mr. Birmingham. Mr. Dodge?

03 MR. DODGE: No questions.

04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Roos-Collins?

05 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. ROOS-COLLINS

06 Q Good morning, Mr. Wong. I have a few questions  
07 for you regarding Paragraph 9 of your written  
08 declaration. Do you have that declaration before you?

09 A Yes, I do.

10 Q In the paragraph following the quotation from the  
11 article by Drs. Platts and Beschta and Mr. Hill, you  
12 state, "It is my opinion that the flow regime  
13 parameters described above are necessary to maintain  
14 the stream ecosystem and its associated fish  
15 populations in good condition."

16 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me. I'm going to object  
17 to the question on the grounds as vague and ambiguous  
18 in terms of "good condition."

19 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Sustained.

20 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: I haven't asked a question. I  
21 simply read the testimony.

22 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Well -- can you read  
23 that back?

24 (Whereupon the record was read as requested.)  
25 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I thought that was  
0062  
01 eliciting a response in terms of yes or no.  
02 MR. BIRMINGHAM: If he was going to go beyond  
03 that, the question would have been compound.  
04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm sorry.  
05 Mr. Roos-Collins?  
06 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Del Piero, I simply read a  
07 sentence from his testimony. I have not yet asked him  
08 to interpret that sentence.  
09 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Your question, the way  
10 I interpreted it, was eliciting either an affirmation  
11 or denial of the written statement, so why don't you  
12 proceed, Sir. Okay?  
13 Q BY MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Wong, is that sentence in  
14 Paragraph 9 of your written declaration?  
15 A Yes.  
16 Q That paragraph then goes on to discuss the IFIM  
17 results; is that correct?  
18 A Yes.  
19 Q Do you have a recommendation for this Board as to  
20 the analytical methodology which it could use to  
21 determine the channel maintenance flows, riparian  
22 maintenance flows, and valley maintenance flows  
23 described in the quotation discussed in this paragraph  
24 of your written declaration?  
25 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm going to object on the  
0063  
01 grounds that the question is vague and ambiguous. It  
02 refers to the written testimony which contains the term  
03 "good condition," and the term "good condition" is  
04 something that we have not yet defined.  
05 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Roos-Collins,  
06 your response?  
07 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: I don't believe the question  
08 contained the term "good condition," therefore, the  
09 objection seems irrelevant.  
10 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Thomas, you don't  
11 want to offer a better justification for the objection?  
12 MR. THOMAS: I was thinking, though, that we're  
13 going to have a hard time having a hearing if every  
14 time the term "good condition" comes up, we have an  
15 objection --  
16 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Del Piero, let me withdraw  
17 the question. I have no desire to complicate this  
18 matter by reference to the term "good condition."  
19 Q BY MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Wong, if this Board agrees  
20 that flows should be established for channel  
21 maintenance, riparian maintenance, and valley  
22 maintenance purposes, as described in Paragraph 9 of  
23 your written testimony, do you have a recommendation as  
24 to the methodology which this Board would use to  
25 establish those flows?  
0064  
01 A I guess the answer would be yes, those  
02 methodologies are contained in the stream reports which  
03 the department has provided in its recommendation.  
04 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Thank you. No further  
05 questions.

06 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much,  
07 Mr. Roos-Collins. Ms. Scoonover?

08 MS. SCOONOVER: Yes, Mr. Del Piero.

09 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. SCOONOVER

10 Q Good morning, Mr. Wong.

11 A Good morning.

12 Q I have a question about the lake ecology section  
13 of your testimony. You testified, I believe, that  
14 there was a species of zooplankton that was  
15 extricated. Do you remember that testimony?

16 A Yes.

17 Q All right. I beg your pardon. Species. More  
18 than one species of zooplankton have been extricated.

19 My question is do you believe it's feasible to  
20 restore the bio-diversity of the lake?

21 A I do. And the basis for that decision is actually  
22 contained in one of the auxiliary reports for the Draft  
23 Environmental Impact Report. It's Auxiliary Report  
24 Number 12 entitled Functional Relationships Between  
25 Artemia Leefe History Characteristics and Salinity, and  
0065

01 this is part of the basis for my conclusion.

02 On Page 21, there's a sentence in the -- there's a  
03 discussion in the previous and the following page or  
04 two regarding the bio-diversity of Mono Lake. And  
05 within this discussion, talking about the species that  
06 used to occur there as well as the extrication of some  
07 of the species, there's a sentence that says, and I'll  
08 quote, "Species diversity of the plankton will most  
09 likely increase in a less saline Mono Lake."

10 In addition to that, the Board has received from  
11 the LaHatten (phonetic) Regional Water Quality Control  
12 Board, as part of their comments on the Draft  
13 Environmental Impact Report, a document which is a  
14 scientific paper authored by Dean W. Blinn, B-L-I-N-N,  
15 which is entitled "The Diatom Community Structure Along  
16 Physico-Chemical Gradients in Saline Lakes." The gist  
17 of this article or this scientific paper, after the  
18 author surveyed and evaluated diatom populations,  
19 diatoms meaning uni-cellular or single-celled plants,  
20 which are quite diverse and widespread throughout most  
21 of North America, that after surveying nearly 50 saline  
22 lakes in the North American continent, that there was  
23 an inverse correlation between the numbers of species  
24 of diatoms present and the salinity. Mono Lake is one  
25 of the lakes that is involved in the survey or in this  
0066

01 evaluation.

02 Q Mr. Wong, excuse me. Could that paper have been  
03 provided to the Board --

04 A Well, the Board has it, I presume, as part of the  
05 comments from the LaHatten (phonetic) Regional Water  
06 Quality Board comments. That's how I obtained them was  
07 my copy of those comments.

08 Q So it's part of the comments to the EIR?

09 A As far as I know, it is.

10 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham?

11 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I don't think we received any  
12 evidence from the regional board.

13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Canaday, do you

14 recall?  
15 MR. CANADAY: I don't recall, Mr. Del Piero.  
16 MR. WONG: This was attached to my copy of those  
17 comments to the Board. If you do not have it, please  
18 let me know, and I can make it available or the Board  
19 can make it available to you, the LaHatten (phonetic)  
20 board.  
21 MS. SCOONOVER: I would like a copy of that.  
22 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Wong, you need to  
23 make it available to all parties.  
24 MS. SCOONOVER: I'm sorry. I interrupted. Were  
25 you finished?  
0067  
01 MS. CAHILL: Shall we give that an exhibit number?  
02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: If you wish to give it  
03 an exhibit number, Ms. Cahill, that will be fine. I  
04 just want to make sure that all parties who are not in  
05 receipt of it get a copy of it.  
06 MS. CAHILL: That would be 155.  
07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Fine.  
08 MR. SMITH: Point of order. Could we specify the  
09 title of that for us for an Exhibit No. 155?  
10 MR. WONG: Right now?  
11 MR. SMITH: Yes, please.  
12 MR. WONG: The author is Dean, D-E-A-N, W. Blinn.  
13 B-L-I-N-N. entitled "Diatom," D-I-A-T-O-M, "Community  
14 Structure Along Physico-Chemical Gradients and Saline  
15 Lakes." It's from the journal "Ecology," 1993.  
16 I also, in my literature file, came across another  
17 paper entitled "Taxonomy and Distribution of Benthic  
18 Diatoms for Mono Lake, California, USA." It's an  
19 article authored -- or a paper authored by J. P.  
20 Bociolek, B-O-C-I-O-L-E-K, and D. B. Herbst,  
21 H-E-R-B-S-T.  
22 Basically, what this article does is describe the  
23 diatom community of Mono Lake, which amounts to some 30  
24 species, and describes two new species of diatoms  
25 heretofore not known to science. This was published in  
0068  
01 the Transactions of the American Microscopical Society  
02 dated 1992.  
03 Q BY MS. SCOONOVER: And are those existing diatom  
04 communities?  
05 A Yes, they are.  
06 Q So they wouldn't include the extricated?  
07 A That's correct. And the reason why I use this as  
08 a basis for my statement is that other researchers  
09 apparently have come to the conclusion that decreasing  
10 salinities in Mono Lake would allow the return of the  
11 species that were extricated which have very good  
12 dispersal means. Diatoms, rotifers, the things that  
13 are contained in the report, species mentioned, other  
14 insects that have been extricated and, therefore, I  
15 would come to the conclusion it's feasible to restore  
16 those values with a proper lake level.  
17 Q And that proper lake level that you recommended in  
18 your testimony was some increment above 6390?  
19 A That's correct. Based on information provided in  
20 the DEIR.  
21 MS. SCOONOVER: Thank you. That's all.

22 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much.  
23 Mr. Haselton?

24 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. HASELTON  
25 Q Good morning, Mr. Wong. My name is Frank

0069

01 Haselton. I represent John Arcularius, Arcularius  
02 Ranch, and the Upper Owens River. I want to -- I'll  
03 try and keep my questions grouped in a sense of  
04 organization, though I can't promise that won't  
05 happen.

06 I want to ask you first about your testimony as it  
07 pertains to the Mono Basin, and I have two questions.  
08 And I'm starting on -- well, apparently, this is your  
09 first page, Paragraph Number 6. And I'm assuming you  
10 know this fairly close to memory, so I'm not going to  
11 read all of it. But there are terms that you use, for  
12 example, in the third sentence of Paragraph 6, you  
13 state that, "The Fish and Game goal is to make these  
14 fish available to the angling public as part of the  
15 natural ecosystem."

16 The following page, Paragraph Number 7, the second  
17 to the last sentence states, "Therefore, the good  
18 condition requirement must include the protection and  
19 maintenance of the physical, biological, and chemical  
20 parameters which constitute the ecology of the stream."

21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
0070

The following page in Paragraph 10, though, the  
second to the last sentence, you use the term  
"naturally functioning streams," and in Paragraph 11,  
first sentence, you use the term "natural rate of  
change streams." And the second sentence in Paragraph  
11 is, "Ideally the rate of change of controlled stream  
flows, open parentheses, ramping, close parentheses,  
should mimic the natural hydrograph." And then within  
that same paragraph -- excuse me, within -- under  
Section 11, next paragraph, you go on and agree with --  
I don't know if you're recommending it, but you agree  
with that, "A flow reduction of less than 10 percent of  
the previous day's flow would be highly preferred."

09 And my question to you is controlling the ramping  
10 rate where it's reduced less than 10 percent of the  
11 previous day's flow, is that consistent with the  
12 natural condition of Rush Creek or those other  
13 streams? I believe you're referring just to all the  
14 tributaries, if I'm not correct.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Excuse me,  
16 Mr. Haselton. I'm sorry, but I didn't understand your  
17 question. Okay?

18 MR. HASELTON: Okay. I'll just -- let's say, Rush  
19 Creek.

20 Q BY MR. HASELTON: Is a flow -- is a controlled  
21 ramping program that limits the flow increase or  
22 reduction by 10 percent or less of the previous day's  
23 flow, is that consistent with the natural condition of  
24 Rush Creek?

25 MR. DODGE: Objection. Ambiguous.

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01 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm going to sustain  
02 the objection, Mr. Haselton. Mr. Wong is a biologist.  
03 You want to talk about the hydrology of -- alternative

04 hydrologies and flows in the stream. The questions  
05 you're asking are not appropriately put to him.

06 MR. HASELTON: Okay. I thought -- I was just  
07 following his testimony.

08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I understand. But you  
09 need to focus on what the nature of his testimony was.  
10 Okay?

11 MR. HASELTON: Okay.

12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: You can ask him in  
13 terms of what he's testifying on.

14 Q BY MR. HASELTON: Okay. Then we'll go ahead and move  
15 on down to Paragraph Number 17, and it's a couple of  
16 pages. I'll go ahead and read the first sentence. The  
17 Mono Basin EIR states on Page 3-D-101 that, "Excellent  
18 fishery conditions existed in the Mono Basin tributary  
19 prior to L.A. DWP diversions."

20 And by having that statement, do you concur with  
21 that statement in the EIR?

22 A I have no personal knowledge. As I mentioned  
23 before, I assume that the information that was put  
24 together for the Draft Environmental Impact Report  
25 accurately reflected those conditions, and that's why

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01 it's stated that way. And I based it upon those -- the  
02 conclusions of the Jones and Stokes personnel. I have  
03 no personal knowledge as to what those fisheries were.

04 Q Okay. Then let's move on to the Upper Owens  
05 River, and I'd like to start with the Exhibit DFG  
06 No. 2, which I believe is -- is titled Personal  
07 Qualifications Statements of Darrell M. Wong. And the  
08 second to the last paragraph starts off saying,  
09 "Responsibilities include the management of fisheries  
10 in over 600 high country lakes with several hundred  
11 streams of the Sierras as well as numerous roadside  
12 cold-water lakes and reservoirs."

13 Could you just take a moment and explain to me  
14 what does "management" mean?

15 A Well, other than just management, management of  
16 fisheries?

17 Q What constitutes your responsibilities? You used  
18 the word "management," and I'm trying to break that  
19 down.

20 A Generally, the fisheries that are managed in it,  
21 we manage for in the eastern Sierra, are recreational  
22 fisheries. They are fish populations that are being  
23 utilized for recreational purposes. So in order to  
24 perform that function, we first need to look at the  
25 desires of the anglers, and then try to provide

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01 recreational anglers with those types of fish, meaning  
02 both species and size, et cetera, which are preferred,  
03 as well as doing in it a context of the natural  
04 ecosystem.

05 Q Does -- is the Upper Owens River included in your  
06 geographical area of management?

07 A Yes, it is.

08 Q The Upper Owens River essentially extends from --  
09 would you agree with me, I guess is probably a better  
10 way of putting it, that the Upper Owens River extends  
11 from Big Springs -- generally speaking, from Big

12 Springs down to Crowley Lake?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And of that portion, approximately half -- and I'm  
15 speaking in general terms -- is under private property  
16 ownership?

17 A Approximately half. I would agree.

18 Q Are you familiar with the Arcularius Ranch?

19 A I have been there on occasion.

20 Q As vacationing or --

21 A Not as a client. I've been there on business.

22 Q We'll see what we can do.

23 I'm going to refer to, I think, a report that was  
24 introduced earlier. It's the -- my cover's falling  
25 off, DFG Exhibit No. 62. And that is the Upper Owens

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01 River Stream Evaluation Report 93-1. Do you have a  
02 copy of that, by any chance?

03 A No, I do not. Again, the reason for that is that  
04 very specific questions regarding the reports  
05 themselves should be addressed to the appropriate  
06 panel. I only have very general recommendations. As  
07 the manager who was responsible for these resources  
08 once this whole process is completed, things are  
09 settled, then either me or my successor would be  
10 responsible for managing the ecosystem and providing  
11 for recreational fisheries with those resources that  
12 come from this process. And so in that regard, you  
13 seem to need a general overview for those kinds of  
14 concerns.

15 If I can answer your question in that context -- I  
16 don't want to put you off, but if it's anything  
17 specific, then it should just be a -- brought up with  
18 that particular panel.

19 Q Okay. Well, in fact, that may assist me because  
20 maybe we can get to the point a little quicker. Now,  
21 are you aware that -- well, let's talk about the  
22 Arcularius Ranch. Are you aware that the Arcularius  
23 Ranch, as part of their management, implements a  
24 catch-and-release program?

25 A Yes.

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01 Q Are similar -- excuse me. Let me back up. Do  
02 you, in your professional opinion, believe that such a  
03 component of a management program is beneficial to the  
04 fishery?

05 A The reason why I'm hesitating is it really depends  
06 upon the goals and the public's desires for that  
07 fishery. When you say "fishery," I have to assume it's  
08 not the fish population necessarily, but the fishery,  
09 which means you add the angler and the desirability.

10 Q Thank you for helping me clarify.

11 Let's talk about the fish, fish population,  
12 because that's what this report that I will work with  
13 the panel with later on speaks to. It speaks to fish  
14 population, fish density, as a matter of fact, and it  
15 actually compared the fish density, the Arcularius  
16 Ranch and other portions of the Upper Owens River.

17 That being said, my question to you, then, is do  
18 you believe that a no-kill regulation or component of a  
19 management program, overall management program, could

20 that benefit the fish population of an area?  
21 A Yes. But I'll to have qualify it by saying that  
22 what you're doing by restricting fishing to no-kill is  
23 basically removing one of the types of mortality that  
24 affects fish populations, their natural mortality.  
25 Fish live and grow and die like everything else, but by

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01 reducing the angling portion of that mortality, you do  
02 reduce the number of fish that are taken from that  
03 population.

04 And by instituting a no-kill, you basically might  
05 be reducing that. There is some mortality even  
06 involved with a no-kill situation. So you don't have a  
07 pristine, untouched population. If you mean by the  
08 fact that you may have more fish than you might  
09 otherwise, then the answer would be yes.

10 Q I think the rest of my questions are probably more  
11 appropriate for the panel that you suggested.

12 I've got one other question. I kind of wanted to  
13 assist Mr. Del Piero with his story with his son about  
14 your fish up there. I want to know is that a mount or  
15 that a replica of a fish that has been released?

16 A Unfortunately, it's not mine. It's on loan, and  
17 I'm not sure what its background is. I don't believe  
18 it was taken at the Arcularius Ranch property. Sorry.

19 MR. HASELTON: I hope not. Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: We're going to be on  
21 break for ten minutes.

22 (Whereupon a short recess was taken.)

23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: This hearing will  
24 again come to order.

25 Mr. Frink?

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01 MR. FRINK: Yes, Mr. Del Piero. I do have a few  
02 questions. Our environmental staff will have some  
03 more.

04 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY THE STAFF

05 Q BY MR. FRINK: Mr. Wong, I believe you testified that  
06 in making fishery flow recommendations, one of your  
07 objectives is to mimic natural conditions; is that  
08 correct?

09 A The idea to imitate -- in a natural situation, if  
10 that's what you're referring to, the idea would be to  
11 imitate natural conditions within natural range of  
12 variation. The ecosystems that we deal with are  
13 subject to variations in weather and a whole multitude  
14 of physical parameters. And the idea is that from an  
15 ecosystem approach, that that ecosystem be maintained  
16 at some level, and that it be still subject to those  
17 type of natural variations which resulted in the  
18 animals that are present -- animals and plants that are  
19 present in that system.

20 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me, may I ask the Reporter  
21 mark that answer?

22 Q BY MR. FRINK: You would not want to impose large  
23 variations that are more excessive than the variations  
24 that occur under natural conditions; is that correct?

25 A When you say -- can I ask for clarification? When  
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01 you say "impose," a lot of things run through my mind.

02 If you have a totally controlled system, which you  
03 normally don't. In other words, what I'm getting at  
04 are flood flows, I think. You can have a flushing  
05 flow, but that will often be exceeded -- or not often,  
06 but could be exceeded naturally due to flows beyond  
07 which you have the capacity to control. So that's  
08 why -- I don't -- I'm not being reluctant to answer,  
09 it's just that there are a lot of variations and a lot  
10 of variabilities in the biological world,  
11 unfortunately, which make it difficult to answer some  
12 of these questions generally.

13 Q Have you reviewed the historic flow records on  
14 Rush Creek, Lee Vining Creek, Parker Creek, and Walker  
15 Creek?

16 A No, I have not.

17 Q Are you familiar with the flow fluctuations that  
18 occur under natural conditions in those creeks?

19 A By "natural conditions," you'll have to define --  
20 do you mean unimpaired? I guess the answer in either  
21 case is no, but there's a distinction there in terms of  
22 what the natural flows are in those creeks.

23 Q So your testimony is that you're unaware of --

24 A No. I'm not unaware of it, but again, you're  
25 getting down to factors that were developed by the  
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01 consultants --

02 Q I'm not asking about factors that the consultants  
03 developed --

04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Frink -- Mr. Wong,  
05 in terms of the questions being asked, it's safe for  
06 you to assume that the words being used are plain  
07 English. In terms of "natural conditions," when  
08 Mr. Frink is asking you about flows under natural  
09 conditions, that means a system that is unimpaired and  
10 has no man-made modifications to it. Now, if you  
11 aren't capable of answering that question, then it's  
12 okay for you to say you don't know the answer to that  
13 question.

14 Alternatively, if you have reviewed what natural  
15 runoff is within either Rush Creek or Lee Vining Creek,  
16 regardless of what man-made modifications to the system  
17 may have existed, you are obliged to answer that  
18 question.

19 Mr. Frink, why don't you proceed? And maybe you  
20 want to ask the question you asked again to see if we  
21 can get an answer.

22 MR. WONG: Thank you for clarifying that, by the  
23 way, because there was some confusion there.

24 Q BY MR. FRINK: The question I have is are you aware  
25 of the type of fluctuation in the rate of flows that  
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01 would occur under natural conditions in Rush Creek and  
02 Lee Vining Creek?

03 A Yes. I am aware, but I am not really familiar  
04 with those flows. We have Dr. Kondolf, who is --  
05 basically, will be the one that will be very familiar  
06 with those kinds of fluctuations.

07 Q Okay. On the basis of your general awareness of  
08 those fluctuations, would you agree that there is a  
09 considerable daily fluctuation in flows in those creeks

10 under natural conditions?

11 A Dale -- I'm sorry. A daily fluctuation?

12 Q That there can be a considerable daily fluctuation  
13 in flows in those creeks under natural conditions?

14 A There can be, yes.

15 Q Your testimony recommended a ramping rate of 10  
16 percent or less of the previous day's flow. Do you  
17 know if the natural rate of flow fluctuation on Rush  
18 Creek and Lee Vining Creek exceeds the recommended  
19 ramping rate in your testimony?

20 A I have not done an actual analysis of that, but my  
21 sense is, again, from many years of experience looking  
22 at general hydrographs, that a rate of change, for  
23 example, that would take a Rush Creek flow, flushing  
24 flow from 300 cubic feet per second to 100 cubic feet  
25 per second, excuse me, would take -- at a 10 percent

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01 rate, would take approximately ten days.

02 I have done an analysis from the 300 cubic feet  
03 per second down to 100 cubic feet per second at a 5  
04 percent increment, and that takes approximately 21  
05 days. From my experience in the eastern Sierra and  
06 generally the runoff patterns, it seems to me that a  
07 period of time of between 10 and 21 days translating to  
08 5 to 10 percent would be approximately what we would  
09 normally see in a general runoff in terms of  
10 recessional rate naturally. So in my estimation, it  
11 would approximate the types of rates that I have seen.

12 Now, Dr. Kondolf would be the one who might do a  
13 more detailed analysis of those kinds of rates. He  
14 does speak of it in his testimony as well.

15 Q If your objective is to mimic natural conditions,  
16 wouldn't you want to consult the natural flow records  
17 or the historic flow records before you make a  
18 recommendation on ramping flows?

19 A Yes, exactly. That 10 percent or 5 to 10 percent  
20 is only a baseline approximate. You should consult, as  
21 you're suggesting, consult a natural hydrograph or  
22 synthesize a hydrograph in the watershed and determine  
23 if, in fact, that 5 to 10 percent is within the natural  
24 rate.

25 Furthermore, if there are any special

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01 considerations that you might have in terms of  
02 erosional bank damage that are special considerations  
03 especially during restoration processes, those could be  
04 taken into account as well, which would help modify the  
05 regime to create the situation that you're trying to  
06 achieve.

07 Q Aside from the special considerations such as  
08 prevention of erosion, if there were considerably more  
09 fluctuation in the rate of flow that is shown under  
10 historical conditions, would you agree that a ramping  
11 rate in excess of 10 percent may be acceptable?

12 A Yeah. These are not hard and fast rules. I  
13 would -- again, fluctuate -- to maintain some,  
14 actually, even almost daily measure of variation within  
15 flows is not bad. I mean, these natural systems are  
16 dependent on variation. Dr. Beschta, I think, is the  
17 one to really point that out, and I agree. During snow

18 melt periods, for example, the flows fluctuate during  
19 the day because of snow melt. You get snow melt in the  
20 morning. By the time it gets to the bottom, you've got  
21 flows fluctuating within a daily period. So variation  
22 per se is not bad.

23 That 5 to 10 percent is only a, more or less a  
24 rough estimate of where you begin to look.

25 Q And the key guide would be to consult the  
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01 historical flow records. Would you agree with that?

02 A Yes.

03 MR. FRINK: Thank you.

04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Satkowski?

05 MR. SATKOWSKI: No questions.

06 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Smith?

07 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Del Piero.

08 Q BY MR. SMITH: I have one general question for you.  
09 The mike's not working. Okay. I'll try and be as loud  
10 as I can.

11 Mr. Wong, I'd like to pose a general question for  
12 you. Someone, perhaps the State Board, perhaps Fish  
13 and Game, is going to have to do some monitoring  
14 short-term of the fishery when we establish -- the  
15 Board establishes certain flows and lake levels and  
16 whatever.

17 Would you agree in general terms that it would be  
18 a good idea to have a zero bag limit and barbless hooks  
19 for a period of time so that we can monitor the health  
20 of the fish for a period of time and find out which  
21 direction the fishery is going? Again, this is -- I'm  
22 not asking about good condition or anything else, I'm  
23 just asking about that monitoring program. Would you  
24 think that would be a wise idea?

25 A Not necessarily, and here are my reasons.

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01 Unfortunately, there's a little bit of explanation to  
02 clear the air here.

03 Q Please.

04 A I am not an advocate of only looking at fish  
05 populations in terms of measuring your restoration  
06 activity success or our restoration activity success or  
07 fish that are in good condition. If you look at the  
08 holistic approach that we're -- that I'm trying to get  
09 across here, you have to look at the whole system,  
10 stream system. The fish are only a part of that  
11 system. Insects are part of that system. If you --  
12 and I'll get around to monitoring here very soon. But  
13 the point is what you really are after is monitoring  
14 habitat, and the key here is that -- one way of looking  
15 at this is if one assumes, and I think it's an  
16 assumption that appears to me that Belacort (phonetic)  
17 made as well, is that all the water that you have in a  
18 natural system will give you good condition. It would  
19 be pretty difficult to argue with that.

20 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Can I ask that that be marked?

21 MR. WONG: If all the water in a natural system  
22 gives you good condition then, as we've seen, and I  
23 have observed, fish populations vary tremendously in  
24 terms of numbers, sizes, A factors, et cetera, in a  
25 natural situation throughout the eastern Sierra. As a

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01 matter of fact, even within one stream itself, as you  
02 look at the stream from top to bottom, those kinds of  
03 factors will change that effect fish populations. And  
04 if in one stream you have a rather small fish  
05 population in terms of numbers of fish which are fairly  
06 thin, but that's what they are based upon, the habitat  
07 that they're involved with, that they have to put up  
08 with, that they have to live in.

09 Another stream system may have large numbers of  
10 very large fish based upon the factors that they're  
11 in. All of these fish are in good condition because  
12 they're in a natural state.

13 One we're looking at also is, getting back to the  
14 Hearing Officer's question from about the first day, as  
15 I recall. Can 1 cfs keep fish in good condition? The  
16 answer is most definitely yes. I know streams which  
17 are running at less than a cfs that have fish that are  
18 16 and 17 inches long in them, and that is because  
19 those fish are dependent upon the habitat that they  
20 live in, and that 1 cfs is occurring in a channel which  
21 is, at times, three feet deep, has undercut banks, has  
22 good stable banks, produces watercress with a lot of  
23 food in it, skuds, et cetera. Most definitely those  
24 fish are in good condition.

25 If will you translate that 1 cfs, if in your

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01 mind's eye you can do that, to the lower part of Rush  
02 Creek as it currently is, and see the conditions you  
03 would expect with 1 cubic foot per second running  
04 through some of these wide open channels with no  
05 riparian vegetation, you would definitely say, "My  
06 gosh, no. There's no way they're in good condition."

07 So it's not the flow that would maintain fish  
08 entirely in good condition, but it is the combination  
09 of factors, the geomorphology, all of the things that  
10 you would be seeing the department of representatives  
11 who would perform these studies going through. You  
12 start with the hydrology, the hydrograph. What is the  
13 natural situation? Then you go through physical water  
14 temperatures. Food abundance. All these factors.

15 The other way to look at it as well is if you --  
16 getting back to the natural state, the fish are in good  
17 condition in natural conditions, then that means that  
18 there's a certain potential that a stream has. There's  
19 a potential that each stream has for fish populations  
20 and riparian vegetation, all the factors associated  
21 with the stream. Well, the problem that we have as  
22 agencies is -- and the court readily recognized in  
23 their wisdom, is that, well, it may not take all the  
24 water in a stream to keep those conditions there. And  
25 so where the Department of Fish and Game is involved is

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01 that based upon our expertise, our knowledge, intricate  
02 knowledge of each stream system, the population there  
03 plus the anglers' communities and desires, we came up  
04 with flows which should maintain those conditions that  
05 would keep those ecosystem conditions in such a state  
06 that things are healthy, shall we say.

07 The surface water that's left above and beyond

08 that is available for other uses. Now, I hope that's  
09 clear to you.

10 Now, getting back to monitoring --

11 MR. FRINK: Mr. Del Piero, excuse me. I  
12 appreciate the witness' effort to give us a complete  
13 answer, but we do have a limited amount of time. And  
14 in the interests of time, I wonder if we could get some  
15 direction to be as specific as possible and as brief as  
16 possible in the answers.

17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: There's no grounds for  
18 an objection, Mr. Thomas.

19 MR. THOMAS: I think the record should be clear  
20 that the witness has been criticized earlier for being  
21 non-responsive, and now he's attempting to be  
22 responsive and being criticized for taking too much  
23 time.

24 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham, do you  
25 have a comment?

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01 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I just wanted to interpose an  
02 objection.

03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: There's no objection.  
04 The response is completed.

05 Mr. Smith, do you have a next question?

06 MR. SMITH: I simply wanted him to just say yes or  
07 no whether zero bag limit, barbless hooks would be  
08 helpful in a monitoring program.

09 MR. WONG: Really, no. What we really need to be  
10 monitoring is the return of the habitat. If you get  
11 the habitat restored, the fish will follow.

12 Q BY MR. HERRERA: Mr. Wong, I've got a few questions  
13 that go back to some of the discussions that you had  
14 with Mr. Birmingham.

15 First of all, do you know when Parker and Walker  
16 Creeks were rewatered?

17 A I can't recall the exact date.

18 Q But you know it was -- not the exact date, but  
19 what year? Do you know that?

20 A I can't recall the year, either, I'm afraid.

21 Q But it has been in recent times?

22 A Yes. Right. I'm familiar with that.

23 Q Were the Fish and Game studies that you've  
24 indicated, were they conducted after that stream was  
25 rewatered?

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01 A Yes. I believe so.

02 Q Were fish planted in those streams?

03 A I believe they were.

04 Q Do you know -- again, I notice that on the  
05 exhibits that Mr. Birmingham presented, that they're  
06 dated -- from Mr. Edmondson, they're dated 7-12-93. Do  
07 you know that if Fish and Game has done any population  
08 studies to determine the population of fish in Parker  
09 and Walker Creeks in, say, 1993?

10 A I'm not aware of that.

11 Q Lee Vining Creek. Are fish planted in Lee Vining  
12 Creek below the Lee Vining Creek conduit?

13 A They are not regularly, to my knowledge. They  
14 have been stocked in the past, though.

15 Q Have they been stocked in 1993?

16 A I believe so, because the population was wiped out  
17 recently in terms of -- from an icing event, as I  
18 recall, or a dewatering event. That's what we were  
19 trying to get that population going again.

20 Q Is it the policy of the Department of Fish and  
21 Game to plant fish in areas where it will sustain a  
22 population in good condition?

23 MR. THOMAS: Objection. This is not a policy  
24 decision. We have biologists who can testify as to  
25 biological facts. If he knows of the Commission's

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01 policy as to planting, he's agreed to testify to that.  
02 It's beyond his scope.

03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm going to overrule  
04 the objection.

05 Do you know the answer to the question?

06 MR. WONG: Could you repeat it, please?

07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: The question was is it  
08 the policy of the Department of Fish and Game to plant  
09 fish where a fishery is in good condition?

10 MR. WONG: The reason why I have trouble is that  
11 we do stock fish over existing populations with rainbow  
12 trout, but if your -- that's the problem --

13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I understand.

14 MR. WONG: So the answer, I guess, technically,  
15 would be yes, we do that.

16 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Herrera?

17 MR. HERRERA: Thank you, Mr. Del Piero.

18 Q BY MR. HERRERA: So routinely, you do, your response  
19 is routinely the department doesn't plant fish where  
20 there is a fish population in good condition?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Do you know -- on Rush Creek do you know if fish  
23 have been planted in Rush Creek below the Lee Vining  
24 conduit in the recent times?

25 A Not to my knowledge.

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01 Q Do you have any idea when was -- first of all, let  
02 me ask you a question. Do you know if fish had been  
03 planted, let's say in the last ten years, in Rush  
04 Creek?

05 A Again, not to my knowledge. I don't recall.

06 Q You don't know whether they have or have not?

07 A To my knowledge, they have not.

08 Q Thank you. One other question.

09 Mr. Birmingham presented the analysis --

10 essentially, the analysis was a result of a  
11 presentation by Mr. Edmondson of Cal-Trout, and you  
12 stated that generally, you were aware of Cal-Trout's  
13 concerns regarding zero bag limit and artificial lures  
14 on Lee -- below Lee Vining Creek conduit on -- I'm  
15 assuming all four of the streams we're discussing here  
16 today. Is that true?

17 A I'm sorry. I lost your train --

18 Q You're generally aware of Cal-Trout's concerns  
19 regarding zero bag limit and artificial -- the use of  
20 artificial lures?

21 A Yes, I am.

22 Q Do you know -- it appeared to me this was  
23 somewhat -- you're not aware of the analysis, do you

24 know if there was a similar analysis presented for Lee  
25 Vining Creek?

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01 A No.  
02 MR. HERRERA: Thank you. That concludes my  
03 questions.  
04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much.  
05 Mr. Canaday?  
06 Q BY MR. CANADAY: Good morning.  
07 A Good morning.  
08 Q Mr. Wong, I'd like to take you through some of the  
09 points you made in your testimony, and I'd like to  
10 start with Point 9. In Point Number 9, you talk about,  
11 or you quote from an article by Hill, Platts and  
12 Beschta in 1991, and it talks about -- in this quote,  
13 it talks about the need for multiple in-channels,  
14 out-of-channel flows, instream flows, channel  
15 maintenance flows, and valley -- well, it talks about  
16 instream flows, channel maintenance flows, riparian  
17 maintenance flows, and valley maintenance flows. Four  
18 different flows.  
19 Can they be one in the same in your opinion?  
20 A I believe in the context that the authors used,  
21 no, because there's an assumption that there is a  
22 channel within a flood plane, and from that  
23 perspective, you would have to get out of bank with a  
24 higher flow to follow that reasoning.  
25 Q And so you state that it is -- I'm going to quote  
0093  
01 you. "It is my opinion that the flow regime parameters  
02 described above are necessary to maintain the stream  
03 ecosystem and its associated fish populations in good  
04 condition;" is that correct?  
05 A Yes.  
06 Q Have you looked at the department recommendations  
07 to keep fish in good condition for Rush Creek and Lee  
08 Vining Creek?  
09 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me. I'm going the object  
10 on the grounds that the question is vague whether he's  
11 talking about the Department of Fish and Game  
12 recommendations or the Department of Water and Power.  
13 Q BY MR. CANADAY: The Department of Fish and Game  
14 recommendations on Rush and Lee Vining Creek?  
15 A Yes, I have.  
16 Q Do those recommendations contain flows that are  
17 instream flows, channel maintenance flows, riparian  
18 maintenance flows, and valley maintenance flows?  
19 A The final flows contain what I would term to be  
20 instream flows, the IFIM results, basically. There  
21 also is a flushing flow component. But again, because  
22 of the degraded nature of the streams we're dealing  
23 with, it's probably inappropriate to speak of  
24 out-of-bank flows because many of these banks have been  
25 obliterated, as we heard from Dr. Stine yesterday. So  
0094  
01 there has to be more or less a careful manipulation of  
02 flows at this time especially, which Dr. Kondolf,  
03 excuse me, has taken into account, so that we don't do  
04 damage while we are yet coming to terms with these four  
05 times of flows that we would ultimately like to see.

06 Q So you anticipate the department making  
07 recommendations at some time in the future of  
08 additional flow regimes or periods -- different flow  
09 recommendations for over-bank riparian maintenance  
10 flows?

11 A I would assume that yes, that would seem to be the  
12 appropriate thing to do, to re-evaluate as things are  
13 restoring, becoming restored, and then re-evaluate as  
14 time goes on.

15 Q Do you have a recommendation on what kind of time  
16 frame that revisiting should be?

17 A Again, that's very difficult because of -- it  
18 hasn't been determined yet as to the amount of active  
19 intervention in the restoration process, and so there  
20 are some variables there. But we believe, especially  
21 with the explosive return of riparian vegetation, that  
22 is apparently occurring, that at least another look  
23 within a five- to ten-year time frame would be  
24 appropriate.

25 Q When this Board establishes an instream flow  
0095

01 condition to be implemented in the license, is it your  
02 recommendation that when we look -- the Board consider  
03 ramping flows or changes in peak flows to base flows be  
04 reduced by not more than 10 percent from the previous  
05 day's flow? Is that your recommendation?

06 A Yes. Again, looking at that as a baseline but  
07 comparing that to the natural hydrograph and making  
08 adjustments if necessary.

09 Q On Point 15, starting at the bottom of the page  
10 and carrying over to the next page, you discuss -- and  
11 I'm going to quote your testimony, "Due to the apparent  
12 lack of vertebrate fish life in South Parker Creek, it  
13 represents the only basin tributary which will contain  
14 native invertebrates unaffected by introduced  
15 vertebrate species and should be maintained in that  
16 condition." Therefore, you're suggesting that the  
17 department should -- some sort of exclusion program so  
18 that we don't get non-native fin fish into that stream?

19 A No. I didn't have that in mind. But there --  
20 what we're looking at here is I'm not real certain on  
21 where the diversion points are in South Parker. I'm  
22 personally not that familiar with it, but based on the  
23 information available at the time, for whatever reason,  
24 there were not a lot of vertebrate fish in portions of  
25 South Parker Creek. That's my understanding. I have

0096  
01 not personally surveyed that stream. So I'm not  
02 proposing that they be excluded.

03 Other invertebrate fish, if you will, these  
04 insects, do co-exist with other fish populations that  
05 indeed provide food for them. My intent there was that  
06 from -- because of the -- the unique, if you want to  
07 call them that, Capnia or winter stone fly species  
08 present, again, looking at our overall approach, that I  
09 would not advocate putting fish where they perhaps  
10 would not occur naturally.

11 Q Could you spell the genus of the stone fly for  
12 court reporter?

13 A Capnia, C-A-P-N-I-A.

14 Q Thank you.

15 Moving on to Point 16, you and I discussed earlier  
16 a few minutes ago about what kind of interval we should  
17 come back, you would recommend to the Board to come  
18 back to re-evaluate flow regimes, and in this testimony  
19 you say five to ten years. Would that still be your  
20 recommendation?

21 A Based on what I know today, yes.

22 Q Mr. Wong, you would consider yourself, what, a  
23 stream fisheries, fresh-water fisheries stream  
24 ecologist?

25 A I have dealt with both, but predominantly streams.

0097

01 Q You wouldn't consider yourself a saline lake  
02 limnologist, would you?

03 A No, I would not.

04 Q In your testimony, Point 19, actually Point 20,  
05 you discuss or you provide a lake level recommendation  
06 to protect the diversity of Mono Lake. Is that  
07 correct?

08 A Yes.

09 Q And in your testimony earlier, you referred to  
10 Auxiliary Report 12; is that correct?

11 A Yes, I did.

12 Q I'd like to read some excerpts of Auxiliary Report  
13 12, but first, I'd like to ask you a question. Is, in  
14 your opinion, recognizing that you're not a salt water  
15 lake limnologist, but in your opinion as a biologist,  
16 is salinity the only thing that is controlling  
17 diversity in that lake?

18 A I would -- I would have to guess no.

19 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me. I'm going to ask the  
20 answer be stricken if, in fact, it is a guess.

21 MR. WONG: Well, based on my knowledge of ecology,  
22 I would still answer the same.

23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: That you're guessing?

24 MR. WONG: No, I'm sorry. No. Based on my  
25 experience and some knowledge, I would say no, it's

0098

01 very likely that there are other factors involved.

02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Proceed, Mr. Canaday.

03 Q BY MR. CANADAY: You testified that many of the  
04 recommendations in your testimony are based on  
05 information provided you in the Draft EIR and I assume  
06 Auxiliary Report 12 would be that way, also; is that  
07 correct?

08 A Yes.

09 Q I'd like to read from Auxiliary Report 12 in the  
10 record, if I may, and I'm starting on Page 19, the last  
11 paragraph, about the middle of the last paragraph.

12 "Clearly individual development of Artemia," capital  
13 A-R-T-E-M-I-A, "Is reduced as salinity is increased  
14 between 76 and 168 grams per liter. However, numerous  
15 authors conclude that salinity may not been the most  
16 important factor governing species abundance.

17 Regardless of salinity rank, and in paren it says, for  
18 review see Williams, et al., 1990, other abiotic and  
19 biotic factors are important to Artemia production  
20 including interactions between physical and chemical  
21 factors, and in parentheses including salinity, comma,

22 predation, competition, and food availability."  
23 I take you down to the second full paragraph on  
24 that -- on Page 20, and I'll read, "Predation and  
25 competition on Artemia by other zooplankton are not  
0099 factors at higher salinities." And in parentheses,  
01 "100 grams per liter, in Mono Lake, due to salinity  
02 intolerance of these species. At lower salinities,  
03 however, predation and competition by other species may  
04 exert a significant influence on the Artemia  
05 population."  
06 We'll move to Page 21, the last paragraph on that  
07 page. "Changing structure of Mono Lake ecosystem could  
08 offset the demonstrated physiological and life history  
09 advantages gained by Artemia Monica," and that's the  
10 species, M-O-N-I-C-A," at lower salinities resulting in  
11 reductions in Artemia abundance similar to those  
12 observed in the Great Salt Lake. Species diversity of  
13 plankton will most likely increase in less saline Mono  
14 Lake."  
15 Page 22. First paragraph in the middle.  
16 "Competition of the rotifers with Artemia could  
17 influence Artemia productivity and would depend partly  
18 on the degree of seasonal overlap between the two  
19 species," and I believe you talked earlier about these  
20 two particular species.  
21 And then finally I'd like to read in the summary.  
22 "In summary, Artemia are able to maintain osmotic  
23 homeostasis over a wide range of salinities. Such  
24 osmole regulatory abilities have high energetic costs  
0100 that uniformly affect Artemia survival, growth, and  
01 reproduction. However, other factors such as  
02 predation, competition, and food availability must be  
03 considered along with the physiological responses when  
04 assessing the effects of changing salinity on the  
05 productivity of natural populations of Artemia.  
06 Predation and competition are likely to be significant  
07 factors influencing shrimp productivity at lower  
08 salinities. While individual physiological constraints  
09 and Artemia interactions with -- " let me reread that.  
10 "While -- " let me read the whole sentence again,  
11 please.  
12 "Predation and competition are likely to be  
13 significant factors in influencing shrimp productivity  
14 at lower salinities. While individual physiological  
15 constraints and Artemia interactions with nutrients and  
16 allergy attain prominence at higher salinities."  
17 Based on what I read to you from Auxiliary Report  
18 12, do you still feel confident in your recommendation  
19 of a lake level incrementally higher than 6390 is  
20 required to restore these resources?  
21 A Yes. And here are the reasons. The way I look at  
22 it, although there's lots of data on Mono Lake, 14  
23 years' worth, predominantly focused on Artemia and  
24 alkali or brine fly populations, one must recognize  
0101 that all those studies that we have are of an ecosystem  
02 that's in a vastly degraded state from an ecosystem  
03 perspective. That is, I did not hear any testimony nor

04 have I read anywhere in the Draft Environmental Impact  
05 Report that there were any problems with the Mono Lake  
06 ecosystem at pre-diversion levels. Brine flies  
07 existed. Shrimp existed. Birds were there in good  
08 numbers.

09 So to go back to that, getting back, it's all very  
10 much the same thing. To get back to that state of  
11 nature or something approximating it, if it's feasible  
12 with a public trust resource involved, it is something  
13 that should be accomplished.

14 To look at these rotifers and other small animals  
15 as being predators on shrimp, for example, and the bad  
16 thing, in my view of thinking and the ecological view  
17 of thinking, is not correct. It would be like, for  
18 example, us studying and managing the savanna  
19 grasslands of Africa for only zebras and giraffes, two  
20 large animals that happen to be there. There are lions  
21 there, and there are cheetahs there. Would we  
22 basically eliminate cheetahs and lions from Africa, or  
23 would it be the same place?

24 My point is that the Mono Lake ecosystem, in its  
25 pre-diversion state, existed in a certain way with a  
0102

01 certain component and a certain biological diversity.  
02 You can't say that it's good or bad. The diatom's  
03 there. The rotifers. The furry shrimp that are  
04 there, they're not good or bad. That's just the way  
05 that it is.

06 And by incrementally achieving that by some level,  
07 lake level, currently, re-achieving what was once  
08 there, is not bad thing, either. So from the  
09 ecological standpoint, the restoration, the extra --  
10 granted there will be predators. Well, Mono Lake,  
11 remember, is, by some accounts, half a million years  
12 old, one of the oldest lakes North America. These  
13 animals have been living together in this ecosystem for  
14 a long, long time. And that's -- there's no problem  
15 with that.

16 So I guess -- I guess -- then I had to qualify my  
17 answer in that way.

18 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Can I ask that the Reporter mark  
19 that place in the transcript?

20 Q BY MR. CANADAY: But you have no data to suggest  
21 that, based on what I've read to you here, the lowest  
22 level I talked about was 76 grams per liter, and you  
23 stated in your testimony that at 6390, it's  
24 approximately a salinity of 71 grams per liter, that  
25 that's not going restore or provide an opportunity for  
0103

01 the recovery or change in diversity. Is that correct?  
02 You have no data to suggest that?

03 A I have no data. That's correct.

04 Q Moving on to Point 21. Again, you talked about  
05 bio-diversity, and in your last sentence, "A reduction  
06 in the augmented flows may enhance available habitat  
07 for or facilitate the recolonization of species with  
08 these specific habitat preferences." What species were  
09 you thinking about?

10 A That is, again, an ecological -- there are no  
11 data. I did check or at least with as many places as I

12 could, there are no data to support that there are any  
13 unique species in that reach of stream.

14 My point is that the focus here has been so far  
15 and, rightfully so in some respects, on the vertebrate  
16 fish species that are present that may not be native to  
17 the system. We should not preclude, if we can at all  
18 do it, concerns regarding the native species that are  
19 there. And I do know that Hot Creek does contain some  
20 unique invertebrate species. Whether or not those  
21 occur or are part of the Owens River system or extend  
22 into it, I don't know.

23 Q Finally, in response, I believe, to Mr. Herrera,  
24 you suggested that the State Water Board not use fish  
25 numbers as a criteria for measuring fish in good

0104  
01 condition. Is that correct?

02 A Yes. But qualified again, not the only criteria.  
03 Fish can be monitored, but in the respect that you're  
04 looking for limitations that you maybe have to work  
05 on. For example, spawning is one that comes to mind  
06 readily. Our spawning gravel is limited to the  
07 population. In your restoration activities, do you  
08 need to provide some spawning gravel to your spawning  
09 habitat? For those kinds of things, yes, the  
10 monitoring program I would propose does look at habitat  
11 and it does look as fish as well, but not as the only  
12 factor to go by.

13 MR. CANADAY: You answered my next question.

14 Thank you. That's all I have.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much.

16 Ms. Cahill?

17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. CAHILL

18 Q Mr. Wong, in response to Mr. Herrera, you  
19 testified that the department does sometimes plant fish  
20 where a natural fish population is in good condition.  
21 Is that correct?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Were you referring to the department's catchable  
24 trout program?

25 A Yes, I was.

0105  
01 Q For what purpose did the department stop trout in  
02 Lee Vining, Parker, and Walker Creeks?

03 A It was not for that purpose. It -- my  
04 understanding is that we were trying to reestablish a  
05 fishery that had been lost there entirely.

06 Q In other words, in that case --

07 A I shouldn't say -- excuse me. Not entirely, but  
08 that had been severely decimated by some action,  
09 probably some sort of winter condition.

10 Q Are you aware of any streams in which the  
11 department plants brown trout on top of a resident  
12 population of brown trout that's in good condition?

13 A None come to mind. None that would meet the  
14 criteria of the good condition that I've outlined here.

15 Q And why would you not plant if you already had a  
16 resident population in good condition?

17 A Because there may be spawning limitations that  
18 would require you to plant, for example, fingerling  
19 fish because those are not being reproduced. There was

20 not enough natural reproduction occurring successfully  
21 to keep a desirable fishery.

22 Q I think maybe you didn't understand my question.  
23 A I'm sorry. Would you repeat it, please?  
24 Q It's my understanding that your testimony is that  
25 if you had a spawning limitation that, in fact, the  
0106  
01 fish were not in good condition?  
02 A Correct.  
03 Q So, if the fish were in good condition, all  
04 aspects of all life stages as you have defined good  
05 condition, then would it be necessary to plant any  
06 additional fish?  
07 A I see. No. If everything appeared to be fine,  
08 then you would want to leave it alone.  
09 Q As I understand your testimony, you've testified  
10 that the ecological health of the stream will determine  
11 if fish, both vertebrates and invertebrates, are to be  
12 kept in good condition. Which would be a better  
13 measure of whether the conditions needed to maintain  
14 the fish in good condition are present in a stream, the  
15 existing population numbers or the quality of the  
16 habitat?  
17 A Quality of the habitat.  
18 Q Are condition factors a reliable measure of the  
19 health of the fish?  
20 A No. I don't believe so. Condition factors can  
21 change throughout the season. Some species of fish,  
22 for example, are just naturally slim and so, therefore,  
23 a condition factor for that type of fish would lead one  
24 to believe if they looked at that factor it was in poor  
25 condition when, in fact, it might be in fine condition  
0107  
01 for that species of fish. So one must be very careful  
02 with that.  
03 Q Could a fish in an aquarium have a high condition  
04 factor?  
05 A Yes, it could.  
06 Q Would you consider the habitat in an aquarium to  
07 be the type of habitat that you were advocating?  
08 A No.  
09 Q You mentioned the fact that it would be possible  
10 if all the water were in the stream, it could keep the  
11 fish in good condition, but you weren't suggesting,  
12 were you, that it would take all the water in the  
13 stream?  
14 A No.  
15 Q Is it possible that a small stream would keep fish  
16 in good condition with a small flow?  
17 A Yes.  
18 Q And is it possible that a channel cut by a large  
19 stream could maintain a self-sustaining population with  
20 a relatively small flow compared to its natural flows?  
21 A large -- a stream created by a large flow from which  
22 that flow was diverted, could it maintain a  
23 self-sustaining population with a smaller flow?  
24 A A self-sustaining population, yes.  
25 Q But would you consider that population to be in  
0108  
01 good condition if the stream had the potential of

02 maintaining a larger healthy population?

03 A No. Not necessarily.

04 Q I know there was considerable frustration as you  
05 were attempting to answer some of Mr. Birmingham's  
06 questions with regard to the condition of fish at a  
07 given moment in time. If you were to attempt to  
08 determine whether a stream had the conditions required  
09 to maintain fish in good condition, would you look at a  
10 particular point in time?

11 A No. You really couldn't.

12 Q And can you explain why not?

13 A Again, because of the variation. The natural  
14 variations that normally occur or the variation  
15 occurring through time all through the year.

16 Q Would it be possible that you would have a fish  
17 that was healthy in a stream with a flow that might,  
18 during a given summer, become lethal and that fish  
19 might be healthy at a given point in time in the  
20 winter, but it might be in conditions that might and  
21 might not cause adverse impacts later in the year?

22 A That's correct. And again, you're -- from a  
23 fish's perspective, it is what is that limiting factor,  
24 and it -- maybe the limiting factor only occurs for a  
25 short period, such as a dewatering event, for example,

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01 which may not even show up on a hydrograph in a mean  
02 daily or mean monthly flow data.

03 For the species or for the whole aquatic  
04 ecosystem, you could literally lose all the populations  
05 that occur there at that time. You need to look at the  
06 big picture, if you will, over time.

07 Q With regard to the need to replant in Lee Vining,  
08 it certainly was true, then, that at some time in the  
09 last two years the fish in Lee Vining Creek were not --  
10 the fishery was not in good condition; is that correct?

11 A That's my understanding.

12 Q As you have defined "good condition," do you  
13 believe that the fishery in Rush Creek is in good  
14 condition at present?

15 A No, it's not.

16 Q And why not?

17 A As we heard, Rush Creek is severely degraded, and  
18 although it's coming back, the testimony and the  
19 knowledge that I have indicates that it is not yet  
20 linked with its natural riparian system. The nutrient  
21 cycling that we heard about is not occurring, so over  
22 time, what you have is basically a stream that is  
23 trying to recover to some extent, but it is not what  
24 would be considered to be a natural functioning state.

25 Q And would you give me the same answer on Lee

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01 Vining Creek? Do you believe that at present, Lee  
02 Vining Creek has the conditions required to maintain  
03 fish in good condition?

04 A No.

05 Q And can you explain that?

06 A Well, there are limiting factors -- in all the  
07 creeks, that are the result of the severe degradation  
08 that's occurred; namely, winter habitat, pools, and  
09 such that are required for survival, winter survival in

10 particular, which is a very tough time for aquatic  
11 organisms. So that as well as habitat complexity,  
12 there are some temperature problems, as far as high  
13 temperatures, higher than we want to see for trout  
14 especially at the lower ends of the creeks. Anyway,  
15 there are problems.

16 Q I'd like to get back again to the given point of  
17 time question. Is it possible that a stream at a given  
18 point of time would have juvenile fish that would be  
19 healthy, that the stream would not be in good condition  
20 because the conditions necessary to allow the growth  
21 and development of adult fish are not present?

22 A That's possible.

23 Q In the sense -- I want to go back to my questions  
24 about Rush and Lee Vining Creek that you answered just  
25 a few questions ago. In the sense, then, in which your

0111

01 testimony is using the term "good condition," would you  
02 agree with -- do you believe that the statement that  
03 the fish population in Rush Creek is in good condition  
04 is correct or incorrect?

05 A I presume you mean currently?

06 Q Yes.

07 A It is -- you mentioned that they are in good  
08 condition?

09 Q No.

10 A The assumption is that they are in good condition?

11 Q No assumption. Let me re-ask the question.

12 In the sense in which are you using "good  
13 condition," would you agree that the fish population in  
14 Rush Creek is in good condition?

15 A No.

16 Q And in the sense in which you are using "good  
17 condition," would you agree that the fish population in  
18 Lee Vining Creek is in good condition?

19 A No.

20 Q And is that because your sense of "good condition"  
21 includes the health of the entire ecosystem?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Ordinarily, when fishing regulations are being  
24 considered, what is the focus of the -- what is the  
25 context in which the fish are analyzed?

0112

01 A In terms of numbers and sizes of vertebrate fish.

02 Q Would it be possible to have an adequate number of  
03 fish at a given time in a stream that is not in good  
04 condition in the sense in which you used that term?

05 A Yes.

06 Q Even a large number of fish?

07 A Yes.

08 Q And, in fact, in the sense in which you used "good  
09 condition," the size of the population would be related  
10 in some way to the potential of that particular stream?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And so the mere fact that there might be a  
13 self-sustaining population in a given stream would not  
14 necessarily indicate that that stream was in good  
15 condition?

16 A Right. And that is not the only factor.

17 Q Why is it that the quality or health of the

18 habitat is a more appropriate way to get at this  
19 concept than the number of fish?  
20 A The fish numbers, especially in the eastern  
21 Sierra, fluctuate greatly for a number of reasons, many  
22 of which we can't explain, on a year-to-year basis or  
23 even within the year, so it is extremely dangerous  
24 unless one has a very thorough sampling program and  
25 does a very consistent methodical, repeatable type of  
0113  
01 survey, to actually come up with quantitative  
02 information to result in describing the numbers of fish  
03 that might occur within a stream.  
04 I've been doing this for years, and I can assure  
05 you that even in the most stable environments that we  
06 have, fish numbers in the eastern Sierra can fluctuate  
07 greatly. Hot Creek, for example, which is one of the  
08 most stable stream-fed systems that I'm aware of on the  
09 east side, fish numbers, and again these are estimates,  
10 can fluctuate over a period of 10 to 15 years from  
11 4,000 in nine-tenth's of a mile stretch up to 10,000,  
12 even in a system which appears to be very, very  
13 stable.  
14 So the eastern Sierra streams, basically undergo a  
15 wide variation in terms of both temperature and  
16 climate, weather, precipitation, and all these do  
17 effect the population sizes which makes looking at fish  
18 alone extremely difficult in terms of numbers for  
19 coming to any final determination as to the population  
20 that is really -- the potential population that could  
21 really be there.  
22 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Would the Reporter please mark  
23 that question?  
24 Q BY MS. CAHILL: In other words, your recommendations  
25 are based on the theory that if you create the habitat,  
0114  
01 the fish will follow; is that right?  
02 A That's correct.  
03 Q Let me go back again to fishing regulations. Is  
04 it possible that there could be a situation where there  
05 are sufficient fish to allow harvest but the habitat is  
06 such that you would not consider the fish to be in good  
07 condition?  
08 A Yes, that's possible.  
09 Q Is it possible that the department of  
10 representatives addressing fishing regulations might  
11 use the term "good condition" in a different context  
12 with a different meaning to simply mean that there were  
13 sufficient fish available to allow harvest?  
14 A Yes.  
15 MS. CAHILL: I think I have no further questions.  
16 Thank you.  
17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much.  
18 Mr. Birmingham?  
19 RE-CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. BIRMINGHAM  
20 Q Mr. Wong, I'm at a loss. Have you ever read  
21 George Orwell "1984"?  
22 A No.  
23 Q Have you ever heard term "doublespeak"?  
24 MR. THOMAS: Objection. Argumentative.  
25 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Sustained.

0115

01 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: In response to a question by  
02 Mr. Frink, Mr. Del Piero interrupted you and said, "You  
03 can assume that words in our questions have plain  
04 meaning." Do you remember Mr. Del Piero telling you  
05 that?

06 A Yes.

07 Q I'm going to ask you. Does "good" have a plain  
08 meaning?

09 A "Good" has many meanings.

10 Q Does "condition" have a plain meaning?

11 A It also has many meanings.

12 Q So you are here today as a witness on behalf of  
13 the Department of Fish and Game. Is that correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And you have expressed an opinion that the fish  
16 population in Rush Creek is not in good condition?

17 A Using my biological definition.

18 Q And that's a different biological definition than  
19 the Department of Fish and Game used when it wrote in  
20 L.A. DWP Exhibit 91 that, "Fish in the fish population  
21 in Rush Creek is in good condition"?

22 MR. THOMAS: Objection. Calls for speculation.

23 This witness has no idea --

24 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me, Mr. Del Piero. I  
25 wonder if Ms. Cahill is going to be examining the

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01 witness, if Mr. Thomas could refrain from objecting.

02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm going to sustain  
03 the objection because as part of his testimony he said  
04 he didn't play a role in developing a recommendation  
05 that went to the Fish and Game commission.

06 However, your request is appropriate. In the  
07 event that one party is cross-examining, that party  
08 ought to be the person who's objecting.

09 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: So when the Department of Fish  
10 and Game -- just so we have it clear on the record.  
11 When the Department of Fish and Game said that the fish  
12 population in Rush Creek is in good condition, said  
13 that in July of 1993, you don't know what the basis of  
14 the Department of Fish and Game's conclusion was?

15 A That is correct.

16 Q Now, a few minutes ago, you responded to a  
17 question by Ms. Cahill by saying if you create habitat,  
18 fish will follow. You said, "That's right."

19 A I can't recall the word "create."

20 Q I'll ask the Reporter to go back and see if she  
21 can find that question. It was immediately after a  
22 question that I asked to be marked, the last question I  
23 asked to be marked. Immediately following that was the  
24 question I'm referring to.

25 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Wong, I want you

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01 to assume that the representation being made by  
02 Mr. Birmingham is, in fact, correct and then you can  
03 respond based on that assumption. Okay?

04 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm not sure we can do this  
05 because I was going to then ask the Reporter to read  
06 back the question that had been marked and the answer  
07 to it.

08 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Assume that you said, "If habitat  
09 is created, fish will follow." Assume you said that.  
10 Immediately before that, you said that the numbers of  
11 fish in the eastern Sierra streams fluctuate greatly.  
12 It depends on a whole number of factors. Do you  
13 remember saying that?  
14 A Yes.  
15 Q So it's correct, then, isn't it, that the number  
16 of fish is not necessarily related to a condition of  
17 habitat.  
18 A No. That's -- I would say that's not correct.  
19 The numbers of fish are related to their habitat. But  
20 that habitat varies widely, hence fish populations can  
21 vary widely.  
22 Q And therefore, simply the creation of habitat is  
23 not going to result in fish following. Isn't that  
24 right?  
25 A I'm not sure what you mean by "creation of  
0118 habitat" in that context. If you mean the restoration,  
01 Sir, or even creation?  
02 A I'll -- restoration. The restoration of habitat  
03 does not necessarily mean that fish are going to  
04 follow?  
05 A No. I believe from what I know of fish  
06 populations, especially in the eastern Sierra, that if  
07 you were to create a set of conditions which were  
08 desirable for fish in the broadest sense of the term,  
09 that they would follow.  
10 Q In response to a question by Mr. Frink, you said  
11 that -- actually, let's go back further than that.  
12 THE REPORTER: If it would help, I could probably  
13 get this fixed over lunch.  
14 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I don't want to take the time --  
15 well, it's ten minutes to noon now, would it be an  
16 appropriate time to break for lunch?  
17 MS. CAHILL: I would prefer not to break. I would  
18 like to have this cross-examination completed, if  
19 there's -- if we could find out how many minutes there  
20 are left?  
21 MR. HERRERA: 14 minutes.  
22 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Is there some  
23 particular reason why you prefer not breaking at ten to  
24 12 as opposed to 12?  
0119 MS. CAHILL: I would just prefer to get this  
01 cross-examination completed in one piece.  
02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Are you going to be  
03 able to guarantee that you're going to be able to have  
04 this resolved?  
05 THE REPORTER: 80 percent.  
06 MR. BIRMINGHAM: There were three questions,  
07 Mr. Del Piero, that I have requested --  
08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I know. I'm aware of  
09 that. I made note of those. Do you have other  
10 questions to ask besides those or is that going to --  
11 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I have other questions.  
12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Why don't you ask your  
13 other questions, okay, and then we'll come back to  
14 that? You can't do a search while you're working, can  
15

16 you?

17 THE REPORTER: No.

18 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Go ahead. We are  
19 going break at noon. Okay?

20 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Mr. Wong, you testified in  
21 response to a question by Mr. Herrera about  
22 monitoring. Do you recall the exchange about  
23 monitoring? Excuse me. It was in response to a  
24 question by Dr. Smith.

25 A Yes.

0120

01 Q Were you in the hearing room yesterday?

02 A Yes.

03 Q And did you hear Dr. Stine express an opinion that  
04 the restoration activities in 1992 in Lee Vining Creek  
05 had been successful?

06 A I actually do not recall that.

07 Q I'm going to ask you to assume that Dr. Stine  
08 expressed that opinion, that the restoration  
09 activities in 1991 in Lee Vining Creek had been  
10 successful.

11 A Very well.

12 Q And I think he said that. In your opinion, as a  
13 fisheries biologist, could you determine the success of  
14 a restoration program similar to that carried on in Lee  
15 Vining Creek in 1991 two years after it was carried  
16 out?

17 A It depends upon what your criteria for successful  
18 are and what Dr. Stine's were.

19 Q Well, if you want to create habitat that will keep  
20 fish in good condition after one year or two years, are  
21 you going to have enough information about a  
22 restoration program to conclude that the program was  
23 successful?

24 A I'm not aware of the exact types of activities  
25 that occurred that brought about Dr. Stine's

0121

01 statement. So it's difficult for me the answer that  
02 question.

03 But if you want to speak generally, I think the  
04 answer -- well, perhaps -- could you repeat the  
05 question because I think I might be able to answer it?

06 Q Well, it's your understanding, isn't it, that in  
07 1991, pools were dug in Lee Vining Creek?

08 MR. DODGE: Actually, it was 1992.

09 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I believe it was 1991.

10 MR. WONG: I guess I don't --

11 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm going to ask you to assume  
12 that in 1991 pools were dug in Lee Vining Creek

13 MR. DODGE: Objection. Assumes facts not in  
14 evidence.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: It's an assumption.  
16 It's overruled.

17 Go ahead, Mr. Birmingham, pursue your question.

18 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm going to ask you to assume  
19 that in 1991 pools were dug in Lee Vining Creek, and  
20 I'm going to ask you to assume in 1991 that banks were  
21 armored to create undercut banks, and that in 1991,  
22 willows and cottonwoods were planted along the stream  
23 to produce recovery of riparian vegetation, and that in

24 1991, spawning gravels were placed in Lee Vining  
25 Creek. And the purpose of this program was to restore  
0122  
01 the conditions which would keep fish in good condition,  
02 as you have used that term in your testimony.  
03 After two years, would you be able to analyze the  
04 success of that restoration program?  
05 A The answer is yes, but again, it depends on what  
06 level and what your success criteria are. In other  
07 words, if the pools were still there and survive a high  
08 flow, for example, in 1993, one could say as a measure  
09 of success that you had a successful treatment because  
10 they survived the runoff.  
11 The same with some of the other factors you  
12 mentioned. Spawning gravels, you may be able to detect  
13 within a two-year time an increase in spawning, for  
14 example, or survival from spawning, because of your  
15 activities. So it does vary greatly with what you term  
16 to be success and the time frame involved.  
17 Q Now, in your testimony, you said that you were not  
18 personally familiar with South Parker Creek.  
19 A I have been to the site, but I believe I said I  
20 have not participated in any actual sampling activities  
21 to determine what the fish populations were or were  
22 not.  
23 Q In response to questions by Mr. Canaday about your  
24 recommendations on Mono Lake, you referred to Auxiliary  
25 Report 12 and asked a lot of the same questions that I  
0123  
01 was going ask. But specifically, I'd like to know, you  
02 mentioned in your direct testimony that the Artemia  
03 Monica is a Candidate One species for listing under the  
04 Endangered Species Act.  
05 A Yes.  
06 Q Do you have any knowledge about the Endangered  
07 Species Act?  
08 A I have some.  
09 Q For instance -- and I'm only asking you your  
10 knowledge. Do you have an understanding of what  
11 constitutes a take under the Endangered Species Act?  
12 MS. CAHILL: Objection to the extent that it does  
13 ask for a legal conclusion.  
14 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm going to sustain  
15 the objection to that extent.  
16 Go ahead and answer the question within a  
17 biological standpoint from the standpoint of -- in your  
18 capacity as an employee of the Department of Fish and  
19 Game.  
20 THE WITNESS: The actual definition I would not  
21 feel comfortable commenting on.  
22 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Let me ask you a biological  
23 question, Mr. Wong. I'm going to ask you to assume  
24 that you have a species which is a candidate species  
25 for a listing under the Endangered Species Act. As a  
0124  
01 biologist, would you feel comfortable introducing into  
02 that species habitat a predator species?  
03 A If the predator species was a native in its own  
04 right, I would have -- I would have to say yes. I tend  
05 to get lost sometimes in between the question and

06 answer, but I'd say yes, I think it would be  
07 appropriate or could be appropriate to introduce that  
08 species.  
09 Q Could be. Would it necessarily be? For instance,  
10 if it was going result in the extinction of that  
11 candidate species, if the introduction of the predator  
12 species was going to result in the extinction of that  
13 candidate species, would you -- would you promote the  
14 introduction of that predator species into the  
15 particular habitat?

16 A I guess the answer to the question is I don't  
17 know. It would depend on a whole variety of factors.

18 Q And with respect to the situation at Mono Lake,  
19 you don't know enough about the potential listing of  
20 the Artemia Monica to express an opinion concerning the  
21 introduction of a predator species into that habitat.  
22 Isn't that correct?

23 A That's correct. I'm here as a biologist in the  
24 biological end of things.

25 Q So if, in fact, the introduction of this predator  
0125

01 species that Mr. Canaday referred to in his questions  
02 about Auxiliary Report Number 12 is going to be  
03 damaging to the Artemia Monica, a candidate species,  
04 you may have some reservations about the introduction  
05 of that species into Mono Lake; isn't that correct?

06 A No. Not necessarily. It depends on your -- the  
07 use of the word "damaging." If it were to return  
08 basically the Artemia population back to its  
09 non-degraded state, I would not term that to be  
10 damaging.

11 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Could I ask that the question be  
12 reread, Mr. Del Piero?

13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Ms. Anglin?  
14 (Whereupon the record was read as requested.)

15 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: And your response to my question  
16 was no, not necessarily. The converse of that,  
17 Mr. Wong, is you might have some reservations. Isn't  
18 that right?

19 A That is the converse of that question. That's  
20 correct.

21 Q That's the converse of your answer.

22 A Converse of the answer. I better make sure that I  
23 understood your question. You caused me to question if  
24 I really understood what you were saying.

25 Q Well, let me ask it again because I want to make  
0126

01 sure we have a clear record. Auxiliary Report Number  
02 12 on Pages 19, 20, and 21, talks about the potential  
03 of reducing the population of Artemia Monica resulting  
04 from the introduction of other zooplankton; is that  
05 correct?

06 A I don't believe that's true. There would be no  
07 actual introduction of those animals. What you'd be  
08 doing is just creating conditions that would allow them  
09 to occur -- or become established naturally. There's a  
10 distinction there.

11 Q Then let's talk about establishing conditions that  
12 would allow them to occur naturally. For instance, on  
13 Page 20 of Auxiliary Report Number 12, it says,

14 "Predation and competition on Artemia by other  
15 zooplankton are not factors at higher salinities  
16 greater than 100 grams per liter in Mono Lake due to  
17 salinity intolerance of these species. At lower  
18 salinities, however, predation and competition by other  
19 species may exert a significant influence on the  
20 Artemia population." Is that correct?

21 A That is what that document says.

22 Q I'm going to ask you to assume that what the  
23 document says is correct. Now, if Artemia is a  
24 candidate species for listing under the Endangered  
25 Species Act, would you have any reservations about

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01 creating conditions that would allow zooplankton to  
02 establish themselves if that zooplankton, establishment  
03 of that zooplankton, would have a significant influence  
04 on the Artemia population?

05 A No, I would not. Because one could look at  
06 significant influence as being one which would allow  
07 those populations to evolve under the conditions that  
08 they have been under for thousands of years.

09 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham, it's  
10 now five after 12. I don't know how much more time you  
11 have left, but it's my inclination at this point to  
12 break.

13 MR. HERRERA: He has two minutes.

14 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm assuming you're  
15 going to petition for more time.

16 Mrs. Anglin, if you could see if you could ferret  
17 out those questions during the course of the lunch  
18 hour. 1:30.

19 (Whereupon the lunch recess was taken.)

20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Ladies and Gentlemen,  
21 this hearing will again come to order.

22 Mr. Birmingham, you have two minutes left on your  
23 testimony.

24 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I would make, at this point, an  
25 application for an additional ten minutes.

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01 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: It's granted. Okay?  
02 And then we're going to try and move this along.

03 Okay?

04 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Mr. Wong, I have asked over the  
05 lunch recess for the Reporter to go back and find a  
06 couple of places on the tape. First, I'd like to go  
07 back and ask the Reporter to read a question and answer  
08 asked of you by Mr. Frink and your response to that,  
09 and it was the question that I asked be marked during  
10 Mr. Frink's examination of you. The first question  
11 that we just discussed.

12 (Whereupon the record was read as requested.)

13 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: You said in response to  
14 Mr. Frink's question that you were trying to -- in  
15 formulating proposed minimum flows, you were trying to  
16 imitate the natural condition. Now, isn't it correct,  
17 Mr. Wong, that with respect to the minimum flows  
18 proposed by the Department of Fish and Game, that for  
19 many months the proposed minimum flows are in excess of  
20 what would be there naturally?

21 A I'm afraid I can't answer that because my

22 recollection of the flow regime proposed is rather  
23 general and apparently, extremely flexible from the  
24 operational standpoint in that, as I recall, mean  
25 monthly flows were offered with some minimum and some

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01 maximum from month to month. But as I recall, there  
02 was really no flow regime dictating what that might be.

03 Q Again, Mr. Wong, I'm going to give you a copy of  
04 Volume One of the Lee Vining Creek Stream Evaluation  
05 Report 93-2, and I'm going to ask you to look at Table  
06 12 on Page 67 of the report.

07 Now, is it your understanding from your review of  
08 the report that Table 12 is a table which shows the  
09 monthly stream flows and cfs exceedence data for Lee  
10 Vining Creek, Mono County, California, 1973 to 1991?

11 A Yes, that's what I'd say.

12 Q And if we look at the column on the left-hand  
13 side, it says, "Percent of time equal or exceeded." Is  
14 that correct?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And is it correct, taking as an example 20 percent  
17 under that column entitled Percent of Time Equal or  
18 Exceeded, and if we go over to the month of -- the  
19 month of January, that for the month of January, 80  
20 percent of the time, the flows in Lee Vining Creek are  
21 equal to or less than 41 cfs?

22 A I wanted to make sure that I'm reading this table  
23 correctly.

24 Q Please take your time.

25 MS. CAHILL: Mr. Del Piero, the witness can

0130

01 answer. I think from looking at the table it would be  
02 more efficient to have these questions posed to the  
03 panel that developed them.

04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham?

05 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I will ask these same questions  
06 probably of the panel that wrote the report, but  
07 Mr. Wong's testimony was that it's the Department of  
08 Fish and Game's effort to mimic the natural -- natural  
09 condition, and I just want to establish that the  
10 proposal in this document proposes minimum flows that  
11 exceed what would be in the stream naturally. Is that  
12 your understanding, Mr. Wong?

13 MR. WONG: The -- I guess in answer to your  
14 question, from what I understand -- I'm not sure I  
15 understand the question. The City of Los Angeles'  
16 proposed flows do not mimic the natural hydrograph  
17 because they do not contain wet-, dry-, or normal-year  
18 criteria. Again, looking at fluctuations, it's  
19 extremely important that you have those three different  
20 year types, three different situations, to mimic the  
21 hydrograph overall in terms of wet, dry, and normal  
22 years, so that the fish population will get the benefit  
23 of the good years along with the bad years. So in that  
24 general regard, I think I could answer your question.

25 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm not asking a question about

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01 the Department of Water and Power proposal. What I'm  
02 asking you a question about is the -- is the Department  
03 of Fish and Game recommendation for Rush Creek. Am I

04 not correct that --

05 MS. CAHILL: Tom. I think this was Lee Vining  
06 Creek.

07 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me. Lee Vining Creek.  
08 Thank you very much, Ms. Cahill.

09 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm asking you about the  
10 Department of Fish and Game recommendation for Lee  
11 Vining Creek.

12 MS. CAHILL: He doesn't have, probably, those  
13 recommendations in front of him.

14 Q Do you have the --

15 A No. I don't. I'm not prepared to speak  
16 specifically on those particular reports.

17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham, I  
18 think he indicated that earlier.

19 Q I'll address these questions to the panel that  
20 prepared --

21 A Thank you very much.

22 Q Now, in response to a question by Mr. Canaday  
23 about Mono Lake, you stated that Mono Lake is a vastly  
24 degraded ecosystem. Is that correct?

25 A That's my opinion, yes.

0132

01 Q And you based that opinion on numbers of birds?

02 A No, Sir.

03 Q What did you base that opinion on?

04 A When species are extricated from an ecosystem due  
05 to acts of man, I'll call it, or artificial means, then  
06 I consider that to be a degraded ecosystem.

07 Q But isn't it correct, Mr. Wong, that since the  
08 Department of Water and Power began its diversions in  
09 1940, the number of California gulls has increased  
10 significantly at Mono Lake?

11 A I don't know.

12 Q And that there has been no vast degradation of  
13 brine shrimp at Mono Lake?

14 A I when you say "degraded," degraded as to what?  
15 That's the problem, we have no pre-diversion  
16 information as to brine shrimp or brine fly populations  
17 specifically or quantitatively for Mono Lake, so it  
18 does make it very difficult to make that distinction.  
19 So there's nothing upon which to base that as far as  
20 an -- as far as a natural system goes.

21 Q MR. BIRMINGHAM: Could you go to the next  
22 question? Actually, it was the very long question that  
23 I asked the Reporter to have marked. It was the one in  
24 which the terms "create habitat" were used.

25 (Whereupon the record was read as requested.)

0133

01 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Now, Mr. Wong, do you remember  
02 being asked that question about creating habitat by  
03 Ms. Cahill?

04 A Yes.

05 Q In response to the prior question, you said that  
06 even in the most stable environment, the number of fish  
07 can fluctuate greatly. Is that your testimony?

08 A Yes.

09 Q And that's your opinion?

10 A With regard to eastern Sierra trout populations,  
11 yes.

12 Q So in terms of identifying a fish population that  
13 is in good condition, you can't look at just the number  
14 of fish. That's your opinion?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Now, let's say you've got this most stable  
17 environment that you described but there are no fish in  
18 there. It would be your opinion that you did not have  
19 a fish population in good condition; isn't that right?

20 A Are you asking me to assume that we have a body of  
21 water that had no fish?

22 Q I'm asking you to assume that you've got what you  
23 termed a most stable environment with a very low number  
24 of fish.

25 MR. DODGE: Objection. Now he's changed the  
0134

01 question. He said "no fish" the first time.

02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: That's true. I'm  
03 going to sustain the objection.

04 Restate the question, Mr. Birmingham.

05 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: All right. I'll state a new  
06 question, Mr. Wong.

07 Let's assume that you've got this most stable  
08 environment with a low number of fish. Is it your  
09 opinion that you would not have a fish population in  
10 good condition?

11 A I really can't answer that the way it was stated.

12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Why?

13 MR. WONG: Because his assumption -- there's a  
14 question I would have to ask, Sir, and that is is  
15 this -- is this a natural system, or is it an  
16 artificial impacted system?

17 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Let's talk about a natural  
18 system.

19 A Very well.

20 Q A natural system that is the most stable  
21 environment -- and I'm using your words. I want to use  
22 your words because I don't want to get confused by  
23 using my words. The most stable environment. You've  
24 got very few fish. In fact, we can make it better. We  
25 can say that the fish that you have are low weight. Do

0135  
01 you have a fish in good condition? A fish population  
02 in good condition?

03 A Overall speaking, with regard to that single  
04 population, I think with the assumption that you have  
05 given, I'd say yes.

06 Q So if you look at --

07 A It's possible.

08 Q If you look at habitat and the habitat is in good  
09 condition, then you have a fish population in good  
10 condition?

11 A No. That's not entirely correct. What I'm  
12 getting at is you can't only look at the habitat and  
13 you can't only look at the fish populations. You have  
14 to look at everything.

15 Q Now, you said that the number of fish in the  
16 stream on the eastern Sierra fluctuate depending on a  
17 number of factors. Is it correct that some of those  
18 factors are unrelated to habitat conditions?

19 A They can be.

20 Q And again, I just want to make sure we understand  
21 what you're saying about good condition. So you can't  
22 look at habitat and conclude whether or not fish are in  
23 good condition; is that correct?  
24 A Could you repeat it, please?  
25 Q You cannot look at habitat and determine if fish  
0136  
01 are in good condition.  
02 A Not entirely.  
03 Q And you can't look at population and determine if  
04 fish are in good condition.  
05 A Correct. Not entirely.  
06 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I have no further questions.  
07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much,  
08 Mr. Birmingham.  
09 Mr. Dodge?  
10 MR. DODGE: Well, I thought I'd try a new tactic  
11 this morning and not ask any questions and see if it  
12 speeded up. But it didn't --  
13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: A vacuum is an  
14 unnatural condition.  
15 (Laughter.)  
16 RE-CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. DODGE  
17 Q I just have a couple of questions. One is just  
18 sort of a follow-up question, Mr. Wong.  
19 This term "condition factor" is a new one to me,  
20 and that applies to individual fish; is that right?  
21 A Yes.  
22 Q And tell me exactly what the condition factor is.  
23 A It's basically a co-efficient, usually referred to  
24 as "KA" which is nothing more than a relationship  
25 between the length and weight of a single fish.  
0137  
01 Q So is it just a fraction?  
02 A Yes. It's -- it's usually described as the weight  
03 divided by the length cubed, multiplied by some factor,  
04 and there's a constant.  
05 Q And anything else relating to that fish aside from  
06 length and weight is not taken into account?  
07 A It's not considered at all.  
08 Q Okay. Now, here's the part of your testimony that  
09 I want to explore with you. It's in Paragraph 7 of  
10 your testimony -- if could you get that out, and I'm  
11 interested in the second sentence which reads -- of  
12 Paragraph 7. "Fish population should not be limited by  
13 lack of cover, comma, food availability, comma, poor  
14 water quality, paren, including temperature, end paren,  
15 or lack of habitat necessary for reproduction."  
16 Do you see that, Sir?  
17 A Yes.  
18 Q Now, you use the term "limited" in that sentence,  
19 and we've also had testimony about limiting factors.  
20 Can you explain to the Board in simple terms what a  
21 "limiting factor" is?  
22 A It is some part of the environment, which would be  
23 any part of the environment that we've been talking  
24 about, that can affect all or a single life stage of  
25 any animal that could somehow result in an effect on  
0138  
01 that population. An example would be not having any

02 gravel could limit -- or very little spawning gravel  
03 could limit the total potential size or the total size  
04 of a fish population.

05 Q Now, am I right that -- am I reading Paragraph 7  
06 correctly, that lack of cover, food, water quality, and  
07 reproductive habitat are potential limiting factors?

08 A Yes, they are. But really, the intent of this  
09 sentence, and I said there could be some problems, the  
10 implication is that really artificially limiting  
11 factors, is what I really in the mind. For example,  
12 there have to be limiting factors on populations or  
13 else there would be innumerable population sizes.

14 Q That really gets to the point that I wanted to ask  
15 you about. I want to take a potential limiting factor  
16 through time. Now, let's take lack of cover, for  
17 example.

18 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me, Mr. Del Piero. I'm  
19 going to pose an objection. Yesterday, Mr. Dodge  
20 expressed an objection on the grounds that my questions  
21 were going beyond the scope of a -- of a redirect or a  
22 direct that he had performed, and he raised the  
23 objection because I was going beyond the scope, I  
24 somehow might be able to sandbag him in terms of  
25 expanding the questions after he has had an opportunity  
0139 to ask additional questions.

02 Now, Mr. Dodge is going well beyond the scope of  
03 any questions that were asked of this witness by any  
04 attorney or member of the Staff or by the Board, and if  
05 I understand Mr. Dodge's objection correctly, I think  
06 he's violating the rule that he wishes to impose. If  
07 we have an understanding --

08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Excuse me,  
09 Mr. Birmingham?

10 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Yes.

11 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: As I recall, you  
12 correct me if I'm wrong, but I think I overruled that  
13 objection.

14 MR. BIRMINGHAM: You did and --

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: As I'm inclined to  
16 overrule your objection right now.

17 So, Mr. Dodge, why don't you proceed?

18 MR. DODGE: I thought I was going to lose both  
19 ends of that fight for a minute there.

20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Contrary to some  
21 people's opinion, I do remember from one day to the  
22 next. Go ahead.

23 Q BY MR. DODGE: I'm interested in taking any given  
24 potential limiting factor through time. Let's take  
25 lack of cover, which is the first one you listed in  
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01 what I've -- now, that, as I understand your testimony,  
02 is potential limiting factors -- take Rush Creek,  
03 today, correct?

04 A I believe so, yes.

05 Q And tell the Board what you mean by "lack of  
06 cover."

07 A Well, it could be variable. Fish utilize cover  
08 for various reasons. One is to escape high velocities  
09 because it does take energy in fast-moving water --

10 conserve energy and obtain sustenance and energy from  
11 the environment if they're in slower-moving water.  
12 They also can use cover as an evasion or a means to  
13 evade predation, which is always present in one form or  
14 another. So if any of these factors are not optimal,  
15 then -- or adequate, then there's a potential for them  
16 to affect the population's health.

17 Q So there's a potential in Rush Creek that lack of  
18 cover could affect one or more life stages of the brown  
19 trout, correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Now, if one's goal were to -- in the Rush Creek,  
22 to restore conditions that benefitted the fishery  
23 pre-diversion, then if you were concerned about lack of  
24 cover, you'd have to look at the amount of cover that  
25 existed pre-diversion, correct?

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01 A Yes, for a baseline.

02 Q For a baseline. And then you could determine that  
03 once you had that baseline and looked at today's  
04 situation, you could determine whether that particular  
05 characteristic that benefitted the fishery had or had  
06 not been restored, correct?

07 A Correct.

08 Q Now, are you aware -- this is a comparison over  
09 time between now and pre-diversion. Are you aware of  
10 any group that's attempting to make that comparison?

11 A I have reviewed -- the only thing I reviewed is a  
12 Trihey report, which compares the pre-41 and, I guess,  
13 post-diversion periods.

14 Q So -- your understanding is that the planning team  
15 is attempting to make that comparison?

16 A That's my understanding. I have seen the report  
17 and reviewed it.

18 Q And who are the particular -- if you know, who are  
19 the particular people who are trying to make that  
20 comparison?

21 A Without looking at the report, I do have it here,  
22 but without looking at it, I'm really not certain who  
23 the individuals are or the parties involved with that  
24 effort.

25 Q But you understand that the Trihey group is trying

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01 to identify factors that limit one or more age groups  
02 in the population today that were not limiting  
03 pre-diversion. You understand that they're going about  
04 that exercise?

05 A Yes.

06 MR. DODGE: That's all I have. Thank you.

07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much,  
08 Mr. Dodge.

09 Mr. Roos-Collins?

10 I promise this time, Mr. Roos-Collins, I'll wait  
11 to find out whether or not you have a question mark at  
12 the end of the statement. Okay?

13 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Whether or not I have what?

14 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Forget it.

15 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Are you referring to my  
16 displacement to the far end of Plaintiff Counsel's  
17 tables?

18 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: No. No. I was  
19 referring to something earlier this morning. It's not  
20 worth repeating.

21 RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. ROOS-COLLINS

22 Q Good afternoon, Mr. Wong.

23 Let's focus on Paragraph 7 of your written  
24 declaration. Could you read the first sentence for the  
25 record?

0143

01 A "The instream flows necessary to keep fish in good  
02 condition include those which will maintain a  
03 self-sustaining population of desirably-sized adult  
04 vertebrate fish which are in good physical condition;  
05 i.e., well-proportioned and disease-free."

06 Q Thank you.

07 Let's parse the term "fish in good condition," as  
08 you use it in this written declaration. When you say  
09 "fish," what are you referring to?

10 A Well, in this case, I'm talking about  
11 desirably-sized adult vertebrate fish.

12 Q Are you referring to individual fish?

13 A The way it's worded here, it's a self-sustaining  
14 population of desirably-sized adult vertebrate fish.  
15 So that would be referring to individual fish.

16 Q In this declaration, do you use the term "fishery"  
17 to mean something different than fish?

18 A Yes, I do. I believe it's in the testimony that a  
19 fishery is a fish population which is being utilized  
20 for a purpose.

21 Q In this declaration, does the word "fish" refer to  
22 a fish population?

23 A Not necessarily, because an individual insect,  
24 according to the Code definition, is a fish. It is  
25 very confusing, and that's part of the reason we're

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01 having the problems, unfortunately, that we are.

02 Q Mr. Wong, I'm not asking you to interpret Section  
03 5937. I'm asking you to explain the words "fish" and  
04 "fishery" as you use them in your written declaration.

05 A Right.

06 Q When you use the word "fish," are you referring  
07 exclusively to individual fish?

08 A The reason I'm hesitating is fish population. A  
09 fish could either be an individual fish or a fish  
10 population.

11 Q So as you use the term "fish" in this declaration,  
12 the term includes individual fish and fish population?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Now, when you say "fish in good condition," what  
15 are the elements of good condition to which you are  
16 referring?

17 A I think I might need some clarification.

18 Q Let me withdraw that question.

19 You previously read the first sentence in  
20 Paragraph 7 of your declaration. And in discussing the  
21 flows necessary to keep fish in good condition, you  
22 state, or rather you describe, "a self-sustaining  
23 population of desirably-sized adult vertebrate fish  
24 which are in good physical condition; i.e., well  
25 proportioned and disease free."

0145

01 A Yes.

02 Q Do those qualities "self-sustaining population,  
03 desirable size," and so forth, describe "good  
04 condition" as you use that term in this declaration?

05 A The reason I'm hesitating, I'm getting confused  
06 between good physical condition versus the Code, the  
07 Fish and Game Code definition of good condition,  
08 because both are used in this same sentence. I'm  
09 sorry. I'm not quite understanding, apparently, which  
10 of the two you're referring to. I apologize. I'm  
11 not --

12 Q I'm asking you to interpret your sentence.

13 A I know, but -- I guess in a sense which --

14 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Do you understand the  
15 question?

16 MR. WONG: I don't believe I do, Sir, or else I'd  
17 be more than happy to --

18 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Roos-Collins,  
19 please restate it.

20 Q BY MR. ROOS-COLLINS: As you use the term "fish in  
21 good condition" in Paragraph 7 of your written  
22 declaration, is one quality of such good condition a  
23 self-sustaining population?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Is another quality desirable size of adult

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01 vertebrates?

02 A Yes.

03 Q Is is another quality good physical condition?

04 A Yes.

05 Q Are there any other qualities of fish in good  
06 condition, as you use that term, in this declaration?

07 A In other words, qualities other than those  
08 mentioned in this?

09 Q Other than those we just discussed.

10 A Yes, there are. Yes, there are.

11 Q And what are they?

12 A Well, they're some of the ones that are already in  
13 the declaration. That's why I'm so confused. Because  
14 there are some mentioned here in terms of "A"  
15 structure, other qualities of the populations --

16 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Wong, take a  
17 moment and try to outline all of them so we'll just get  
18 it clear on the record. Okay? And then there won't be  
19 any question as to what's in your statement as opposed  
20 to what may not have been specifically articulated.

21 MR. WONG: Let me make sure I understand  
22 correctly. You're looking for things that may not be  
23 in the statement?

24 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm looking for  
25 everything in your mind that has bearing on this, okay,

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01 if you can recall it at this point. That's the nature  
02 of the question.

03 MR. WONG: Basically --

04 MR. DODGE: Mr. Del Piero, could we have a  
05 clarification as to whether it's the individual fish or  
06 the fishery to which this question was directed?

07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Roos-Collins?

08 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me, Mr. Del Piero. I  
09 don't think that such a clarification can be made  
10 because the witness has said he's used fish in both  
11 contexts, and I think that if this testimony is going  
12 to have any meaning, we've got to understand this.

13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Let's keep in mind,  
14 Gentlemen, that this is Mr. Roos-Collins' question.  
15 He's afforded the opportunity to ask the question he  
16 wants to.

17 Which is it, Mr. Roos-Collins, so Mr. Wong can  
18 effectively answer the question with the degree of  
19 specificity necessary?

20 Q BY MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Wong, I am referring to the  
21 term "fish in good condition" as you use it in  
22 Paragraph 14 of your written declaration where you  
23 state, "That an adequate flow regime is necessary to  
24 keep riparian and aquatic systems in good condition.  
25 This results in a stream in good ecological condition

0148 01 which can then maintain fish life in good condition."

02 When you use the term "fish life in good  
03 condition" in Paragraph 14, were you referring to  
04 individual fish or to the fish population as a whole?

05 A I'm referring here to fish population as a whole.

06 Q With that understanding; namely, that my question  
07 refers to fish population as a whole, what are the  
08 qualities of fish in good condition?

09 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm going to object on the  
10 grounds that the question is ambiguous. It's not clear  
11 whether or not we're talking about invertebrate fish or  
12 fish as defined by the Fish and Game Code.

13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I had hoped we were  
14 going to be able to resolve this by getting the  
15 clarification that I asked for originally. I think I'm  
16 going to overrule that objection, Mr. Birmingham,  
17 because in the event that -- in the event that  
18 Mr. Roos-Collins wants a response, specifically within  
19 the confines of the definition of "fish" under Fish and  
20 Game Code, he can ask for it. I'm assuming he's asking  
21 for an answer from Mr. Wong in the context of fish as  
22 Mr. Wong has indicated he's used it during the course  
23 of his written statement.

24 Mr. Wong, proceed with an answer, okay? It's now  
25 five minutes, and we still don't have an answer. We've  
0149 01 got a bunch of iterations of the question but no  
02 answer.

03 MR. WONG: Right. The word "quality" is  
04 difficult. The word "quality" is throwing me, Sir,  
05 that's the problem. Is there another word that would  
06 help me, please? Or if that's it, I will do my best to  
07 answer it.

08 Q BY MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Wong, I will withdraw that  
09 question and ask another, and before I do let me  
10 preface it with an explanation of my purpose for asking  
11 this question.

12 You have been subjected to continuous questioning  
13 now for four hours by attorneys for all parties. There  
14 is some confusion now as to what you mean when you say  
15 "fish in good condition." I am attempting to eliminate

16 that confusion. I am not asking about Section 5937 in  
17 the abstract. I am not asking about anything but your  
18 meaning when you use the term "fish in good  
19 condition."

20 When you use that term and are referring to a fish  
21 population, what does that term mean to you?

22 A I'm going to be somewhat repetitive, but I'll  
23 bring to mind what I can regarding that. Fish  
24 populations as a whole would be self-sustaining, as we  
25 mentioned, containing good age classes. There would be

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01 adequate reproduction, natural reproduction for  
02 whatever species there may be. An adequate habitat for  
03 all life stages involved, meaning both aquatic insects,  
04 meaning in the stream as well at riparian vegetation  
05 outside the stream that's required by various life  
06 stages of aquatic insects which have terrestrial form.

07 There would be abundant or adequate food available  
08 for all these types of species, whether it be for  
09 predators or whether it be for herbivores that are  
10 dependent upon organic input from outside the stream  
11 system itself, meaning from the riparian vegetation.  
12 There would be adequate energy input, and what I mean  
13 by that is energy either in the form of organic debris  
14 or sunlight with primary productivity with algae.

15 Basically, an ecosystem that is self-supporting  
16 and can provide some measure of, in the case of  
17 vertebrate management species of management interest,  
18 would provide desirable life stage for that particular  
19 species.

20 Q Mr. Wong, your answer addressed fish habitat as  
21 well as fish themselves. Is that correct?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Let's leave fish habitat out of it. When you use  
24 the term "fish in good condition," do you have any  
25 meaning beyond self-sustaining population, desirable

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01 size, and good physical condition?

02 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm going to object on the  
03 grounds that although I don't think it's intended to be  
04 argumentative, it is argumentative. Mr. Roos-Collins  
05 asked this witness what he meant by the use of the term  
06 in his written testimony. This witness answered it.  
07 And if that includes habitat, that's the way this  
08 witness intended to use that term. And I think it's  
09 argumentative for Mr. Roos-Collins to now ask him to  
10 tell us what he meant by excluding that term.

11 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Roos-Collins?

12 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: That's a fair objection. I  
13 withdraw the question.

14 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Fine.

15 Q BY MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Wong, does the term "fish  
16 in good condition," as you use it, include habitat?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Let me turn now to several questions put to you by  
19 Mr. Birmingham at the close of his recross

20 examination. He said you can't look at habitat to  
21 determine good condition, and you answered no not  
22 entirely, or words to that effect. And then he asked  
23 you you can't look at population to determine good

24 condition, and you answered no not entirely or words to  
25 that effect.

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01 Do you recall those two questions and then your  
02 answers?

03 A Yes, I do.

04 Q You understand that this Board is intending to  
05 establish an amendment to L.A.'s water rights licenses  
06 to comply with Section 5937?

07 A Yes.

08 Q You have recommended in Paragraph 16 that  
09 re-evaluation of flow regimes would be appropriate in  
10 five to ten years. Is that correct?

11 A Yes.

12 Q You have described a monitoring program which  
13 would be helpful for assessing the effect of the flow  
14 regime?

15 A Only in the most general terms.

16 Q What would you recommend this Board look at in  
17 five or ten years to determine whether the fish in Rush  
18 and Lee Vining Creeks are in good condition?

19 A Actually, what I would recommend is, and I happen  
20 to have a copy here, it's a habitat-typing methodology  
21 which has been adopted by the Department of Fish and  
22 Game and modification of that is used by the Forest  
23 Service. It's a habitat-based monitoring scheme which  
24 looks at the physical characteristics of the streams in  
25 question including riparian vegetation, pool depth,

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01 size, quality. It literally measures different  
02 parameters of the stream.

03 In addition to that, as I think I alluded to  
04 earlier, it does contain a fish population monitoring  
05 component, but it is not one that is intended to  
06 describe the number of fish in each stream. That is  
07 being utilized by our department, right now, mostly for  
08 anadromous fish habitat monitoring, looking at limiting  
09 factors available in these streams and how they might  
10 be corrected or enhanced by habitat modifications.

11 A monitoring scheme such as this could be utilized  
12 to first develop a baseline for the kinds of  
13 quantitative baseline on the type of habitat that's  
14 present now. It could then be utilized at intervals in  
15 order to determine any progress towards a restoration  
16 goal that has been decided upon.

17 The Vestal reports, I believe, regarding Parker  
18 and Walker Creeks, make this type of recommendation in  
19 terms of monitoring for those two particular creeks,  
20 and there are a few more details there. They reference  
21 the methodology that I have that the department  
22 utilizes, but also others which are similar.

23 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Del Piero --

24 MS. CAHILL: Mr. Wong, I think, indicated he had  
25 it with him. I don't know how lengthy it is.

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01 MR. WONG: Let me go ahead and read it for the  
02 record. This is entitled "California Salmonid Stream  
03 Habitat Restoration Manual." It's dated August 1991,  
04 and it's been prepared by Gary Flosi, last name  
05 F-L-O-S-I, and Forrest, with two R's, L. Reynolds,

06 R-E-Y-N-O-L-D-S.  
07 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Del Piero, I would request  
08 that the --  
09 MS. CAHILL: We would be willing to offer that as  
10 an exhibit. I think it would be DFG 156?  
11 MR. SMITH: That's correct.  
12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Do you have copies?  
13 MS. CAHILL: We don't have, but we will get them.  
14 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Objections?  
15 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Is it being admitted?  
16 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Yes.  
17 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I would have to review it before  
18 I could --  
19 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I will point out that  
20 at least two of the Board members have seen that as one  
21 of the submittals during the deliberation to the Board  
22 on then Draft Decision 1630. I remember it as one of  
23 the exhibits.  
24 MS. CAHILL: It would be convenient for us to --  
25 to offer it as an exhibit by reference if the Board  
0155  
01 already has copies.  
02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Smith, do you  
03 recall that?  
04 MR. SMITH: We could do it that way.  
05 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Do you recall the  
06 document?  
07 MR. SMITH: I don't recall, but I can look real  
08 quick.  
09 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm almost positive.  
10 Can you hold on for one moment? Before we accept it,  
11 I'm inclined to accept it by reference, but before I do  
12 that, I want to make sure that Mr. Birmingham has a  
13 copy and is afforded the opportunity to review it. I  
14 also want to make sure that we get a copy for our  
15 records in terms of this proceeding, also.  
16 MS. CAHILL: We provide two copies when we do it  
17 by reference, but it saves us having to copy ten.  
18 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Dodge, do you want  
19 a copy, also?  
20 MR. DODGE: Yes, I do.  
21 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: What parties don't  
22 have copies of this? Everybody? Two for us and --  
23 MS. CAHILL: And for those who are present.  
24 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: And one for everyone  
25 else. Ms. Scoonover would like one.  
0156  
01 MS. SCOONOVER: That would be fine. Thank you.  
02 MR. WONG: If I could complete my answer totally.  
03 This is being revised currently, so within a very short  
04 time, there will be a new improved model out, if will  
05 you.  
06 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Are they going to be  
07 out before the 22nd of December?  
08 MR. WONG: I won't attest to that.  
09 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: If it's not out before  
10 the 22nd of December --  
11 MR. WONG: But the only caution I might make is  
12 that in the use of this, there are four different  
13 levels of specificity used in this particular, which

14 range all the way from just two habitat types, meaning  
15 pools and riffles, which are fairly relatively simple  
16 to measure, all the way to a very complex habitat  
17 description of the stream amounting to some 24  
18 different habitat types involving that stream. I would  
19 caution the use of this in that the parties involved  
20 make sure they use the grossest, if you will, specific  
21 level so that it's -- it would be easier or more  
22 accurate to reproduce those results.

23 In other words, if you have just the physical  
24 measurements, could lead to some inaccuracies in terms  
25 of monitoring on a year-to-year basis, but if you stick

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01 with rather large habitat types that are of importance  
02 to the parties, the way I understand it, I don't  
03 believe we'll ever find out to within 18 habitat types  
04 what the pre-diversion conditions were on Lower Rush  
05 Creek, for example, but you might come up with a  
06 percentage of pools to riffles. So what I'm saying is  
07 just use the document, that level, which is really  
08 required.

09 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you, Mr. Wong.

10 Next question, Mr. Roos-Collins?

11 Q BY MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Wong, bearing in mind  
12 Mr. Del Piero's remainder that we are attempting to  
13 conclude this hearing by December 22nd, I will conclude  
14 with one further question regarding the monitoring that  
15 you believe might be advisable to determine the effect  
16 of the flow regime adopted by this Board.

17 Would you recommend any monitoring of the  
18 characteristics described in Paragraph 7, specifically  
19 self-sustaining population, desirable size, and good  
20 physical condition of fish?

21 A Yes. That would be helpful, but at this point, I  
22 think, seeing as how things are coming back, you're  
23 really using that monitoring to try and determine if,  
24 in fact, there are any limiting factors that perhaps  
25 might be missed in the restoration process. So I would

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01 just use that as a gauge, for example, to make sure  
02 there is adequate spawning, that you are getting good  
03 year classes, and so on, from your restoration efforts.

04 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Mr. Wong, thank you very much.

05 No further questions.

06 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much,  
07 Mr. Roos-Collins.

08 Ms. Scoonover?

09 MS. SCOONOVER: I have no further questions of  
10 this witness.

11 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much.

12 Ms. Leidigh, do you have any questions? I'm  
13 sorry. Mr. Haselton, forgive me. You're hiding over  
14 there, and I can't see you over the top of the desk.

15 MR. HASELTON: I just have two questions.

16 RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. HASELTON

17 Q Mr. Wong, I just need a clarification on Number 21  
18 of your testimony, paragraph -- Point 21. You see  
19 that?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And it's the second sentence -- last sentence

22 reads, "A reduction in the augmented flows -- " we're  
23 speaking about the Upper Owens River. "A reduction in  
24 the augmented flows may enhance available habitat for,  
25 comma, or facilitate the recolonization of, comma,

0159

01 species with these specific habitat preferences." Does  
02 that statement include brown and rainbow trout, or --

03 A No. I was really, in that case, referring to  
04 native aquatic species that might have been adapted to  
05 a pre-diversion environment.

06 Q Okay. And please, I don't mean to be repetitive,  
07 but Ms. Cahill reminded me of something that I wanted  
08 to ask. The statement is that just merely fish  
09 population is not the only indicator of fish in good  
10 condition. What came to my mind would be the  
11 reciprocal. Would you interpret the absence of a fish  
12 population as an indicator of a problem?

13 A Well, again, we get to a matter of definition.  
14 The fact that a species is not present doesn't  
15 necessarily mean that it should be there. I mean, I  
16 think -- are you referring to --

17 Q I'm referring to the trout. I'm referring to the  
18 habitat, but I was hoping we could presume all of this  
19 and basically link to your comment --

20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Haselton, why  
21 don't you restate your question?

22 Q BY MR. HASELTON: My question is this, restated, is  
23 assuming that the habitat has -- exists, and it exists  
24 all -- exists with all the conditions that would be  
25 favorable, or would provide for it, maybe the word to

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01 use, for fish populations, the fact that there is an  
02 absence of fish, would that indicate a problem?

03 A The reason why I'm hesitating is, there are too  
04 many things going through my mind, the fact, what  
05 species and things biologists think about, I'm afraid,  
06 whether or not they originally were stocked there. I  
07 don't mean to slow things up, but it's very -- it makes  
08 a difference as far as an answer from my perspective.

09 Can you --

10 Q Well, you know what, Mr. Wong, I'll just go ahead  
11 and withdraw my question.

12 A I'm sorry.

13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much,  
14 Mr. Haselton.

15 Mr. Satkowski?

16 MR. SATKOWSKI: Yes, I have a question.

17 RE-CROSS EXAMINATION BY THE STAFF

18 Q This morning, L.A. Department of Water and Power  
19 introduced Exhibits L.A. Department of Water and Power  
20 91, 92, and 93. Do you recall those exhibits? Those  
21 were the ones that responded to the public proposals  
22 for angling regulations.

23 A Yes.

24 Q And on those exhibits, there were -- there was an  
25 analysis done, and in that analysis, I believe on all

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01 three exhibits, at the end of the paragraph talking  
02 about the -- I assume the fishery populations, it says  
03 that, "The population is in good condition and further

04 restrictions are unnecessary at this time." I believe  
05 when asked earlier you said that you did not know who  
06 performed this analysis; is that correct?  
07 A Yes.  
08 Q Yes. Is it possible that you could find out who  
09 performed this analysis and maybe get those analyses  
10 for the Board and also maybe find out -- it's not, if  
11 stated in the analysis, what this person meant by "good  
12 conditions."  
13 A It has come to my attention, because we didn't  
14 have it earlier, that there has been a statement made  
15 by the director of our department. It's in a letter to  
16 Mr. Ed Anton (phonetic), or a memo, excuse me, a  
17 memorandum to Mr. Ed Anton (phonetic) June 21st, 1993.  
18 And it's basically a --  
19 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Can we have an opportunity to  
20 review the memo before Mr. Wong reads from it?  
21 MS. CAHILL: This should be, in fact, already part  
22 of the Board's record in this case.  
23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Can I get a copy,  
24 Mr. Satkowski?  
25 MR. SATKOWSKI: Pardon?  
0162  
01 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'd like to see it,  
02 too.  
03 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me, Mr. Del Piero. Did I  
04 understand Ms. Cahill to say that this was already an  
05 exhibit that had been submitted by the Department of  
06 Fish and Game?  
07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I think she said it  
08 was already part of the record. Is that true?  
09 MS. CAHILL: I would assume it was. I'm perhaps  
10 wrong. To a certain extent, the Board incorporated all  
11 of its files in this matter. I would assume that  
12 letter to Ed Anton (phonetic) from the director --  
13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Copies went to  
14 Mr. Herrera, Mr. Frink, Mr. Canaday. The only person  
15 that didn't seem to get a copy was me.  
16 MS. CAHILL: I'm now noticing that this particular  
17 draft or this particular copy is not signed. I perhaps  
18 should go -- with some time should be able to locate  
19 the signed copies --  
20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Canaday, do you  
21 recall this?  
22 MR. CANADAY: Yes.  
23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Is it now a part of  
24 our records?  
25 MR. CANADAY: I don't recall whether it was signed  
0163  
01 or not, but I do recall the memo.  
02 MS. CAHILL: I'm just bringing it forward because  
03 it is the official position, signed, or at least either  
04 by or on behalf of the director.  
05 MR. WONG: The general response regarding angling  
06 regulations is made by --  
07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Excuse me, Mr. Wong.  
08 Mr. Birmingham, did you have any further comments  
09 there? I know you're trying to read it as quickly as  
10 you can.  
11 MR. BIRMINGHAM: May I ask that Mr. Satkowski's

12 last question be read?

13 MS. CAHILL: Actually, I apologize. I do have the  
14 signed copies.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Everybody take a seat  
16 for a second. Mrs. Anglin was asked to read a question  
17 back that she now has.

18 (Whereupon the record was read as requested.)

19 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Now, we've got two  
20 copies, one signed, one unsigned. They're quite  
21 different, which doesn't surprise me, Boyd Gibbons  
22 (phonetic) having been a journalist for most of his  
23 life, invariably edits everything submitted to him.  
24 Anybody who knows Boyd will appreciate that.

25 I would, inasmuch as -- the question I've got, are  
0164

01 these, in fact, the same documents? Or are these  
02 different documents? The reason I point this out is  
03 one is addressed to Ed Anton (phonetic), the chief of  
04 the Division of Water Rights. One is addressed to  
05 interested parties. One is -- one is four pages long  
06 including one page of attachments and an addendum with  
07 flows. The other one is a two-page letter with an  
08 addendum -- Pardon me. Three pages with an addendum.

09 Ms. Cahill, can you tell me?

10 MS. CAHILL: I think they are different  
11 documents. One was more widely circulated than the one  
12 to Mr. Anton (phonetic). I would assume for our  
13 purposes it might be, because they are already in your  
14 files, good to rely on the ones to Mr. Anton  
15 (phonetic), and there should be one for each stream,  
16 Walker, Parker. There's one on South Parker, Rush, and  
17 Lee Vining, I believe.

18 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: All dated the 21st of  
19 June 1993?

20 MS. CAHILL: So far as I can tell.

21 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Canaday, will you  
22 confirm that this correspondence is all in my record?  
23 Can you confirm it?

24 MR. CANADAY: Yes, we can. We believe that the  
25 first letter, the short memo --

0165

01 MR. HERRERA: The signed memo.

02 MR. CANADAY: The signed memo, was a cover letter  
03 to the report that was provided, 91-2.

04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Okay.

05 MR. CANADAY: And we believe that the other letter  
06 dated June 21st was a follow-up memorandum to Mr. Anton  
07 (phonetic) stating the department's position.

08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Okay. Now,  
09 Mr. Birmingham.

10 MR. BIRMINGHAM: The reason I requested that the  
11 question be read back was having reviewed these memos  
12 in a very cursory fashion, I don't understand how  
13 that's responsive to Mr. Satkowski's questions  
14 concerning who prepared the analysis that's contained  
15 in L.A. DWP 91, 92, and 93, and whether or not that  
16 person can explain that analysis.

17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I understand your  
18 question.

19 MR. BIRMINGHAM: And therefore, I don't -- I guess

20 I'm objecting to their being offered as part of a  
21 response to this question.  
22 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Because the response  
23 was nonresponsive?  
24 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Because the reference to these  
25 memoranda, and the memoranda, are unresponsive to  
0166  
01 Mr. Satkowski's question.  
02 MR. DODGE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Satkowski's  
03 question, as I understood it, related to the Department  
04 of Water and Power Exhibit 91, which was a reaction to  
05 Mr. Edmondson's proposal there not be any fish taken in  
06 various creeks. The documents that are floating around  
07 here appear to be on a different subject, and that is  
08 the Department of Fish and Game recommendations  
09 respecting various creeks.  
10 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm going to overrule  
11 your objection, Mr. Birmingham. I'm going to allow  
12 these to be introduced into the record based on the  
13 response given by Mr. Wong. The reason I'm doing that  
14 is although the connection between the question asked  
15 by Mr. Satkowski and the documents themselves is thin,  
16 I recall, during the course of the presentation of  
17 witnesses by other parties during this proceeding, I've  
18 extended the same opportunity for introduction of  
19 documents that resulted from responses to questions  
20 that were equally thin.  
21 Thank you. Are these being numbered?  
22 MS. CAHILL: I didn't know if they needed to be or  
23 if they were already part of the record.  
24 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: If they're on file --  
25 Mr. Satkowski --  
0167  
01 MS. CAHILL: For clarity, perhaps I will number  
02 them in order.  
03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Fine. Do we have  
04 numbers on these? What are your next two exhibit  
05 numbers?  
06 MR. SMITH: I think it's --  
07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Leeke 150 something?  
08 MS. CAHILL: 157, 158. 157 will be the next. We  
09 better make sure we're all on the same wave length.  
10 MR. HERRERA: That's correct, Mr. Del Piero. 157,  
11 158.  
12 MS. CAHILL: So we can make interested parties  
13 159. We can make the letter to Mr. Anton (phonetic) on  
14 Rush Creek 160.  
15 MR. HERRERA: 157 was the next one.  
16 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: They're going to be  
17 157 and 158.  
18 MS. CAHILL: You have only two, though. That's --  
19 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: We got two.  
20 MS. CAHILL: There are more.  
21 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Oh, the ones about the  
22 other creeks?  
23 MS. CAHILL: Yes.  
24 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: That are in the record  
25 that are all received? Well, they can block -- pardon  
0168  
01 me?

02 MR. HERRERA: They're in our files.  
03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Well, the nature of --  
04 these two have been presented in response to Mr. Wong's  
05 comments. We'll have these identified. If the other  
06 ones come up during the course, they can be identified  
07 as exhibits, also. If not -- and incorporated by us.  
08 So this is -- which one is 157 now, the signed one or  
09 the unsigned one?  
10 MS. CAHILL: The signed one. There's no reason to  
11 go with an unsigned one when we have a signed one.  
12 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm sorry, Mr. Del Piero. I'm  
13 really confused. I have been all day. It's very, very  
14 obvious. But I thought these were 158 and 159.  
15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Help me. Mr. Smith?  
16 MR. SMITH: 157 is the signed letter.  
17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: That's what I  
18 thought.  
19 MR. SMITH: 158 is the --  
20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Unsigned memo.  
21 MR. SMITH: Unsigned memo.  
22 MR. BIRMINGHAM: 157 is the signed letter that's  
23 addressed to interested parties. And 158 is --  
24 MR. SMITH: And the memorandum to Mr. Anton  
25 (phonetic) is 158.  
0169  
01 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Thank you very much.  
02 (DFG Exhibits Nos. 157, 158  
03 and 159 were marked for  
04 identification.)  
05 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Okay? Okay.  
06 Mr. Satkowski, further questions?  
07 MR. SATKOWSKI: No.  
08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Smith?  
09 MR. SMITH: No.  
10 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Herrera?  
11 MR. HERRERA: No.  
12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Canaday?  
13 MR. CANADAY: Yes.  
14 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Go for it.  
15 MR. CANADAY: First to clarify some old business  
16 that we had in the morning session, you asked a  
17 question of me, Mr. Del Piero, if, in fact, a comment  
18 letter by the regional board did, in fact, have  
19 attached to it a scientific paper titled Diatom  
20 Community Structure Along Physio-Chemical Gradients in  
21 Saline Lakes, and I went back to the records and, in  
22 fact, it has been, and it is part of our record.  
23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much.  
24 Mrs. Forster wants a copy of that to take home with  
25 her.  
0170  
01 MR. BIRMINGHAM: She hasn't been sleeping well?  
02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: That's exactly the  
03 point. We're going to guarantee that she gets a good  
04 night's rest.  
05 Q BY MR. CANADAY: Mr. Wong, earlier you testified that  
06 and made a suggestion that the -- this salmonid  
07 restoration manual could possibly be used in this  
08 particular process?  
09 A Yes.

10 Q Would you again read me the name of that manual,  
11 please?

12 A California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration  
13 Manual.

14 Q And that has a publish date of 1991?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And you've testified that this has been adopted by  
17 the department?

18 A It has been utilized by the anadromous fisheries  
19 branch and stream restoration -- when you say  
20 "adopted," it's one that's literally being utilized.

21 Q Adopted was your word.

22 A Yes. I'm clarifying it. There may or may not be  
23 a signed letter somewhere that attests to that.

24 Q And you've read this document?

25 A I have not read the entire document, but I have  
0171

01 attended a training session regarding this document and  
02 utilized portions of it.

03 Q Do you know if this document was offered to the  
04 planning team, the RTC planning team?

05 A No, I don't.

06 Q Are you aware that -- do you know that in that  
07 document there may be language that clarifies what good  
08 condition is?

09 A Not to my knowledge.

10 Q You were in Lee Vining last Friday; is that  
11 correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q For the testimony of the residents?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And is it your recollection that we heard  
16 testimony by two individuals that in Lee Vining Creek,  
17 the fish were generally between eight and ten inches?

18 A I do recall that.

19 Q And that their recollection was in Rush Creek, the  
20 fish tended to be larger than that, we'll characterize  
21 that, just larger than eight to ten inches?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Do you know of any other data, anecdotal or  
24 otherwise, that would support a characterization of  
25 desirably-sized adult vertebrate fish?

0172

01 A No. I really -- I'm not aware of any.

02 Q So in your opinion, we're left with this  
03 particular anecdotal information to characterize what  
04 the historic fishery may have been?

05 A That's correct. There has been some attempt to  
06 use Vestal's 1954 paper in that regard, and I would  
07 caution very much against utilizing that entirely for a  
08 number of reasons. That is, for one thing, that that  
09 is a paper which was peer reviewed and has been  
10 edited. It may or may not represent Mr. Vestal's  
11 actual beliefs at the time.

12 It also contains -- in looking at the type of  
13 fishery that was being depicted in that paper,  
14 basically, what was happening, as near as I can  
15 determine from reading it, people were literally being  
16 attracted to that site off of Highway 395 for the  
17 catchable trout that were being planted there. So the

18 kinds of anglers that you were basically attracting  
19 were, shall we say, perhaps not the most sophisticated  
20 anglers that there may have been in the area.

21 And that more or less also is or can be construed  
22 from the fact that 43 percent of some of the anglers  
23 had zero catch. For a catchable trout program that is  
24 not a very high rate of success. Also -- I don't have  
25 it handy, and I won't take the Board's time. But also  
0173

01 Mr. Vestal remarks in that paper that he's amazed that  
02 the brown trout population was able to hold up. So  
03 basically you had anglers that weren't necessarily  
04 brown trout anglers, so you're not really sure if  
05 you're trying to pull out the brown trout, wild trout  
06 portion of that population that may have been down  
07 there. By only utilizing those kinds of anglers to try  
08 to depict that, it could be -- it could easily affect  
09 your conclusions.

10 I personally know that brown trout can make it  
11 very well in very heavily-fished waters at times just  
12 because most catchable trout anglers are not fishing  
13 for that kind of fish, which is a more wary type and  
14 more difficult to catch. So in terms of using Vestal's  
15 paper, I think the information that you have which best  
16 describes it would be those that have been compiled in  
17 a manual or a report such as the one that Trihey has  
18 attempted to put together or is putting together  
19 regarding pre-1941 conditions in terms of habitat.

20 Also, you have people who were there and can  
21 attest to that, and you have photographs of what that  
22 habitat was like. And my personal opinion, or my  
23 professional opinion is that that may be the best that  
24 you can do to actually try to listen to these people,  
25 get corroborating evidence from them and believe them.  
0174

01 Q You testified that one element of good physical  
02 condition, good condition of a fishery, is, in fact,  
03 the physical environment in which that fishery lives;  
04 is that correct?

05 A Yes.

06 Q Is it your professional opinion that there would  
07 be significant benefits of rewatering the historical  
08 channels below Rush Creek Narrows?

09 A Based on the information I've seen and what I've  
10 heard, yes.

11 MR. CANADAY: Thank you. That's all I have.

12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much.

13 I think we have finished with you Mr. Wong.

14 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me, Mr. Del Piero. I've  
15 not done this before, and I don't plan on making it a  
16 habit. There have been a couple of issues that have  
17 come up in response to questions asked after my last  
18 recross, and I was wondering if I could take a few  
19 minutes and ask a few extra questions.

20 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Dodge?

21 MR. DODGE: I would object to that. We're going  
22 to get on a slippery slope if you allow it once.

23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm afraid I'm going  
24 to have to turn that request down.

25 You're excused, Mr. Wong.

0175

01 Ms. Cahill, you have a panel?

02 MS. CAHILL: I do. Do you want to take a break  
03 and let them set up?

04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Yes.

05 MS. CAHILL: We'll have six people on this panel.  
06 The direct will take -- the direct will take a  
07 considerable amount of time, but we will actually  
08 handle two of the major streams, and it will handle all  
09 six of these witnesses.

10 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Fine. We'll be on  
11 break for ten minutes.

12 (Whereupon a short recess was taken.)

13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Ladies and Gentlemen,  
14 this hearing will again come to order. Nice of you  
15 Gentlemen to join us this afternoon.

16 Ms. Cahill, you want to proceed?

17 MS. CAHILL: Yes, I would. First, I would like to  
18 note that we have provided today all parties copies of  
19 DFG 149. It was a slide that was used by Dr. Stine in  
20 his presentation yesterday.

21 And I have now obtained almost sufficient copies  
22 of DFG Exhibit -- we have numbered DFG Exhibit 158 an  
23 unsigned -- unsigned memo to Ed Anton (phonetic)  
24 regarding Rush Creek. Because we have the signed  
25 version it seems appropriate to use it instead, and so

0176

01 I will substitute a labeled DFG 158, the signed one, in  
02 place of the unsigned one. And we can do that at the  
03 next break.

04 This is our panel on the instream flow studies on  
05 Rush and Lee Vining Creek. We have a panel of six  
06 experts, and I think I will identify them now and then  
07 have each identify his own individual testimony as we  
08 get to his portion of the presentation.

09 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: None of these  
10 Gentlemen, I think, has been sworn.

11 MS. CAHILL: I think it would be wise to swear  
12 them.

13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Gentlemen, would you  
14 please rise and raise right hand? Do you promise to  
15 tell the truth during the course of this proceeding?

16 (All say yes.)

17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Please be seated.  
18 Proceed.

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. CAHILL

20 Q To my right is Gary Smith. He is with the  
21 Department of Fish and Game.

22 Next is David Christophel of Beak Consultants,  
23 Inc. Beak was basically the contractor on the Rush  
24 Creek study.

25 Next to him is Dr. Stacy Li who did fieldwork on

0177

01 the Rush Creek study, who is the principal in aquatic  
02 systems research, and he was the contractor on the Lee  
03 Vining study.

04 Next to him is Thomas R. Payne of Payne and  
05 Associates who did the calibration work on the Lee  
06 Vining study.

07 To his right is Dr. Matt Kondolf, who has

08 submitted testimony with regard to flushing flows and  
09 who was also involved in both of the studies.  
10 And last at the end of the table is Peter Vorster,  
11 who also was involved in hydrology on the studies.  
12 Peter Vorster will be called later by other parties on  
13 other matters, and I would request everyone's  
14 cooperation today to limiting the questions pretty much  
15 to the studies at hand.  
16 I'd like to begin by introducing Gary Smith.  
17 Gary, would you please state your name for the record?  
18 A BY MR. SMITH: Gary P. Smith.  
19 Q Mr. Smith, have you examined DFG Exhibit 3?  
20 A Yes, I have.  
21 Q Is that a copy of the testimony you're submitting  
22 in this matter?  
23 A Yes, it is.  
24 Q Do you have any corrections to make to that  
25 testimony?  
0178  
01 A No, I don't.  
02 Q Would you please look at DFG Exhibit 4? Is that a  
03 true copy of your qualifications?  
04 A I believe it is, yes.  
05 Q And could you please summarize your qualifications  
06 for us?  
07 A I have a Bachelor's and a Master's of Science  
08 degree in fisheries management from Humboldt State  
09 University. I am an environmental specialist with the  
10 Department of Fish and Game. I am currently the  
11 department's manager of instream investigations within  
12 the Mono Basin and the Upper Owens River.  
13 I began my career with the department in 1969. My  
14 experience in the eastern Sierra began in 1970. I have  
15 active experience in 25 streams in the state. In my  
16 former capacity as the department's instream flow  
17 coordinator, I was involved in 2 to 300 other  
18 investigations at various stages or at various stages  
19 throughout most of my career.  
20 In -- excuse me. I have been involved in  
21 fisheries investigations in the eastern Sierra, as I  
22 said, since 1970. I designed, implemented, and  
23 conducted the Eastern Sierra Trout Habitat Criteria  
24 Investigation, and I'm the Smith of Smith and Acitunal.  
25 Q Mr. Smith, were DFG Exhibits 53 through 63 stream  
0179  
01 evaluation reports that were prepared under your  
02 direction?  
03 A Yes, they were.  
04 Q And is DFG 115 a copy of the publication Smith and  
05 Acitunal Habitat Preference Criteria for Brown, Brook,  
06 and Rainbow Trout in Eastern Sierra Nevada Streams, was  
07 that a publication for which you are an author?  
08 A Yes, it is.  
09 Q Would you please very briefly summarize your  
10 testimony?  
11 A All right. I designed, administered, and managed  
12 the studies on Mill, Wilson, Parker, Walker, South  
13 Parker, Lee Vining, Rush Creeks, and the Upper Owens  
14 River for the Department of Fish and Game. It's been  
15 the department's policy since 1983 to require the use

16 of IFIM in instream flow assessments where it's  
17 appropriate.

18 Beak Consultants was selected jointly in a  
19 cooperative study to conduct an investigation on Rush  
20 Creek. They began their investigation in 1987.  
21 Aquatic Systems Research also was conducted -- excuse  
22 me, was selected to conduct instream investigation on  
23 Lee Vining Creek. They began their investigation in  
24 1990. These two investigations employed the IFIM  
25 PHABSIM complex. Studies on Parker, Walker, South

0180

01 Parker, couldn't use the IFIM PHABSIM complex because  
02 of the degrading conditions the streams were in. So  
03 other names were used to develop stream flow  
04 recommendations.

05 The Basco (phonetic) Environmental was selected --  
06 when I say "cooperatively," there's a number of parties  
07 that have been involved on all of these investigations  
08 in selecting the -- in various phases of developing the  
09 study -- it's like a contractor and -- following the  
10 investigation through to complete the report.

11 Back to where I was, Aquatic Systems -- excuse me,  
12 Basco (phonetic) Environmental was selected to conduct  
13 investigations on Parker and Walker and South Parker  
14 Creeks and the Upper Owens River. From those studies,  
15 the department has developed stream flow  
16 recommendations, and we've presented them to the  
17 Board.

18 For Rush Creek, the stream flow recommendations  
19 are included -- are presented on the easel there  
20 underneath the fish, and those recommendations are  
21 included in DFG Exhibits 52 and 53.

22 In Lee Vining Creek, investigation recommendations  
23 are just now being put on the easel, and they are in  
24 DFG Exhibit 54, 55.

25  
0181

01 you will note that the stream flow recommendations vary  
02 by month and by water year type. The Lee Vining  
03 recommendation includes a flushing flow. The Rush  
04 Creek -- excuse me. The Rush Creek recommendations do  
05 not include a flushing flow recommendation. It is --  
06 it will be necessary to develop flushing flow  
07 recommendations. Dr. Matt Kondolf is here to present  
08 testimony on that point.

09 Parker, Walker stream flow recommendations are, in  
10 Walker Creek, from April 1 through September, stream  
11 flow of 6 cfs. October through March, four and a half  
12 cfs with a flushing flow. Parker Creek recommendation,  
13 April through September, 9cfs, and October through  
14 March, 6 cfs. Again, with a flushing flow  
15 recommendation.

16 The Upper Owens River, Darrell Wong covered that  
17 earlier, and I will be very brief. That is, the  
18 recommendations are in Exhibit DFG 62, 63. The  
19 recommendation essentially is all the natural flow  
20 that's in the river is needed for -- to make it -- if  
21 water is diverted out of the Mono Basin, through the  
22 Mono Craters Tunnel into the Upper Owens, it should  
23 come out in a stable manner with a maximum flow

24 immediately downstream of the portal in the confluence  
25 of the Upper Owens of 200 cfs.

0182

01 MR. DODGE: Could I have a clarification,  
02 Mr. Del Piero?

03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Yes.

04 MR. DODGE: When Ms. Cahill presented this panel,  
05 I understood it to be recommendations on Rush Creek and  
06 Lee Vining Creek with the idea that Parker and Walker  
07 and the Upper Owens River would be covered later. And  
08 I'm just wondering whether my understanding was  
09 correct.

10 MS. CAHILL: It is correct that Walker, Parker,  
11 and the Upper Owens River will be subsequently dealt  
12 with.

13 MR. DODGE: Thank you.

14 Q BY MS. CAHILL: Does that conclude your direct  
15 testimony?

16 A BY MR. SMITH: Yes, it does.

17 Q Mr. Smith, were you familiar with the document  
18 that we are now providing as DFG Exhibit 158? This is  
19 the signed version.

20 A Yes, I am.

21 Q There has been some confusion, I believe, as to  
22 whether the recommendations being presented today are  
23 the official recommendations of the Department of Fish  
24 and Game. Are they?

25 A On which --

0183

01 Q On -- at this time on Rush and Lee Vining Creeks.

02 A Yes. They are the official recommendations of the  
03 department.

04 Q And are you familiar with the document, DFG 158?

05 A Yes, I am.

06 Q And that document states that the addendum stream  
07 flows, which are those on the graph, are stream flow  
08 requirements necessary to keep Rush Creek's brown trout  
09 resources in good condition as required under Fish and  
10 Game Code Sections 5937 and 5946; is that correct?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q And it's your understanding that that, then, is  
13 the department's official recommendation?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Thank you.

16 I would next like to introduce Mr. David  
17 Christophel. Mr. Christophel, would you please state  
18 your name and spell it for record?

19 A BY MR. CHRISTOPHEL: David B. Christophel,  
20 C-H-R-I-S-T-O-P-H-E-L.

21 Q Mr. Christophel, have you had an opportunity to  
22 examine DFG Exhibit 5?

23 A Yes, I have.

24 Q And is that a true copy of your testimony?

25 A Yes, it is.

0184

01 Q Do you have any corrections to make to that  
02 testimony?

03 A No.

04 Q And have you examined DFG Exhibit 6?

05 A Yes.

06 Q And that's a statement of your qualifications. Is  
07 it accurate?  
08 A Yes, it is.  
09 Q And DFG Exhibits 75 through 86, these are slides  
10 that you have provided us to be used today; is that  
11 correct?  
12 A I -- to tell you the truth, I'm not sure on the  
13 numbers, but -- well.  
14 Q 75 through 86?  
15 A 87.  
16 DR. LI: 73.  
17 A BY MR. CHRISTOPHEL: 73 through 87.  
18 Q 73 through 87, thank you.  
19 And DFG Exhibits 52 and 53, those are -- the  
20 report that was prepared by Beak Consultants for the  
21 Department of Fish and Game; is that correct?  
22 A That is correct.  
23 MS. CAHILL: Because there's going to be a joint  
24 presentation on Rush Creek by Dr. Li and  
25 Mr. Christophel, I'd like to do Dr. Li's preliminary  
0185  
01 materials also now.  
02 Q BY MS. CAHILL: Dr. Li, would you please state your  
03 name and spell it for record?  
04 A BY MR. LI: Stacy K. Li, last name spelled L-I.  
05 Q Dr. Li, is DFG Exhibit 7 a copy of your testimony?  
06 A Yes, it is.  
07 Q And do you have any corrections to make in that?  
08 A No, I don't.  
09 Q Do you -- would you please compare the exhibit  
10 numbers in your testimony with the exhibit numbers on  
11 the reports?  
12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Dr. Li, you're going  
13 to need to get the microphone closer.  
14 DR. LI: Okay.  
15 Q BY MS. CAHILL: Dr. Li, should we, in fact, correct  
16 your testimony to show that the two reports by Aquatic  
17 Systems Research are DFG Exhibit Nos. 54 and 55?  
18 A Yes, we should.  
19 Q Dr. Li, is DFG Exhibit 8 a statement your  
20 qualifications?  
21 A 8. Yes, it is.  
22 Q And is it true and correct?  
23 A Yes, it is.  
24 Q Would you briefly summarize your qualifications  
25 for us?  
0186  
01 A Yes. I received my -- the bulk of my education at  
02 the University of California at Davis where I received  
03 a bachelors, a B.S. in zoology, an AB in psychology, a  
04 masters of arts in psychology, and a Ph.D. in  
05 psychology specializing in evolution, ecology, and  
06 animal behavior.  
07 I -- upon graduation, I taught animal behavior at  
08 the University of California at Davis and also two  
09 semesters of ecological methods for Sacramento State  
10 University.  
11 Q And how are you currently employed?  
12 A I am the principal of Aquatic Systems Research.  
13 In addition, I guess I'm noted for -- I have been

14 a consulting biologist since 1980, have participated in  
15 about 60 different stream assessments, 20 to 25 of  
16 which used IFIM.

17 Q Mr. Christophel, I've already forgotten whether I  
18 asked to you summarize your experience.

19 A BY MR. CHRISTOPHEL: You did not.

20 Q Would you, please?

21 A Yes, I will. I have bachelors and masters degrees  
22 from California State University at Sacramento, both of  
23 which are in biological sciences with an emphasis on  
24 fisheries and wildlife management. I'm presently a  
25 senior scientist with Beak Consultants in the

0187

01 Sacramento office.

02 I participated in the Rush Creek field studies and  
03 in the preparation of the report, and I've been  
04 involved in numerous other instream flow and fisheries  
05 investigations in California.

06 Q Thank you.

07 Dr. Li and Mr. Christophel will go back and forth  
08 a bit. It's a joint presentation.

09 Would you please begin Mr. Christophel?

10 A As Mr. Smith indicated, Beak was awarded the  
11 contract to conduct the instream flow investigation in  
12 Rush Creek in 1987. At that time, Dr. Li was with  
13 Beak, and he it was project manager. As the project  
14 manager, he was responsible for all aspects of the  
15 project including the study design, the collection of  
16 field data, and the analysis of those data.

17 Dr. Li left Beak in 1989 prior to the completion  
18 of the report, hence he did not participate in the  
19 development of the instream flow recommendations.

20 What we'd like to do the give a brief summary of  
21 our testimony and using slides to aid in that process,  
22 Dr. Li will give the initial portion, which constitutes  
23 the field studies and the analysis. I will present the  
24 portion on flow recommendations.

25 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Mr. Del Piero?

0188

01 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Yes, Mr. Birmingham.

02 MR. BIRMINGHAM: The copies of the slides which we  
03 are about to see, in fact, copies of all the  
04 photographs that were submitted by the Department of  
05 Fish and Game to Los Angeles Department of Water and  
06 Power, were black and white photocopies of photographs,  
07 and it's very difficult to discern anything in any of  
08 it. And I'm wondering if we could get copies of the  
09 slides or photos.

10 The Department of Fish and Game has subsequently  
11 provided us with color photocopies of the photographs  
12 they're using, and they're much better. And if we  
13 could get copies of those, we would appreciate it very  
14 much.

15 MS. CAHILL: We can do that.

16 MR. THOMAS: Well, I'm responsible for the budget  
17 in this project, and if you would pick specifically  
18 something you need to find, we'd be happy to do so, but  
19 we are not subject to the great deep pocket that Los  
20 Angeles offers to some of the other witnesses, so we  
21 pay out of our taxpayers' money. So we would

22 appreciate you limiting your cost to exactly --  
23 MR. BIRMINGHAM: If I can explain the problem I  
24 have.  
25 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: It's difficult to know  
0189 what you're looking for.  
02 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Sometimes it's very difficult to  
03 know without looking at a photocopy. For instance,  
04 yesterday, Dr. Stine put a slide up and that slide was  
05 difficult to see. And now in reviewing the color  
06 photocopy that's been provided to us, we can see a lot  
07 more detail. And I have some questions I'd like to ask  
08 Dr. Stine about that slide. And I presume I'll have  
09 that opportunity when Dr. Stine comes back.  
10 I understand Mr. Thomas' budget constraint, but at  
11 the same time, when I'm looking at a black and white  
12 photocopy of a photograph or a slide, it's very  
13 difficult for me to judge whether or not there's  
14 something that I should ask about in that photocopy.  
15 MS. CAHILL: I --  
16 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Wait. Wait. Wait.  
17 Wait. Wait. Wait. Wait. Mr. Thomas?  
18 MR. THOMAS: Just ask him whatever he needs.  
19 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I need it all.  
20 MS. CAHILL: In fact, to accommodate things, Tom,  
21 if you have your black and whites, we have one set of  
22 color Xeroxes here that we will provide so that you can  
23 have them at counsel table and have them for cross,  
24 except they're numbered, well, yours are numbered.  
25 Liz, you don't have a black and white numbered  
0190 set?  
01 set?  
02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: We'll do the best we  
03 can. Mr. Thomas, you see if you can arrange to get a  
04 full set of the copies made.  
05 MS. CAHILL: Actually, Tom, they'll be on the  
06 screen during the presentation. We will lend you the  
07 color copies during your examination.  
08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Do we have duplication  
09 capabilities?  
10 MR. SMITH: Not color.  
11 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Thomas, let me  
12 suggest something. If there's a real budgetary  
13 problem, Dave Kennedy's got duplication capability,  
14 okay?  
15 MR. THOMAS: Dave Kennedy has the State Water  
16 Project.  
17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I understand that,  
18 okay? If it necessitates me calling the secretary of  
19 resources to get a duplicate copy made by the  
20 Department of Water Resources, I'll be happy to do  
21 that. But I don't think I have to, but I'll do it.  
22 MR. THOMAS: We'll do our best.  
23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Now.  
24 Q BY MS. CAHILL: Dr. Li, would you please begin?  
25 A BY DR. LI: The Rush Creek instream flow  
0191 investigation was conducted in the summer of 1987.  
02 Now, instream flow investigations prior to this time,  
03 from my perspective, suffered from one weakness, and

04 that weakness was experimental bias. Therefore, when  
05 Beak was awarded the Rush Creek instream flow  
06 investigation, we decided to control that bias by using  
07 a two-stage, stratified, random-sampling, experimental  
08 design. That design selected reaches of the stream and  
09 habitat types within those reaches to sample.

10 The basis for the sampling was based upon a  
11 compilation of habitat types identified numerically,  
12 then randomly selected using random number tables. And  
13 this greatly facilitated arguments on the stream in  
14 terms of which habitat types would be -- would be used  
15 for the sampling.

16 With any instream flow investigation, we have a  
17 scoping meeting that was conducted in -- let's see.  
18 This was conducted in Lee Vining where all the -- all  
19 the interested parties listed here on this -- can we  
20 have numbers for these slides?

21 Q No. This is -- just read off who it was that  
22 participated.

23 Q On this slide is Department of Fish and Game, Los  
24 Angeles Department of Water and Power, Beak  
25 Consultants, Incorporated, EA Engineering, U.S. Forest

0192

01 Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mono Lake  
02 Committee, and Cal Trout. At this meeting, our study  
03 design was presented, and we accepted input from these  
04 parties.

05 Next slide. This is the study area for the study  
06 in 1987 beginning at Mono Gate One and going down to  
07 the county road consisting of six separate reaches.

08 Next slide, please. This is a photograph of Mono  
09 Gate One. It is the structure by which Rush Creek  
10 receives water from Grant Reservoir.

11 Next slide.

12 Q That was DFG 73. And the next slide is DFG 74?

13 A DFG 74 is a slide of the return ditch, Reach One.  
14 It's a -- it's an artificial channel that delivers  
15 water from Mono Gate One to Rush Creek.

16 Next slide, please.

17 Q Next slide is DFG 75.

18 A This is Reach Two. It is characterized by still  
19 having an existing riparian canopy, having relatively  
20 steep but stable banks with a moderate grading.

21 Next slide, please.

22 Q DFG 76.

23 A Reach Three extends from Reach Two -- we call  
24 Reach Two "The Gorge" because it seemed to be a  
25 canyon. And this extends from The Gorge to The

0193

01 Narrows. That is moderate gradient reach that, at this  
02 flow in the summer of 1987 with the flow of 19 cfs, had  
03 relatively little riparian vegetation.

04 Next slide, please.

05 Q DFG 77.

06 A This is The Narrows. It's that great big notch of  
07 rock down at Rush Creek. It's a relatively short reach  
08 of something like 300 feet or so, fairly steep,  
09 characterized by deep-plunge pools and steep cascades.

10 Next slide, please.

11 Q DFG 78.

12 A This is -- this is Reach Five, what everybody has  
13 been calling The Bottom Lands or The Meadows, and as  
14 you can see back in 1987, it didn't have much riparian  
15 vegetation.

16 Next slide, please.

17 Q DFG 79.

18 A Reach Five is between The Narrows to what's been  
19 called The Ford.

20 This is Reach Six. It is our downstream-most  
21 reach. It extends from The Ford to the county road  
22 and, as you can see, it wasn't much of a stream back  
23 then.

24 Next slide. We start our investigation with  
25 aquatic habitat delineation. The purposes of the  
0194

01 delineation is to define the sampling universe that we  
02 use for the stratified sampling procedure. Using  
03 habitat mapping, biologists walk along the stream,  
04 identify the habitat types, measure its thalweg length,  
05 and compile that so that we can determine the  
06 habitat-type composition and representation within each  
07 reach. Next slide.

08 MR. CANADAY: Mr. Li, can you spell thalweg,  
09 please?

10 DR. LI: Thalweg, T-H-A-L-W-E-G.

11 Q BY MS. CAHILL: And you might define it as well.

12 A BY DR. LI: It's the deepest thread along the stream  
13 course.

14 MR. HERRERA: Ms. Cahill that's 20 minutes.

15 MS. CAHILL: Mr. Del Piero, I would apply for an  
16 additional 20 minutes at this time.

17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Granted.

18 DR. LI: Here's the guys on the stream back in '87  
19 measuring it with a open-reel tape.

20 Next slide. The guy in the blue cap with the  
21 Dodgers hat on was Mr. Christophel.

22 Q BY MS. CAHILL: The last slide was DFG 80 and the  
23 next one is DFG 81.

24 A These are the kinds of habitat types that we were  
25 identifying during the course of this survey. This is  
0195

01 riffle. It's characterized by being relatively shallow  
02 with turbulent water surface and generally fairly fast  
03 water velocities.

04 Next slide. This is a run. Runs are  
05 characterized as being relatively deep habitats with  
06 moving water but the water surface elevation is fairly  
07 stable and not dropping.

08 Q This is DFG 82.

09 A Next slide, please.

10 Q DFG 83.

11 A This is a picture of a pool. Pools are simply  
12 deep aquatic habitats, relatively slow water velocity,  
13 relatively tranquil water surfaces, generally  
14 controlled by some structure that controls where the  
15 water surface is.

16 Next slide, please.

17 Q DFG 84.

18 A This is an example of the infamous Rock Gardens.  
19 They're characterized by having large boulder elements,

20 ponding behind those boulder elements in a diverse  
21 water flow pattern around those -- around those rocks.  
22 Next slide, please. This hydrology is an  
23 important element of an IFIM study. There were two  
24 components in the Rush Creek study. The first to take  
25 measurements to determine whether the stream is gaining

0196

01 or losing stream flow as it flows downstream. So you  
02 have an idea of how much you're losing as it traverses  
03 and also whether that pattern changed from season to  
04 season.

05 The second portion of the hydrology component is  
06 an examination of the hydrological record.

07 Now, these elements were developed for the Rush  
08 Creek study by Peter Vorster.

09 Next slide. Here's the -- a representation of the  
10 hydrological record from 1937 to 1987 expressing mean  
11 monthly flows, and you can see that the bulk of the  
12 water is -- goes down the stream between May and July  
13 and then it recedes to a lower level the remainder of  
14 the year.

15 Q This is a color version of Figure 8 in DFG 52.

16 A Next slide, please. Habitat discharge  
17 relationships is the core of the Rush Creek study. We  
18 randomly selected 51 sampling sites that was measured  
19 using 78 transects. The selection of the sampling  
20 sites and transects was open to all parties and  
21 personnel from Los Angeles Department of Water and  
22 Power that represent us participated in that.

23 Next slide please. We collected stream flow at  
24 four different stream flow levels; 100 cfs, 60 cfs, 19  
25 cfs, and about 13 cfs during the summer.

0197

01 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me, Dr. Li. Can I ask,  
02 who is that good-looking man standing in the middle of  
03 the photograph?

04 DR. LI: He's not quite in the middle. He's sort  
05 of a rightist, as we know.

06 This is Gary Smith and this is David Christophel  
07 standing behind the auto level, and that's Lawrence of  
08 Loomis, Stacy Li sitting here doing something.

09 (Laughter.)

10 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Obviously, you  
11 couldn't identify them because of the quality of the  
12 photograph; is that it?

13 MS. CAHILL: It's because of the light in the  
14 room. This is DFG 87.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: That explains it.

16 MS. CAHILL: And the fish which I didn't even see  
17 was DFG --

18 DR. LI: I don't think we've gotten to the fish  
19 yet.

20 MR. DODGE: It looks to me like Mr. Birmingham  
21 will have greater problems than just having a black and  
22 white copy of that one.

23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: It's because we  
24 haven't gotten it dark enough in here yet. If we cover  
25 all of watch faces, we probably could get it dark

0198

01 enough.

02 DR. LI: That field data is collected by  
03 stringing, essentially, a tape across the streams and  
04 measuring depth, velocity at most of the flows, water  
05 surface elevation, a measurement called "stage of zero  
06 flow," which is a measurement of the downstream  
07 hydraulic control.

08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Doctor, they told us  
09 you could even watch the slides and talk at the same  
10 time. This is a test.

11 DR. LI: Yes, it is.

12 Next slide, please. And after the data's  
13 collected, the model is calibrated to those measurement  
14 flows and weighted usable area stream discharge  
15 relationships are --

16 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham? Grab  
17 Scott. Make him sit down and let go of the light  
18 switch. That's fine.

19 (Laughter.)

20 MR. STEIN: L.A. DWP's expert had the lights on in  
21 the front of the room where the slides were and the  
22 lights off in the back of the room where they weren't.

23 MR. DODGE: I believe that Dr. Stine has arrived.

24 (Laughter.)

25 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Really? I hadn't  
0199 noticed.

02 (Laughter.)

03 Q BY MS. CAHILL: This is Figure 21 from DFG 52.

04 A BY DR. LI: Anyway, you develop relationships for  
05 four life stages of brown trout; spawning, adult,  
06 juvenile, and fry.

07 Next slide. Fish resources. We also collected  
08 information of fish species and their populational  
09 characteristics in 1987.

10 Next slide, please. Here we go again. Gary's  
11 playing D.W. Griffith (phonetic) here and photographing  
12 us. This is David Christophel applying the electric  
13 field to the fish, and that's how you catch fish, you  
14 estimate numbers of fish within a confined part of the  
15 stream. It's blocked off by nets to preclude movement  
16 of fish in or out of these sections, and based upon a  
17 removal pattern, fish abundance is estimated.

18 Q This is DFG 85.

19 A Next slide, please. This is a picture of one of  
20 the larger fish that was caught in 1987. This fish was  
21 about 14 and a half inches long, as I recall.

22 Q DFG 86.

23 A Next slide, please. Effluvial geomorphology was  
24 an important component in the Rush Creek study and  
25 Dr. Kondolf was responsible for those elements.

0200

01 Next slide, please. Water temperature modeling is  
02 an important component, particularly in Rush Creek.

03 Next slide, please. We measured water  
04 temperatures at four locations in Rush Creek. Station  
05 One is right at Mono Gate One where the water comes out  
06 of the lake. Station Two is at Old Highway 395.  
07 Station Three is at The Narrows, and Station Four is at  
08 The Ford.

09 The -- what you see with this, in brief, is very

10 small fluctuations of daily water temperatures at  
11 Station One increasing downstream, and I will point out  
12 that in -- at Station Three and at Station Four, water  
13 temperatures exceeded 80 degrees with flow of 19  
14 second-feet in August. 80 degrees is sort of a  
15 rule-of-thumb temperature that is indicating that water  
16 temperatures may be too high for trout populations.

17 Q Dr. Li, you may have misspoke and you said August,  
18 but I think you pointed at July. Can you clarify that,  
19 please?

20 A I misspoke. It is in July. July and August tend  
21 to be the highest water temperature times for our  
22 region of the country.

23 Q And this is Figure 42 in DFG 52.

24 A Next slide, please. We made assessments of  
25 riparian vegetation, and now we're coming to instream  
0201

01 flow recommendations. And David will run you through  
02 those.

03 A BY MR. CHRISTOPHEL: Dr. Li has just gone through and  
04 described the various study components that were part  
05 of the instream flow investigation and, to one extent  
06 or another, each of those studies was used in the  
07 development of the instream flow recommendations.

08 Before I begin, though, I'd like to repeat our  
09 objective because I think it's important in the  
10 understanding of why we approached this the way that we  
11 did. Our objective was to identify a flow regime in  
12 Rush Creek that would maintain brown trout habitat  
13 that was within the context of the channel as it  
14 existed in 1987 and consideration of the flows  
15 unimpaired by diversions at Grant Lake.

16 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Could the Reporter mark that,  
17 please?

18 MR. CHRISTOPHEL: We approached that objective  
19 based on a goal of maintaining the median habitat level  
20 of Rush Creek that would occur in the absence of  
21 diversions. The median habitat is simply the amount of  
22 habitat that is there at least half of the time. It's  
23 also the habitat level about which habitat values  
24 fluctuate.

25 We also developed the flow recommendations in  
0202

01 consideration of hydrologic conditions and, as you've  
02 heard, we developed our flows for dry, normal, and wet  
03 conditions.

04 We obtained the median habitat values from a  
05 habitat duration analysis -- and could I have the first  
06 slide? These values for weighted usable area were  
07 tabulated then for each brown trout life stage, for  
08 each month, and for each hydrologic condition. From  
09 those median habitat values, then, we identified the  
10 flow level --

11 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me. I wonder if you could  
12 possibly go to the other side of the screen.

13 MR. THOMAS: I would rather block counsel for L.A.  
14 than the Board member.

15 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I didn't mean to request --

16 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: We can see just fine.  
17 Stay right where you are. All of us can see just

18 fine.

19 MR. CHRISTOPHEL: Okay. Well, I prefer to speak  
20 to you, too, but -- we identified the flow levels --

21 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: If you speak into the  
22 microphone, we'll be happy. Okay?

23 MR. CHRISTOPHEL: -- the flow levels that were  
24 associated with those median values; in other words,  
25 those are the flows that would produce those median  
0203

01 values in the stream. Those flow levels were obtained  
02 from the habitat discharge relationship that Dr. Li had  
03 indicated earlier. As an example -- if I could have  
04 the next slide, please.

05 MS. FORSTER: If you stand at the corner of the  
06 podium, I think we can see.

07 MR. CHRISTOPHEL: For example, in September under  
08 dry conditions, the median habitat value was 180,493  
09 square feet.

10 Next slide, please. From the habitat discharge  
11 relationship, then, that flow or that habitat amount  
12 corresponded to a flow of 39.6 cfs. Those flows, then,  
13 associated with the median habitat values, were the  
14 basis for our flow recommendations -- can we have the  
15 next slide, please? -- which are indicated in the  
16 white. Those white numbers, then, are the flows  
17 associated with the median habitat values for each of  
18 those months and under each hydrologic condition.

19 We also considered the results of the other  
20 investigations in an effort to adjust those  
21 accordingly. One of the considerations that we made  
22 was for water temperature and, based on our water  
23 temperature modeling, we found that for the flows that  
24 that we were recommending based on median habitat  
25 values, water temperature would not be a concern hence,  
0204

01 water temperature was not used to adjust those flows  
02 any further.

03 We also considered the studies on effluvial  
04 geomorphology and specifically, the sediment transport  
05 model. From that modeling, we found that spawning  
06 gravel in Rush Creek, particularly in Reaches Two and  
07 Three, became mobile at flows of 60 cfs and greater.  
08 Our concern was that if spawning gravel was blocked by  
09 Grant Dam, that continued or sustained flows greater  
10 than 60 cfs would adversely influence spawning habitat  
11 in Rush Creek. What we did to avoid that was to limit  
12 our flow recommendations, our monthly flow  
13 recommendations, to 60 cfs. And those months where we  
14 made those adjustments are indicated in the green.

15 We also made adjustments during the -- excuse me,  
16 the spawning period, November and December. Based on  
17 the median habitat values that were generated and the  
18 flows that corresponded to those, we noticed that under  
19 all hydrologic conditions, the flows during December  
20 were less than the flows that occurred during  
21 November. Our concern was that eggs deposited in the  
22 gravel during November may be adversely influenced by  
23 flow reductions in the following month, in December.  
24 What we did in that situation to avoid that potential  
25 problem is to take the average of the two months and

0205

01 apply that average flow level to both months.  
02 A final consideration was made during dry  
03 hydrologic conditions. During August, October, and  
04 March, the flow levels that were associated with those  
05 months were considerably different than the flows that  
06 occurred in the months preceding and following. To  
07 provide a smoother flow transition from month to month,  
08 we took the average of the preceding month and the  
09 following month and applied that value to the month in  
10 question. For example, in March, based on median  
11 habitat, the flow that we would recommend would be 52  
12 cfs. But, to smooth the transition, we took the  
13 average of the 32 cfs in February and 35 cfs in April  
14 and used a value of 34 cfs during that month. These  
15 flows, then, as adjusted, served as the basis or served  
16 as our instream flow recommendations to the Department  
17 of Fish and Game, and they are the flows that appeared  
18 in our report.  
19 Subsequent to that report, and in consideration of  
20 the gravel replenishment program that was going on, the  
21 California Department of Fish and Game removed the  
22 restriction that we had imposed, the 60 cfs cap, and  
23 returned the numbers back to what we would have  
24 recommended if spawning gravel considerations had not  
25 been an issue.

0206

01 May I have the next slide, please? These flows,  
02 then, are the final recommendations made by the  
03 Department of Fish and Game.  
04 And that concludes my testimony.  
05 Q BY MS. CAHILL: Those final flows, by the way, are in  
06 an addendum that should be in the beginning of  
07 everyone's copy of the Rush Creek report. And if they  
08 are not, let us know, and we will attach one. Those  
09 numbers are also found in the testimony of Gary Smith.  
10 Thank you, Mr. Christophel.  
11 Dr. Li, would you now basically explain the Lee  
12 Vining IFIM study? And I think we can have lights.  
13 A BY DR. LI: Aquatic Systems Research was awarded the  
14 Lee Vining Creek study in 1990 and not surprisingly, I  
15 guess, the thought pattern that was developed in the  
16 Rush Creek study was continued and elaborated upon in  
17 the Lee Vining Creek study.  
18 It also is a two-stage stratified, random-sampling  
19 design by reach and by habitat type. The habitat types  
20 were defined through improved methods of habitat  
21 delineation. There was a component of hydrology that  
22 studied the same components as the Rush Creek study in  
23 terms of determining the stream gains and losses and  
24 examination of the hydrological record. And there are  
25 a variety of other complementary studies that were --

0207

01 that were performed.  
02 But to cut to the quick with this --  
03 Q If you want to take down the fish --  
04 MS. FORSTER: Oh, no.  
05 MS. CAHILL: I don't want to risk our borrowed  
06 fish being hurt.  
07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Who does the fish

08 belong to?

09 MR. LI: The fish belongs to Ken Rockel  
10 (phonetic), Bridgeport Hardware Store up there.

11 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: My nine year old  
12 didn't believe you, did he?

13 DR. LI: What he said was he caught one that big,  
14 but you didn't.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: He did. It was a  
16 salmon, though. He didn't tell you it was out in the  
17 middle of Monterey Bay.

18 DR. LI: The flow data for Lee Vining were  
19 collected at three separate flows, about 50, about 35,  
20 and about 3 cfs. Tom Payne did final calibration of  
21 the model to make sure that they were calibrated, and  
22 from that we get weighted usable area discharge  
23 relationships for life stages of brown trout, spawning,  
24 adult, juvenile and fry.

25 I am pointing to a blowup of Figure 16 from DFG  
0208

01 54. I'm going to be writing on an easel here, and I  
02 want to provide the Board my thought process for  
03 developing the flows for Lee Vining Creek.

04 Fish and Game -- there are two target life stages  
05 used to develop the instream flow schedule. Adults,  
06 and this life stage was under consideration from April  
07 through September, and spawning, which occurs between  
08 October and March. The period from October to March  
09 covers not only the period when the fish are actively  
10 spawning, but also takes into consideration the  
11 incubation environment of the developing embryos in the  
12 gravels.

13 The goal for our study was to mimic the natural  
14 hydrograph, so we developed our recommendations bases  
15 upon water years, dry, normal.

16 MR. HERRERA: Ms. Cahill, that's 20 minutes.

17 MS. CAHILL: Mr. Del Piero, I would apply for an  
18 additional 20 minutes.

19 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Given the nature of  
20 the panel, it's granted. I think that will be the last  
21 20 minutes.

22 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Excuse me, Mr. Del Piero, there  
23 are a number of witnesses here, and it is a subject  
24 which is of importance, and the Department of Water and  
25 Power would have no objection if Ms. Cahill got  
0209

01 additional time beyond this 20 minutes. There are a  
02 number of other witnesses on the panel.

03 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I understand. I also  
04 understand that this is a summary of written  
05 testimony.

06 MS. CAHILL: In fact, both Mr. Payne and  
07 Mr. Vorster will simply identify their testimony.

08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: That's fine.

09 DR. LI: So since we're to mimic the natural  
10 hydrograph, we recommend 80 percent of the measured  
11 weighted usable area in dry years. This 80 percent  
12 seems to be reasonable. Dr. Hardy identified that as a  
13 reasonable level to recommend.

14 90 percent in -- 90 percent of maximum measured in  
15 normal years, and 100 percent in wet years when there

16 is enough water for -- to completely satisfy the fish  
17 but also to allow diversions, too.  
18 Q BY MS. CAHILL: Dr. Li, would you clarify, too, those  
19 are percentages of habitat rather than percentages of  
20 flow; is that correct?  
21 A That's correct. Now, initially, I thought an 80-  
22 90-, and 100-percent schedule would be adequate for the  
23 spawning period. But as it turns out, 80 percent of  
24 the maximum flow for spawning would only support  
25 something like 60 percent of the adult habitat, and

0210

01 since we have to balance for life stages, we increase  
02 this to 90 percent, which accounted -- which would  
03 support approximately 70 percent of the adult habitat.  
04 And I made a similar adjustment for normal years and  
05 increased this to 100 percent, which supported  
06 approximately 80 percent of the adult habitat in normal  
07 years.

08 There were other -- so, if we go through this --  
09 if we go through this process in using one of the more  
10 easy ones to demonstrate, 100 percent in the wet year,  
11 you go to the adults, comes to -- the highest measure  
12 comes down to about 95 cfs. And that applies to the  
13 wet period for the adults. In addition to these -- the  
14 schedule, there are provisions in normal years for a  
15 three-day flushing flow of 160 second-feet during the  
16 runoff period. And during wet years, there would be a  
17 channel maintenance flow of 160 second-feet for 30 days  
18 in the wet years. These recommendations are based upon  
19 the recommended flow or the natural flow, whichever is  
20 less.

21 That ends my testimony for Lee Vining.

22 Q Thank you, Dr. Li.

23 Mr. Payne, would you please state your name and  
24 spell it for the record?

25 A BY MR. PAYNE: My name is Thomas R. Payne, P-A-Y-N-E.

0211

01 Q And have you had the opportunity to review DFG  
02 Exhibit 15?

03 A Yes, I have.

04 Q And is that a -- would you, please, in that -- is  
05 that a copy of the testimony you've submitted?

06 A Yes, it is.

07 Q And could you tell us what number should be  
08 inserted as the DFG report numbers?

09 A This was prepared prior to the assignment of these  
10 numbers, and in Paragraph Number 3, that should state  
11 "Exhibits DFG 54 and DFG 55."

12 Q And with that correction, is this a true and  
13 correct copy of your testimony?

14 A Yes, it is.

15 Q And have you reviewed DFG Exhibit 16?

16 A Yes, I have.

17 Q And is that a true and correct statement of your  
18 qualifications?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Would you briefly review your qualifications for  
21 us?

22 A I have a bachelors and a masters degree in  
23 fisheries biology from Humboldt State University. The

24 bulk of my experience since graduation has been at two  
25 jobs; one about eight years with the U.S. Fish and  
0212  
01 Wildlife Service as a fisheries and fish and wildlife  
02 biologist, and for the past 11 years, I have been a  
03 principal of Thomas R. Payne and Associates, a  
04 fisheries consulting firm that specializes in instream  
05 flow studies.  
06 Q Could you very briefly, just in a sentence or two,  
07 tell us what your role was in the Lee Vining Creek  
08 study?  
09 A Thomas R. Payne and Associates was a subcontractor  
10 to Aquatic Systems Research, and we participated in the  
11 field data collection for Lee Vining Creek study and  
12 performed the hydraulic calibration of the model for  
13 the Lee Vining study.  
14 Q Thank you.  
15 If we could mark Dr. Li's last exhibit before we  
16 forget, DFG 163.  
17 Mr. Vorster, let me come to you next. Would you  
18 please state your name and spell it for the record?  
19 A BY MR. VORSTER: My name is Peter Vorster. That's V,  
20 as in Victor, O-R-S-T-E-R.  
21 Q Mr. Vorster, have you had the opportunity to  
22 review DFG Exhibit 13?  
23 A Yes, I have.  
24 Q Is that an accurate copy of your testimony?  
25 A Yes, it is.  
0213  
01 Q Do you have any corrections to make?  
02 A No, I do not.  
03 Q And of you reviewed DFG 14?  
04 A Yes, I have.  
05 Q Is that a statement your qualifications?  
06 A At the time I prepared this, it was.  
07 Q Do you have corrections to make?  
08 A No. Just minor additions since that time.  
09 Q Is it basically true and accurate?  
10 A Yes, it is.  
11 Q Could you briefly summarize your qualifications as  
12 they relate to the work you did here, if that makes a  
13 difference.  
14 A Yes. I've been investigating the hydrology of the  
15 Mono Basin since about 1978 and intensively since  
16 1979. I did my master's thesis on the water balance of  
17 the Mono Basin, and I have been investigating the  
18 hydrology continuously since 1979 and have worked on  
19 the Rush Creek IFIM study, the Lee Vining Creek IFIM  
20 study, and have provided expert witness testimony in  
21 all the Mono Lake water rights cases. And I'm also a  
22 member of the restoration planning team for Rush and  
23 Lee Vining Creek.  
24 Q Mr. Vorster, what parts of the Rush and Lee Vining  
25 Creek studies did you work on?  
0214  
01 A I worked on the flow history of the two streams,  
02 the water availability investigation as well as the  
03 flood analysis for Lee Vining -- the Lee Vining Creek  
04 study.  
05 Q And are the results of your work accurately

06 reflected in the DFG reports that we've referred to  
07 today?  
08 A Yes, they are.  
09 Q Thank you.  
10 Dr. Kondolf, would you please state your name and  
11 spell it?  
12 A BY DR. KONDOLF: My name is G. Mathias Kondolf,  
13 K-O-N-D-O-L-F.  
14 Q Dr. Kondolf, have you had the opportunity to  
15 review DFG Exhibit 11?  
16 A I have.  
17 Q And is that a copy of your testimony?  
18 A Yes, it is.  
19 Q And do you have any corrections to make?  
20 A Yes, I do. On Page 9, I have some changes -- I'll  
21 begin with the fifth line from the bottom of the  
22 sentence, "For the purposes of flushing flows, a wet  
23 year is defined as one with runoff whose exceedence  
24 frequency is less than 34 percent, comma, a normal year  
25 with runoff with exceedence of 34 to 77 percent, comma,  
0215  
01 and a dry year as one exceedence frequency over 67  
02 percent, period."  
03 Q And with that correction, is that a true and  
04 accurate copy of your testimony?  
05 A Yes.  
06 Q And would you -- have you had an opportunity to  
07 look at DFG Exhibit 12? And is that a copy of your  
08 qualifications?  
09 A Yes, it is.  
10 Q And is it true and accurate?  
11 A Yes, it is.  
12 Q Have I already asked you to summarize your  
13 qualifications?  
14 A Not yet.  
15 Q Please do.  
16 A I have a bachelor's degree in geology from  
17 Princeton University, a master's degree in earth  
18 sciences from University of California at Santa Cruz,  
19 and a Ph.D. in geography and environmental engineering  
20 from the Johns Hopkins University. My dissertation  
21 research concerned the spawning gravels of salmon and  
22 trout.  
23 I am presently an assistant professor of  
24 environmental planning at University of California  
25 Berkeley, where I teach courses in hydrology for  
0216  
01 planners, environmental geology for planners, natural  
02 factors in design, and restoration of rivers and  
03 streams. My research concerns environmental river  
04 management, and my focus is on management of gravel in  
05 river systems including the effects of reservoirs and  
06 instream gravel mining. This has included some  
07 research into flushing flow requirements on eastern  
08 Sierra streams, the Trinity River, and looking at the  
09 problem in a general way.  
10 I was part of the Rush and Lee Vining Creek study  
11 teams. For both those studies I conducted synoptic  
12 flow studies along those channels. I also conducted a  
13 historical geomorphic analysis of Lower Rush Creek and

14 an evaluation of spawning gravel resources with Scott  
15 Stine on Lee Vining Creek.

16 Peter Vorster and I have written several papers  
17 about geomorphology and hydrology of streams in the  
18 Mono Lake system.

19 Q And, in fact, is DFG 94 a paper that you and Peter  
20 Vorster wrote on hydrologic studies for Lee Vining  
21 Creek instream flow studies?

22 A Right. I wouldn't call that a paper, but a  
23 report.

24 MS. CAHILL: Could I inquire how much time we do  
25 have?

0217

01 MR. HERRERA: You have nine minutes.

02 Q BY MS. CAHILL: Dr. Kondolf, would you please  
03 summarize your testimony?

04 A Yes. Because the Rush Creek instream flow report  
05 did not include flushing flow recommendations, my  
06 direct testimony concerns flushing flows for Rush  
07 Creek.

08 Flushing flows are controlled high-flow releases  
09 from reservoirs prescribed to mimic functions of  
10 natural floods. Typically, the objectives can be  
11 summarized as sediment maintenance objectives, which  
12 usually are to remove fine sediments accumulated in  
13 gravel and turning over gravel deposits to maintain a  
14 loose texture.

15 The other set of objectives would fall under what  
16 I call channel maintenance, and below large reservoirs,  
17 this typically includes preventing vegetation  
18 encroachment. Here on Rush Creek, I think the channel  
19 maintenance objectives would largely be to promote  
20 channel narrowing, development of a complex bed  
21 topography, and deposition on developing flood planes.  
22 So on Rush Creek, the objectives of flushing flows  
23 should be to turn over the gravels and inundate shallow  
24 flood planes permitting deposition within the riparian  
25 vegetation establishing there, thus encouraging

0218

01 building of the flood plane. And by narrowing the  
02 channel and focusing some of the power of the stream,  
03 the expectation would be a more complex bed topography  
04 would develop.

05 I've recommended flushing flows of between 2 and  
06 300 cubic feet per second. The duration of those, I  
07 have proposed, in wet years should be between 20 and 40  
08 days, in normal years between 5 and 15 days, and no  
09 flushing flows in dry years. I have defined the years  
10 on the basis of exceedence probability of annual flow.  
11 So by taking the annual runoff for all years of record,  
12 those can be ranked, and then we can identify flows at  
13 the 33 percent exceedence level and the 67 percent  
14 exceedence level. The top third of the flows then  
15 would be considered the wet years. The middle third  
16 would be considered the normal. The bottom third would  
17 be considered the dry. And, in practice, the April  
18 forecast of runoff from the Basin could be used to  
19 indicate where the flows fell.

20 And here I'm recommending using the records of  
21 actual flow at the dam site, and this includes the

22 effects of regulation by the Southern California Edison  
23 projects higher in the basin. It could be argued that  
24 natural runoff should be used, unimpaired by Edison,  
25 and that probably is how one would interpret the

0219

01 testimony of Dr. Beschta and Hanson, I believe, also.  
02 And that's really just a matter of argument.

03 But I've chosen to take the actual flows, since  
04 those are the flow conditions that were present in the  
05 stream in 1940.

06 Many variables are involved because the Rush Creek  
07 system has been so profoundly altered. Historically,  
08 Rush Creek occupied multiple channels, and there seems  
09 to be general agreement that these should be  
10 rewatered. That certainly would be a consideration.

11 And the need for ramping has to be addressed.  
12 Ramping is really most important on the recession limb  
13 of a high flow. Natural hydrographs commonly have a  
14 steep rising limb and a more gradual recession limb.  
15 If recession is unnaturally rapid and flows are simply  
16 shut off, it's possible to strand fish, and it's also  
17 possible to induce bank failure as saturated banks  
18 drain and a positive pore pressure is developed.

19 The 10 percent ramping rate suggested by Hill and  
20 others, which is a paper DFG 72, and I think also  
21 Darrell Wong has suggested this is reasonable. I would  
22 regard this as a reasonable guideline for the recession  
23 limb. The rising limb could be more rapid.

24 Based on inspection of mean daily flows but not a  
25 systematic analysis of these rates of change, this 10

0220

01 percent figure looks quite reasonable.

02 Sufficient uncertainty exists that any flushing  
03 flow recommendation is really only a starting point. I  
04 would recommend systematic, scientific monitoring be  
05 undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the  
06 flushing flows. And in order to evaluate  
07 effectiveness, you have to articulate the objectives,  
08 which, again, I would say here would be gravel  
09 mobilization and maintenance of gravel quality,  
10 inundation of point bars in other incipient flood  
11 planes, and the development of a more complex bed  
12 topography.

13 I would argue that flushing flows be reconsidered  
14 in five or ten years in light of these observed  
15 effects.

16 MS. CAHILL: Thank you, Dr. Kondolf. Thank you,  
17 Gentlemen.

18 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham?

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. BIRMINGHAM

20 Q I'd like to start with some questions about IFIM  
21 generally. And this is directed to anybody on the  
22 panel with the exception of Mr. Vorster.

23 Is it correct that the basic premise of IFIM is  
24 that more habitat means more fish?

25 A BY MR. SMITH: I will take that. That's one of

0221

01 the -- excuse me, yes.

02 Q Now, as I understand the IFIM studies that were  
03 conducted being presented by your testimony, and this

04 includes for you, Mr. Smith, the Owens River IFIM, the  
05 studies tried to identify criteria that would establish  
06 habitat to keep fish in good condition. Is that  
07 correct?

08 A I'm sorry. Would you repeat that again?

09 Q Well, the basic purpose of the IFIM was to  
10 identify minimum flows to maintain habitat sufficient  
11 to keep fish in good condition; is that right?

12 A The purpose of the investigations that we  
13 conducted was to identify flow regime which would  
14 maintain fish conditions in Rush and Lee Vining Creeks.

15 Q Now, what was the criteria used for the Rush Creek  
16 IFIM? Was it 50 percent of the brown trout, adult  
17 brown trout habitat?

18 A BY MR. CHRISTOPHEL: No, it was not. It was the  
19 median habitat value. Habitat expressed as weighted  
20 usable area.

21 Q So it was not 50 percent of the brown trout  
22 habitat exceedence?

23 A It was the 50 percent exceedence value, which is  
24 the same as the median value was.

25 Q Thank you.

0222

01 And on -- on Lee Vining Creek, as I understand  
02 Dr. Li's testimony, it was 80 percent of optimal  
03 habitat condition generally; is that correct?

04 A BY DR. LI: For dry years.

05 Excuse me, Mr. Birmingham, the 80 percent of  
06 maximum measured weighted usable area for adults in dry  
07 years, and that's for the period from April to  
08 September.

09 Q And then for wet years it's 100 percent?

10 A 100 percent.

11 Q Normal years, it's 90 percent?

12 A Yes, Sir.

13 Q And then for spawning periods, it's -- for normal  
14 years, it's 100 percent of the spawning habitat?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q And 90 percent of --

17 A Maximum in dry years.

18 Q You Gentlemen will have to forgive me because  
19 normally I am a little bit better prepared when I  
20 cross-examine a panel, particularly a panel like this.  
21 But we went here last night until nine o'clock, and it  
22 reduced the amount of time I had to prepare. I  
23 apologize for that.

24 Now, as I understand your response to my earlier  
25 question, Mr. Smith, about the basic premise of IFIM,

0223

01 it was my first question, IFIM is not related to fish  
02 numbers, but it's based on physical habitat?

03 A BY MR. SMITH: Correct.

04 Q And it follows basically what Mr. Wong said  
05 today. If you create habitat, you're going to protect  
06 fish.

07 A If you create habitat, fish should respond  
08 accordingly.

09 Q Now, did I understand, Mr. Li, that you stated  
10 that -- excuse me, Dr. Li. I beg your pardon. Dr. Li,  
11 that the recommendations that you developed for Lee

12 Vining Creek were intended to mimic the natural  
13 hydrograph?  
14 A In that we varied the recommendation by wetness  
15 with water year, yes. That would be runoff.  
16 Q Is it correct that the minimum flows that you have  
17 recommended for different months are in excess of the  
18 flows that are actually present in Lee Vining Creek  
19 during those months?  
20 A I think we're getting into an apples-and-oranges  
21 situation here. May I amplify on it?  
22 Q Please do.  
23 A If you take all the water years and simply use  
24 Table 12, what you're doing is you're not accounting  
25 for water availability. But if you stratify those data  
0224  
01 by wetness of water year, you'll get a difference, and  
02 those differences are reflected in -- let me refer you  
03 to Figures 65 through 67, Page 164 through 166 of DFG  
04 Exhibit 54. These figures have a representation of the  
05 flow recommendations compared with the 50 percent  
06 exceedence flow by water year.  
07 Q Well, let's take a look at Figure 65.  
08 A Yes, Sir.  
09 Q And focus on the month of October.  
10 A Yes, Sir.  
11 Q 65 is the dry year recommendation; is that  
12 correct?  
13 A 65 --  
14 Q Figure 65 is a --  
15 A Yes. Dry hydrologic conditions.  
16 Q Thank you.  
17 Now, looking at Figure 65, in October, the  
18 recommended stream flow is 25 cfs; is that correct?  
19 A That's correct.  
20 Q And is it correct that the stream flow in October,  
21 the long-term average --  
22 A 50 percent. The median.  
23 Q 50 percent of the median?  
24 A 50 percent exceedence.  
25 Q 50 percent exceedence. In other words, 50 percent  
0225  
01 of the time --  
02 A Half the time you're going to have flows greater  
03 and half the time you're going to have flows lower.  
04 Q So half of the time in Lee Vining Creek during a  
05 dry year, the way you've defined a dry year, half the  
06 time you're going to have flows that are lower than  
07 the proposed minimum number flow?  
08 A In which case, we will accept natural flow.  
09 Q So your answer to my question was yes?  
10 A Yes.  
11 Q Let's look at 66. 66 is the graph for normal  
12 years; is that correct?  
13 A That's correct.  
14 Q And the -- again, let's look at the month of  
15 October. Now, during normal years in the month of  
16 October, half of the time there is going to be less  
17 water in the stream than you have proposed as a minimum  
18 flow?  
19 A That's correct.

20 Q And the same is true for the months of August,  
21 September, November, December, January, February, and  
22 March. Is that right?  
23 A That's correct.  
24 Q BY MR. SMITH: Mr. Birmingham, may I add something to  
25 Dr. Li's response?

0226

01 Q If it's necessary in order to respond my question,  
02 please do.  
03 A Thank you. Something should be pointed out here.  
04 The stream flow recommendations in the Lee Vining Creek  
05 study are the flows included in -- on the -- what's  
06 that table -- I'm sorry. I can't see it from here --  
07 Table 35 in the report, or the flow, the natural flow,  
08 if you will, whichever is less. The natural flow in  
09 this case is defined as the flow that reaches L.A.  
10 DWP's diversion facility. So, in the cases -- in the  
11 months and water year-types that you've inquired about,  
12 the actual flow that would be going down Lee Vining  
13 Creek is the flow that's demonstrated -- excuse me,  
14 that's demonstrated in, we'll say, Figure 65 here by  
15 the squared line -- the squared symbols on the figure.  
16 It's not actually Fish and Game's recommendations. It  
17 would be the natural flow. Again, natural defined as I  
18 previously defined it.

19 Q So if I understand what you just said, Mr. Smith,  
20 and I look at Table 66, what you're telling me is that  
21 during normal years, and during 50 percent of the time  
22 during those -- let me restate the question. This is  
23 really ambiguous. What I said was really ambiguous.  
24 What you're telling me is that for the months of  
25 August, September, October, November, December,

0227

01 January, February, and March, 50 percent of the time,  
02 all of the water that is in the stream is required to  
03 keep fish in good condition.

04 A First off, I believe you were referring to the  
05 Figure 66 rather than Table 66.

06 Q Figure 66.

07 A Why just so the record will be clear. And if I --  
08 let me restate your question just to make sure I  
09 understand it. In the months of August, September,  
10 October, November, December, January, February,  
11 March -- and did you include April?

12 Q No, I didn't. But you're right, I should have.

13 A And April. What is the question regarding those  
14 months?

15 Q 50 percent of the time, all of the water that's in  
16 the stream is required -- at least 50 percent of the  
17 time, all of the water that is in the stream is  
18 required to keep fish in good condition.

19 A Is to maintain the habitat to keep fish in good  
20 condition.

21 Q Now, as I understand it, these flows are the  
22 actual flows that come into the diversion facilities of  
23 DWP; is that correct?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q These are not the natural flows, are they?

0228

01 A Lee Vining Creek is not a natural system at this

02 time.

03 Q So these flows are not the natural flows?

04 A These are -- these are the flows that are impaired  
05 by SCD operations.

06 Q So using the common understanding of "natural,"  
07 these are not the natural flows?

08 A That's correct.

09 Q Now, this is a question that I might have to  
10 direct to Mr. Vorster, and I hate to but, Mr. Vorster,  
11 you're free to jump in here if it's necessary to answer  
12 the question.

13 Isn't it correct that the natural flows are  
14 actually less than the impaired flows that are coming  
15 into the DWP diversion facilities during many periods?

16 A BY MR. VORSTER: During the fall and winter months,  
17 the effect of the upstream reservoirs operated by SCE  
18 is to augment the flow that would occur naturally in  
19 the stream. Not all the time, but commonly.

20 Q So your answer to my question is yes?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Thank you.

23 So during -- during the fall and winter months,  
24 the natural flow is less than the flow depicted in  
25 these charts or these figures, generally?

0229

01 MR. DODGE: Objection. It misstates Mr. Vorster's  
02 testimony, as I heard it. I heard him say "winter."

03 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I believe Mr. Vorster said fall  
04 and winter. Perhaps we could ask the -- we'll just  
05 ask him. Was it fall and winter, Mr. Vorster?

06 MR. VORSTER: I believe I said fall and winter,  
07 and I believe you're using the word "natural" now in a  
08 very strict sense. We've now heard "natural" used in  
09 several different ways, so --

10 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Let me tell you the way I'm using  
11 it so we can make sure that the record's clear.

12 "Natural" means unimpaired by man. Is that a common  
13 understanding of the word "natural"?

14 A That's the way we're now using it.

15 Q Is that the way you were interpreting my use of  
16 the term "natural" when you answered my question?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Now, was there a draft copy of this report? I  
19 think this is Department of Fish and Game 54, is that  
20 correct, Ms. Cahill? It is the Lee Vining Creek?

21 MS. CAHILL: Yes. The final is DFG 54.

22 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: The final. Was there a draft  
23 report of this circulated?

24 A BY DR. LI: There were several drafts, unfortunately.

0230

25 Q I don't know if all of you were in the room at the

01 time, but I know, Mr. Smith, you were when Dr. Hardy  
02 was testifying and Mr. Hanson was testifying. Is  
03 that -- were you present then?

04 A I was present through some of their testimony. I  
05 am not sure I was here through all of their testimony.

06 Q And you heard Ms. Cahill or Mr. Thomas ask  
07 Dr. Hardy and Mr. Hanson whether or not it was correct  
08 that they had based their recommendations to the State  
09 Water Resources Control Board on a draft version of

10 Department of Fish and Game Exhibit 54?  
11 A I believe that question was asked.  
12 Q And the question -- well, forget that. Excuse me,  
13 Sir. I've forgotten your name. Is it Mr. Payne? Is  
14 that right?  
15 A BY MR. PAYNE: Mr. Payne.  
16 Q Mr. PAYNE, you had submitted some written  
17 testimony that was signed in September of 1993 to the  
18 State Water Resources Control Board; is that right?  
19 A I don't have that in front of me at this point,  
20 but I believe that's when I prepared my written  
21 testimony, and that is the DFG exhibit.  
22 Q And it's DFG Exhibit 15?  
23 A As I recall, yes.  
24 Q Let's make sure. I want to make sure I've got  
25 this correct. DFG Exhibit 15.

0231

01 It was necessary for you to fill in some blanks  
02 when you testified about this today; is that right,  
03 Mr. Payne?  
04 A Yes.  
05 Q And that was -- you needed to fill in the final  
06 Department of Fish and Game report numbers with respect  
07 to DFG 54 and 55; is that right?  
08 MS. CAHILL: Objection. That does misstate the  
09 testimony. The testimony does not effect the stream  
10 evaluation report number, but only the exhibit number  
11 for this proceeding.  
12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Birmingham?  
13 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'm not suggesting that it  
14 effects the evaluation. I'll just ask you in a  
15 straightforward fashion.  
16 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: When you prepared your testimony,  
17 you didn't know what the Department of Fish and Game  
18 report number was for DFG 54?  
19 MS. CAHILL: Exhibit.  
20 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Exhibit 54?  
21 A BY MR. PAYNE: I did not know the exhibit number at  
22 that time.  
23 Q This report was finalized, DFG 54 was finalized in  
24 July and was distributed in August; is that correct,  
25 Mr. Smith?

0232

01 A BY MR. SMITH: I would have to look at the  
02 department's correspondence on that and confirm those  
03 days.  
04 Q I'm showing you a document that appears to be an  
05 August 12, 1993, memorandum to interested parties.  
06 A This is where -- one of the transmittal letters  
07 sending the documents to interested parties --  
08 Q Excuse me, Mr. Smith. There's no question  
09 pending. What I'd like to ask you is looking at the  
10 document that I have just handed you, does it refresh  
11 your recollection as to when the Department of Fish and  
12 Game distributed DFG Exhibit 54 to the parties?  
13 A I believe there are two transmittal letters  
14 regarding the report.  
15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Smith, you're not  
16 being responsive to the question.  
17 MR. SMITH: I'm trying to be responsive,

18 Mr. Del Piero.

19 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: The question he asked  
20 was did seeing that refresh your memory as to when the  
21 document was released? Not anything else. Just did it  
22 refresh your memory?

23 MR. SMITH: Partially.

24 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Is it correct that DFG 54 was  
25 circulated to the parties in August of 1993, Mr. Smith?  
0233

01 A BY MR. SMITH: I believe, and this is where -- why I  
02 have said partial. There was also another --

03 Q Mr. Smith, if you don't know, an "I don't know" is  
04 perfectly acceptable, and we would prefer to have that  
05 rather than your speculating, seriously.

06 A I'm not speculating. I'm trying to explain why I  
07 can't answer your question definitely. I believe it  
08 was early August, but there was another cover letter to  
09 Mr. Anton (phonetic) at the board. And I cannot  
10 remember how many people were included on that cc list,  
11 and I can't -- and I don't recall if that's the exactly  
12 the same day that the interested party letter was  
13 prepared.

14 Q Now, with respect to the draft report. Between  
15 the time -- let me ask you this. After preparation of  
16 the draft report, did you do any additional in-stream  
17 study? Now, I'm talking about the draft that -- of the  
18 Lee Vining Creek stream evaluation report. After that  
19 was prepared --

20 A BY DR. LI: No.

21 Q Dr. Li?

22 A Dr. Li. No.

23 MR. DODGE: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry to  
24 interrupt, Mr. Birmingham. I have an obligation  
25 elsewhere, and I would request to be dropped down in  
0234

01 the cross-examination order if you get to me tonight.

02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: I'm not going to get  
03 to you tonight. We're going to go another ten minutes  
04 and then Mr. Birmingham will start up again tomorrow  
05 morning at 8:30. Okay? I assume you weren't going to  
06 be done in ten minutes, Mr. Birmingham?

07 MR. BIRMINGHAM: That's a pretty safe assumption.

08 MR. HERRERA: Two and a half minutes remaining in  
09 the first 20.

10 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I'll make an application for an  
11 additional.

12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: It's granted, and we  
13 will end this at 20 minutes to the hour.

14 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Thank you very much.

15 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Between the time the draft was  
16 circulated -- the draft report was circulated, wasn't  
17 it, Dr. Li?

18 A BY DR. LI: that's my understanding.

19 Q Between the time the draft report was circulated  
20 and the final report was circulated, did you prepare  
21 any additional hydraulic simulations?

22 A I did not do any hydraulic simulations that were  
23 included in this final report, but I was playing around  
24 with my data.

25 Q Did you change the methodology in which -- the

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01 methodology -- the way in which you calculated the  
02 weighted usable area?

03 A I'm sorry. I drifted. Can you repeat that?

04 Q Certainly. Between the time the draft report was  
05 circulated and the final report was circulated, did you  
06 change the methodology by which you calculated the  
07 weight usable area?

08 A No.

09 Q Now, when -- is it correct that if I were to  
10 compare the --

11 A Oh, I misspoke. Yes, I did.

12 Q How did you change the method -- methodology by  
13 which you calculated weighted usable area?

14 A The reason why I got confused was strictly  
15 speaking, I did not change the method, but I -- in the  
16 initial draft I did the sin of omitting data.

17 Q Can you identify for me, please, the data that are  
18 in the final report which are not in the --

19 A The data that is in the final report are all the  
20 data that were collected and compiled.

21 Q Which data did you exclude in the draft report?

22 A I omitted Reach Three.

23 Q You are say in the "draft report," Dr. Li, excuse  
24 me. I'm sorry. Were you conferring?

25 A Tom, there is a confusion here. Are you referring

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01 strictly to -- perhaps it would be better for you to  
02 repeat the question so that I'm clear on what you're  
03 asking.

04 Q Between the time you circulated the draft and the  
05 time you circulated the final report that has now been  
06 identified at Department of Fish and Game 54, did you  
07 change the methodology by which you calculated weighted  
08 usable area?

09 A Strictly speaking, no.

10 Q Now, it's correct, isn't it, that the total  
11 system-wide weighted usable area did change?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q And it changed because you included data in the  
14 final report that were not included in the draft  
15 report?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q And you said that those were what data?

18 A Reach Three.

19 Q So it was weighted usable area data from Reach  
20 Three; is that correct?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q I'm going to show you a document, Dr. Li, and I'm  
23 going to ask if you've seen this document before. It  
24 has not been identified as an exhibit.

25 MS. CAHILL: Could I see it?

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01 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I beg your pardon, Ms. Cahill.  
02 It's very rude of me. Ms. Cahill's not had an  
03 opportunity to see this.

04 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: The document that I'm handing  
05 you, Doctor -- we've just cut to the chase. This is a  
06 copy of the draft report on -- on Lee Vining Creek  
07 stream evaluation report. Isn't that correct?

08 Dr. Li, is it correct that that is a copy of the  
09 draft report?  
10 A BY DR. LI: Thank you, Mr. Birmingham. It appears to  
11 be one of the drafts.  
12 Q Thank you.  
13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Tom. You can start  
14 asking all the important questions now.  
15 (Laughter.)  
16 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Well, let's see if I can do that,  
17 Mr. Del Piero.  
18 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Dodge just left.  
19 (Laughter.)  
20 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Oh, did he. I thought you were  
21 commenting on the importance of the questions I'd asked  
22 up to this point.  
23 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: No. But he heard on  
24 the way out the door.  
25 Q BY MR. BIRMINGHAM: Now, Page 152, do you have a copy  
0238  
01 of the draft report with you?  
02 A No.  
03 Q Well, let me read along -- read this and you can  
04 read along with me to make sure that I read it  
05 correctly. This is on Page 152, and states, "Reach Two  
06 alone provided weighted usable area stream discharge  
07 relationships that were meaningful. Reach Three  
08 estimates were unrealistic. Reaches Four through Six  
09 did not change significantly with change in discharge."  
10 Did I read that accurately, Dr. Li?  
11 A BY DR. LI: You read rather well.  
12 Q Thank you.  
13 So in response to my question, yes, I did read it  
14 accurately?  
15 A Yes.  
16 Q Now, when you wrote this draft report -- you were  
17 the author of the draft report Dr. Li?  
18 A Yes, I was.  
19 Q When you wrote this draft report, was it your  
20 opinion that Reach Two alone provided weighted usable  
21 area stream discharge relationships that were  
22 meaningful?  
23 A Do you want the short answer or the long one?  
24 Q Can you answer my question yes or no, and then if  
25 you feel an explanation is required, please explain  
0239  
01 it. I don't want to cut you off, but I think my  
02 question can be answered yes or no.  
03 A Okay. The answer to the question is yes, and  
04 these are the reasons why. The strength of the  
05 two-stage stratified, random-sampling design allows  
06 anybody doing this to take a look at different reaches  
07 to see the effect of either habitat-type representation  
08 or weighted usable area contribution by reach or by  
09 habitat type. If you take a look at the data, it is  
10 not that reaches -- it's a bit misleading to say that  
11 Reaches Four through Six are not significant. They  
12 provide some habitat. It's simply that Reach Two,  
13 being the reach with the best habitat, had larger  
14 effect upon the total weighted usable area compilation.  
15 And it was, therefore, the most significant reach.

16 Q Now, you say here that, "Reach Three estimations  
17 were unrealistic." At the time you wrote this, was it  
18 your opinion that the Reach Three estimations were  
19 unrealistic?  
20 A This again is going to be a long -- we're going to  
21 have a furry dog here at the end, Tom, but that's  
22 true. Do you want to know the reasons why?  
23 Q Let me ask -- well, yes. If you would like to  
24 explain the reasons why, I really don't want to cut you  
25 off.

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01 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: When he gets done  
02 explaining the reasons why, I'm going to explain the  
03 reasons why we're going to be over. Go ahead and  
04 answer the question, Dr. Li, and then we're going to  
05 call it a day.

06 DR. LI: Reach Three is the steepest reach on Lee  
07 Vining Creek and, at the time I wrote that, I was  
08 putting greater credence on the amount of entrained air  
09 in the -- in the creek at the different flows and,  
10 based on that and knowing that very steep reaches are  
11 difficult to simulate, I, due to a lack of discipline,  
12 removed that data.

13 Upon rethinking that, I felt it was more  
14 responsible to provide those data in the final report.  
15 But whether you include Reach Three or exclude Reach  
16 Three doesn't make any difference.

17 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Ladies and Gentlemen,  
18 it's 20 minutes to five and, as I promised, we're going  
19 to be out of here before five o'clock.

20 Any questions before we adjourn until 8:30  
21 tomorrow morning? None?

22 MS. CAHILL: Can I just inquire as to one of these  
23 witnesses?

24 I would like to inquire if any of the parties are  
25 going to have questions for Mr. Payne? It's most

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01 inconvenient for him to be here tomorrow.

02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Where are you going to  
03 be, Mr. Payne? Not that it's a whole lot of our  
04 business.

05 MR. PAYNE: I'm a contractor to the department on  
06 the Kantera (phonetic) chemical spill recovery  
07 assessment, and tomorrow there's a meeting regarding  
08 the restoration activities for the Upper Sacramento  
09 River.

10 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Whereabouts?

11 MR. PAYNE: It's in Redding.

12 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Inconvenient.

13 MR. BIRMINGHAM: I have no questions for  
14 Mr. Payne.

15 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: No questions.

16 Mr. Roos-Collins?

17 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: I do have questions for

18 Mr. Payne.

19 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: How many?

20 MR. ROOS-COLLINS: Five to ten minutes.

21 MS. SCOONOVER: I have no questions for Mr. Payne.

22 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Mr. Dodge is gone.

23 What time is your meeting, Mr. Payne?

24 MR. PAYNE: 8:30.  
25 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Mr. Del Piero, would it be  
0242 acceptable for Mr. Payne to come back maybe after his  
01 meeting and we can take him out of order?  
02 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: When's your meeting  
03 over, Mr. Payne?  
04 MR. PAYNE: There was no specified time, but it  
05 would probably last all day, is what I was  
06 anticipating.  
07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: How are you getting  
08 there?  
09 MR. PAYNE: That's undecided. I found out I was  
10 going to be here at about 10:30 last night. So I flew  
11 down this morning. I do have an employee who is in  
12 Redding that I could fly, otherwise I could fly back to  
13 Arcada tonight and probably drive over.  
14 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: So are you staying  
15 here tonight?  
16 MR. PAYNE: That depends on the outcome of this  
17 discussion.  
18 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: My inclination, in all  
19 candor, is that I put you on at 8:30 tomorrow and have  
20 everybody ask you all the questions and have you out of  
21 here probably before nine o'clock. What's the flying  
22 time from here to Redding?  
23 MR. PAYNE: It's an hour, depending on the  
24 scheduling.  
0243 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Is it possible for you  
01 to you notify folks that you're going to be an hour and  
02 a half late?  
03 MR. PAYNE: Yes.  
04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Why don't you plan on  
05 doing that?  
06 MR. PAYNE: Okay.  
07 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Okay. And then  
08 everyone else -- I don't know if anybody's going to  
09 have the opportunity to be in contact with Mr. Dodge  
10 this evening.  
11 Dr. Stine, are you going to see him tonight?  
12 DR. STEIN: I assume I will. Yes.  
13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Or at least is there a  
14 phone machine somewhere --  
15 DR. STEIN: I can get in touch with him.  
16 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Will you leave a  
17 message for him and let him know if he has questions of  
18 Mr. Payne he needs to be prepared to ask those tomorrow  
19 morning at 8:30?  
20 Mr. Payne, I promise you I'll have you out of  
21 here. Okay?  
22 Ladies and Gentlemen -- Mr. Canaday.  
23 MR. CANADAY: Mr. Del Piero, we need to inform the  
24 parties that tomorrow is a shorter day than today. We  
0244 are going to recess at three o'clock, Sir.  
01 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: What time did we  
02 notice it?  
03 MR. CANADAY: Three o'clock.  
04 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Then we're recessing,

06 Ladies and Gentlemen, at three o'clock. In fact,  
07 Ladies and Gentlemen, I think it's probably safe to  
08 assume we aren't going to break for lunch tomorrow.  
09 Take maybe a 15-minute break, and then we'll keep  
10 going. We're going to try and get as much done as  
11 possible, inasmuch as we aren't going to meet again  
12 until the following Monday.

13 Mr. Canaday?

14 MR. CANADAY: I don't know whether I should throw  
15 the idea out. Ms. Cahill, is Basco (phonetic) going to  
16 come and present testimony?

17 MS. CAHILL: It's flexible. If the -- Basco  
18 (phonetic) and one of their subs is going to come and  
19 Basco did Walker, Parker, and Upper Owens. The sub is  
20 ill, and so I was going to do Upper Owens issues  
21 probably next week.

22 Rick Sitz (phonetic) of Basco could be here  
23 tomorrow to talk about Parker, Walker, which I  
24 understand is not a very big issue, and so I could put  
25 on Rick Sitz (phonetic) of Basco on just Walker, Parker

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01 only, and George Hycee (phonetic) of the department on  
02 the fish passage problems tomorrow after we finish with  
03 this panel.

04 We would then have one duck panel jointly with the  
05 Mono Lake Committee on Monday, and following that  
06 panel, we would have one panel on the Upper Owens  
07 River, and that would conclude our case.

08 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Thank you very much.  
09 I appreciate particularly your efforts at paneling  
10 these witnesses.

11 MS. CAHILL: It is possible that we'll end up with  
12 some time tomorrow.

13 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: Why don't you have him  
14 here?

15 MR. CANADAY: Mr. Sitz (phonetic) is a Sacramento  
16 resident, and we ought to take advantage --

17 MS. CAHILL: What I would do is put Mr. Sitz  
18 (phonetic) on tomorrow on Walker, Parker, and then I  
19 will bring him back on Upper Owens. And at that time,  
20 I believe that Gary Wulff (phonetic) will be with him  
21 as well, and if you have any Walker, Parker left-over  
22 questions for Mr. Wulff at that time, you could ask  
23 him.

24 HEARING OFFICER DEL PIERO: You all have a nice  
25 night, Ladies and Gentlemen. We'll see you at 8:30

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01 tomorrow morning.

02 (Whereupon the proceedings were adjourned  
03 at 4:45 p.m.)

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