UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region

April 8, 2015

Ms. Rachel Ballanti
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236

Dear Ms. Ballanti:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) appreciates the many years of collaboration with the State to further salmon and steelhead (salmonid) recovery in California. This letter serves to advance the State and Federal collaboration in accordance with Proposition 1 and provide comments on the draft guidelines outlining the process, procedures, and prioritization criteria to fund watershed protection and restoration including water storage and conservation.

To achieve the Proposition 1 objectives of assisting in recovery of endangered or threatened species and ensuring funds are used for projects that provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits, it is our recommendation all program entities utilize the best available information found in formalized species or watershed plans such as State and Federal recovery plans. In California, there are 10 salmonid species, one green sturgeon southern population segment and one eulachon southern population segment that are federally listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. NMFS is required to prepare recovery plans for these federally listed species and plans are now final for:

- Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon;
- Central California Coast coho salmon;
- Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon;
- Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon;
- Central Valley steelhead;
- South-Central California Coast steelhead; and
- Southern California Coast steelhead.

The Coast Multispecies recovery plan (Central California Coast steelhead, Northern California steelhead, and California Coastal Chinook), the green sturgeon plan and the eulachon plan are under development. The Federal recovery plans for California's salmonids were developed in cooperation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and many others, and reflect the best available information, and bring significant new information into the public domain.

Recovery plans can be used by Proposition 1 project applicants as well as the program administering entities to identify:

- priority watersheds which have a greater influence on long-term salmonid viability;
- the intrinsic potential of stream reaches to support spawning and rearing salmonids which can guide actions to areas more likely to respond to restoration;
- priority recovery actions for estuarine and freshwater habitats that address factors limiting salmonid recovery, including water conservation;
- priorities for green sturgeon recovery; and
- research and monitoring needs and priorities that refine recovery goals and track and assess the effectiveness of recovery activities.

For projects benefiting salmonids, NMFS recommends a geographic and limiting factor focus of funds to those areas of greater importance to salmonid viability and persistence in California. Priority watersheds for California's anadromous salmonids and green sturgeon, and factors limiting their recovery, are identified in the aforementioned recovery plans and summarized in the enclosed tables[1]. Decisions to focus funds to specific areas do not imply other areas are less important or not needed for recovery. Rather, decisions to focus are necessary to ensure funds are optimizing benefits to fisheries and ecosystem processes. Should Proposition 1 program funds be tracked to priorities and actions identified in Federal recovery plans, NMFS would be able to more explicitly report to Congress in 5-Year Status Reviews and Biennial Reports to Congress on our collective efforts and successes to recover California's native anadromous fishes.

We have the following additional recommendations on solicitations, review criteria, and program processes:

- Provide information on the targeted annual distribution of the funding program.
- Ensure public transparency and reporting on criteria, scoring, and technical and selection panel processes to include the monitoring and assessment reports of funded projects.

[1] The watersheds ranked priority "A" are highest priority for species recovery and may include key areas supporting monitoring and/or conservation hatchery programs. Watersheds ranked as a priority "B" or "C" are other watersheds that may be needed for recovery but are considered lower in priority, relative to "A" watersheds. The intent is not to exclude watersheds but request that priority "A" watersheds are weighted more heavily if competing with priority "B" or "C" watersheds. Similarly, "B" watersheds should be weighted more than "C" watersheds. Also note the priority watersheds are grouped into Diversity Strata or Diversity Groups in the attached tables. Salmon and steelhead restoration and recovery efforts must be occurring across all groups to make meaningful strides in the recovery of the species'.

- Program guidelines, solicitations, and review criteria should: (1) make specific reference to anadromous fishes and their habitats and the associated state and Federal recovery plans, (2) utilize recovery plan information, and (3) include website links to recovery plans as appropriate to program objectives.

- Encourage grant applicants to develop projects that support actions specified in recovery plans or require salmonid projects align with recovery actions in a state or Federal recovery plan (e.g., The Fisheries Restoration Grant program requires all projects link directly to a state or Federal recovery action).

- Develop a mechanism to track projects that are implementing Federal recovery plan priorities and actions to improve State and national reporting to Congress on progress.

- Invite NMFS as a technical reviewer or member of the grant program selection panel on salmonid and sturgeon related projects, provided technical review participation by NMFS does not exclude NMFS from potential selection panel membership.

- Consider the ability for applicants to apply for both the Watershed Restoration Grant Program and the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program with one application if the proposal benefits fish.

- Clarify that resource conservation districts are eligible for the programs.

- The NOAA Restoration Center's Northern California Office *Restoration Programmatic Biological Opinion for Restoration Projects* provides an estimated cost savings for taxpayers ranging from $25,000 to $64,000 per project. Consider using existing permitting efficiencies that are already in place such as the RGP 12 and RGP 78 for Proposition 1-funded projects that fit within those programs. If this is not feasible, work with NMFS and others to streamline permitting to reduce permitting costs and bring more dollars to on-the-ground restoration.

- Provide information in the solicitation notice regarding potential permits required for implementation projects such as agency websites and/or regional contact information. This small detail can help reduce the number of projects that have to delay or are unable to implement funded projects because of failure to meet all the environmental compliance requirements.

- A statewide grant program that aims to produce on the ground projects for environmental benefits will require a high degree of oversight to ensure projects are designed and implemented correctly to provide the targeted benefits. Regional coordinators committed to the grant program will be vital to program success. Consider allocating staff or funding dedicated coordinators to the various regions to improve communication, coordination and implementation of Proposition 1 funds with cooperating entities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to a higher level of collaboration to ensure the continued protection and restoration of the States anadromous fisheries resources.

If you have questions please direct them to Charlotte Ambrose, California Programs Coordinator, at 916-930-3704.

Sincerely,

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NOAA Restoration Center
Southwest Region Supervisor

Maria Rea
Assistant Regional Administrator
California Central Valley Office

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Enclosure

Enclosure

Priorities for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Predation
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults

Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Strata	SONCC Coho Salmon Populations	Priorities
Central Coastal	Smith River	A
	Elk Creek	B
	Wilson Creek	B
	Lower Klamath River	A
	Redwood Creek	A
	Maple Creek/Big Lagoon	B
	Little River	B
	Strawberry Creek	B
	Norton/Widow White Creek	B
	Mad River	B
Interior Klamath River	Middle Klamath River	A
	Upper Klamath River	A
	Salmon River	B
	Scott River	A
	Shasta River	A
Interior Trinity River	Lower Trinity River	A
	Upper Trinity River	A
	SF Trinity River	B
Southern Coastal	Humboldt Bay Tributaries	A
	Lower Eel and Van Duzen	A
	Guthrie	B
	Bear River	B
	Mattole River	B
Interior Eel River	SF Eel River	A
	Mainstem Eel	A
	Middle Fork Eel River	B
	North Fork Eel River	B
	Middle Mainstem Eel River	A
	Upper Mainstem Eel River	B

Priorities for Central California Coast coho salmon

Federal Status: Federally Endangered

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Predation
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Strata	CCC Coho Salmon Populations	Priorities	Notes
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Usal Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Cottaneva Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Juan Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	DeHaven	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Wages Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Ten Mile River	A	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Pudding Creek	A	Long-Term Monitoring of Coho
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Noyo River	A	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Hare Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Jug Handle Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Casper Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Russian Gulch	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Big River	A	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Little River	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Albion River	A	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Big Salmon Creek	B	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Navarro River	A	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Greenwood Creek	B	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Elk Creek	B	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Alder Creek	B	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Brush Creek	B	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Garcia River	A	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Gualala River	A	
Coastal	Russian River	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Coastal	Salmon Creek	B	

Coastal	Pine Gulch	B	
Coastal	*Walker Creek*	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Coastal	Lagunitas Creek	A	Long-Term Monitoring of Coho
Coastal	Redwood Creek	B	
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Gregorio	B	
Santa Cruz Mountains	Pescadero Creek	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Santa Cruz Mountains	Gazos Creek	B	
Santa Cruz Mountains	Waddell Creek	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Santa Cruz Mountains	Scott Creek	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Vicente Creek	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Santa Cruz Mountains	Laguna Creek	B	
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Lorenzo River	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Santa Cruz Mountains	Soquel Creek	B	
Santa Cruz Mountains	Aptos Creek	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock

Priorities for Central California Coast steelhead

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Dams blocking access to historical habitat
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds"

Diversity Strata	CCC Steelhead Populations	Priorities
Coastal S.F. Bay	San Francisco Bay Estuary	N/A
Coastal S.F. Bay	Guadalupe River	A
Coastal S.F. Bay	San Francisquito Creek	A

Coastal S.F. Bay	Corte Madera Creek	A
Coastal S.F. Bay	Stevens Creek	A
Coastal S.F. Bay	Miller Creek (Marin Co.)	B
Coastal S.F. Bay	San Mateo Creek	B
Coastal S.F. Bay	Novato Creek	B
Interior	Upper Russian River	A
Interior	Maacama Creek	A
Interior	Dry Creek	A
Interior	Mark West Creek	A
Interior	Miller Creek (Russian)	B
Interior	Crocker Creek	B
Interior	Gill Creek	B
Interior	Sausal Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	Codornices Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	Pinole Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	Wildcat Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	Alameda Creek	A
Interior S.F. Bay	Napa River	A
Interior S.F. Bay	Coyote Creek	A
Interior S.F. Bay	Petaluma River	A
Interior S.F. Bay	Green Valley/Suisun Creek	A
Interior S.F. Bay	Sonoma Creek	A
Interior S.F. Bay	San Lorenzo Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	San Leandro Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	San Pablo Creek	B
North Coastal	Austin Creek	A
North Coastal	Lagunitas Creek	A
North Coastal	Green Valley Creek	A
North Coastal	Salmon Creek	A
North Coastal	Walker Creek	A
North Coastal	Sheephouse Creek	A
North Coastal	Redwood Creek (Marin Co.)	A
North Coastal	Willow Creek	A
North Coastal	Freezeout Creek	A
North Coastal	Pine Gulch	A
North Coastal	Hulbert Creek	A
North Coastal	Porter Creek	A
North Coastal	Dutch Bill Creek	A
North Coastal	Drakes Bay	B
North Coastal	Americano Creek	B
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Pedro Creek	B
Santa Cruz Mountains	Scott Creek	A

Santa Cruz Mountains	Pescadero Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Lorenzo River	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Aptos Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Pilarcitos Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Gregorio Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Soquel Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Waddell Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Vicente Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Tunitas Creek	B
Santa Cruz Mountains	Gazos Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Laguna Creek	B

Priorities for Northern California steelhead

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor and ecological processes
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Predation
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Strata	NC winter steelhead Populations	Priorities
Central Coastal	Brush Creek	B
Central Coastal	Elk Creek	B
Central Coastal	Garcia River	A
Central Coastal	Gualala River	A
Central Coastal	Navarro River	A
Central Coastal	Schooner Gulch	B

Lower Interior	Bell Springs Creek	B
Lower Interior	Bucknell Creek	B
Lower Interior	Chamise Creek	A
Lower Interior	Outlet Creek	A
Lower Interior	Soda Creek	B
Lower Interior	Tomki Creek	A
Lower Interior	Woodman Creek	A
North Mountain Interior	Dobbyn Creek	B
North Mountain Interior	Larabee Creek	A
North Mountain Interior	Middle Fork Eel River	A
North Mountain Interior	North Fork Eel River	A
North Mountain Interior	Upper Mainstem Eel River/ Upper Middle Mainstem Eel River (Summer)	A
North Mountain Interior	Van Duzen River	A
North-Central Coastal	Albion River	B
North-Central Coastal	Big River	B
North-Central Coastal	Caspar Creek	B
North-Central Coastal	Cottaneva Creek	B
North-Central Coastal	Noyo River	A
North-Central Coastal	Pudding Creek	B
North-Central Coastal	Ten Mile River	A
North-Central Coastal	Usal Creek	A
North-Central Coastal	Wages Creek	A
Northern Coastal	Guthrie Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Maple Creek/Big Lagoon	A
Northern Coastal	Oil Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Bear River	A
Northern Coastal	Big Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Big Flat Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Howe Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Humboldt Bay	A
Northern Coastal	Jackass Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Little River (Humboldt County)	A
Northern Coastal	Lower Mainstem Eel River	B
Northern Coastal	Mattole River	A
Northern Coastal	McNutt Gulch	B
Northern Coastal	Shipman Creek	B
Northern Coastal	South Fork Eel River	A
Northern Coastal	Spanish Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Telegraph Creek	B
Northern Coastal/North Mountian Interior	Mad River	A
Northern Coastal/North Mountian Interior	Redwood Creek (Humboldt Co)	A

Priorities for California Coastal Chinook salmon

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor and ecological processes
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Predation
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Strata	CC Chinook salmon Populations	Priorities
Central Coastal	Gualala River	B
Central Coastal	Navarro River	B
Central Coastal	Garcia River	A
Central Coastal	Russian River	A
North Coastal	Bear River	A
North Coastal	Humboldt Bay	A
North Coastal	Little River (Humboldt County)	A
North Coastal	Lower Eel River	A
North Coastal	Mad River	A
North Coastal	Mattole River	A
North Coastal	Redwood Creek (Humboldt Co)	A
North Coastal	South Fork Eel River	A
North Mountain Interior	Larabee Creek	A
North Mountain Interior	Upper Eel River	A
North Mountain Interior	Van Duzen River	A
North-Central Coastal	Albion River	B
North-Central Coastal	Big River	A
North-Central Coastal	Noyo River	A
North-Central Coastal	Ten Mile River	B

Priorities for Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon

Federal Status: Federally Endangered

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Keswick and Shasta Dams blocking access to historical habitat
- Flows and water temperatures below Keswick and Shasta Dams affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration

- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Unnatural flow regimes through the Delta pulling juvenile salmonids towards the south Delta pumps
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults in the Yolo bypass, Colusa Basin Drain, and the Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Group	Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon Populations	Priorities
Basalt and Porous Lava	Sacramento River (below Shasta Dam)	A
	Little Sacramento River (above Shasta Dam)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Battle Creek	Primary Reintroduction Area
	McCloud River	Primary Reintroduction Area

<u>Priorities for Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon</u>

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Dams blocking access to historical habitat
- Unnatural flow patterns below dams
- Low flows and warm water temperatures
- Small passage impediments in Antelope, Mill, Deer, and Big Chico, and in the Feather and Yuba Rivers
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Unnatural flow regimes through the Delta pulling juvenile salmonids towards the south Delta pumps
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults in the Yolo bypass, Colusa Basin Drain, and the Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Group	Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon Populations	Priorities
Basalt and Porous Lava	Sacramento River (below Shasta Dam)	B
	Little Sacramento River (above Shasta Dam)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Battle Creek	A
	McCloud River	Primary Reintroduction Area
Northwestern California	Stony Creek	C
	Thomes Creek	C
	Cottonwood/Beegum	B
	Clear Creek	A
Northern Sierra Nevada	Mokelumne (below Comanche)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Mokelumne (above Pardee)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	American River (above Folsom)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	American River (below Nimbus)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Feather River (below Oroville)	B
	West Branch Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	North Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Candidate
	Middle Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	South Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Yuba River (below Englebright)	B
	North Yuba River (above Englebright)	Primary Reintroduction Area
	Middle Yuba River (above Englebright)	Primary Reintroduction Area
	South Yuba River (above Englebright)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Butte Creek	A
	Big Chico	B
	Deer Creek	A
	Mill Creek	A
	Antelope Creek	B
Southern Sierra Nevada	Stanislaus River (below Goodwin)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Upper Stanislaus River (abvove New Melones)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Tuolumne River (below La Grange)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Upper Tuolumne River above La Grange and Don Pedro)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Merced River (below Crocker Huffman)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Upper Merced River above New Exchequer)	Candidate Reintroduction Area

Diversity Group	Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon Populations	Priorities
	San Joaquin River (below Friant)	Primary Reintroduction Area
	San Joaquin above Friant	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area

Priorities for Central Valley steelhead

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Dams blocking access to historical habitat
- Unnatural flow patterns below dams
- Low flows and warm water temperatures
- Small passage impediments in Antelope, Mill, Deer, and Big Chico, and in the Feather, Yuba, Mokelumne, Calaveras, and San Joaquin Rivers
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Unnatural flow regimes through the Delta pulling juvenile salmonids towards the south Delta pumps
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults in the Yolo bypass, Colusa Basin Drain, and the Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Group	Central Valley Steelhead Populations	Priorities
Basalt and Porous Lava	Sacramento River (below Shasta Dam)	B
	Little Sacramento River (above Shasta Dam)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Battle Creek	A
	Cow Creek	B
	McCloud River	Primary Reintroduction Area
Northwestern California	Putah Creek	B
	Stony Creek	C
	Thomes Creek	B
	Cottonwood/Beegum	B
	Clear Creek	A
Northern Sierra Nevada	Cosumnes River	C
	Mokelumne River (below Comanche)	B

Diversity Group	Central Valley Steelhead Populations	Priorities
	Mokelumne River (above Pardee)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	American River (below Nimbus)	B
	Upper American (above Folsom)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Auburn Ravine	B
	Dry Creek	C
	Feather River (below Oroville)	B
	West Branch Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	North Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Middle Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	South Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Bear River	C
	Yuba River (below Englebright)	B
	North, Middle, South Yuba Rivers (above Englebright)	Primary Reintroduction Area
	Butte Creek	B
	Big Chico	B
	Deer Creek	A
	Mill Creek	A
	Antelope Creek	A
Southern Sierra Nevada	Calaveras River (below New Hogan)	A
	Upper Calaveras River (above New Hogan)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Stanislaus River (below Goodwin)	B
	Upper Stanislaus River (above New Melones)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Tuolumne River (below La Grange)	B
	Upper Tuolumne River (abv La Grange and Don Pedro)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Merced River (below Crocker Huffman)	B
	Upper Merced River (above New Exchequer)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	San Joaquin River (below Friant)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Upper San Joaquin (above Friant)	Candidate Reintroduction Area

Priorities for southern DPS green sturgeon

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of historical spawning and rearing habitat on the Sacramento, Feather, and Yuba rivers

- Unnatural seasonal flow and water temperature patterns on the Sacramento, Feather, and Yuba rivers
- Restricted passage caused by the Sunset Pumps diversion structure on the Feather River
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Unnatural flow regimes through the Delta pulling juvenile salmonids towards the south Delta pumps
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults in the Yolo bypass, Colusa Basin Drain, and the Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel
- Limited understanding of the species' biological requirements

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Group	sDPS Green Sturgeon Watersheds	Priorities
Not applicable for green sturgeon	Sacramento River (below Shasta/Keswick Dams)	A
	Feather River (below Oroville Dam)	A
	Yuba River (below Englebright Dam	A

Priorities for South-Central California Coast steelhead

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors: Dams blocking access to historical habitat

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Group	So.-Cent. Steelhead Populations	Priorities
Interior Coast Range	Pajaro River	A
Interior Coast Range	Salinas River	A
Carmel River Basin	**Carmel River**	A
Big Sur Coast	San Jose Creek	B
Big Sur Coast	Little Sur River	A
Big Sur Coast	Big Sur River	A

San Luis Obispo Terrace	San Carpoforo Creek	B
San Luis Obispo Terrace	Arroyo de la Cruz	B
San Luis Obispo Terrace	San Simeon Creek	A
San Luis Obispo Terrace	Santa Rosa Creek	A
San Luis Obispo Terrace	San Luis Obispo Creek	A
San Luis Obispo Terrace	Pismo Creek	A
San Luis Obispo Terrace	Arroyo Grande Creek	A

Priorities for Southern California steelhead

Federal Status: Federally Endangered

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Strata	So. Calif. Steelhead Populations	Priorities
Monte Arido Highlands	Santa Maria River	B
Monte Arido Highlands	Santa Ynez River	A
Monte Arido Highlands	Ventura River	A
Monte Arido Highlands	Santa Clara river	
Conception Coast	Goleta Slough Complex	A
Conception Coast	Mission Creek	A
Conception Coast	Carpinteria Creek	A
Conception Coast	Rincon Creek	B
Santa Monica Mts.	Arroyo Sequit	B
Santa Monica Mts.	Malibu Creek	A
Santa Monica Mts.	Topanga Creek	A
Mojave Rim	San Gabriel River	A
Mojave Rim	Santa Ana River	A
Santa Catalina Gulf	San Juan Creek	A
Santa Catalina Gulf	San Mataeo Creek	A
Santa Catalina Gulf	Santa Margarita River	A
Santa Catalina Gulf	San Luis Rey River	A
Santa Catalina Gulf	San Dieguito	B