

Barnes, Peter@Waterboards

From: Roland McNutt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 12:30 PM
To: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards
Subject: Pit River

Dear Mr. Barnes:

As an avid whitewater boater in northern California, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to continue the agreed upon releases on the Pit I reach. The NorCal boating community and boaters everywhere value this river, its ecological health, and its recreational benefits.

Drastic management action by eliminating flows altogether should be based on sound science, which we believe is lacking in this case. The summer flushing/whitewater flows were temporarily suspended when PG&E and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expressed concern that the flows were harming the endangered Shasta crayfish. Monitoring showed a decline in the number of Shasta crayfish and an increase in invasive crayfish within the Pit 1 Reach after flushing flows started.

However, equally dramatic declines in Shasta crayfish and increases in invasive crayfish were also seen throughout the entire Pit River Basin in the same timeframe - *all in areas where summer flushing/whitewater flows do not occur* . NorCal boaters, including me, want Shasta crayfish populations to fully recover, but in light of the basin-wide monitoring data, we have little confidence that eliminating the summer flows will help.

In the past, PG&E has used shoddy science to further their economic gain. I SUGGEST CONTINUING SUMMER RELEASES AS A CONTOL GROUP TO COMPARE WITH CRAYFISH DECLINES IN OTHER AREAS.

I urge you to continue the agreed upon releases!

Thank you,
Roland McNutt
Chico, CA
[REDACTED]