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December 12, 2011

Jim Kellogg, President
California Fish and Game Commission
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: Opposition of Proposed Fish Stocking Regulations

Dear Mr. President and Commissioners;

The California Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds is the statewide trade organization representing owners, operators and developers of RV parks and campgrounds here in California. There are over 800 commercially owned and operated campgrounds with over 90,000 campsites located throughout 58 counties.

CalARVC urges the Commission to reject proposed fish stocking regulations to be considered at its December 15th hearing in San Diego. As drafted, these regulations will come as a significant financial burden on our members' park operations and threaten the lifestyle of 1.7 million recreational California fishermen. Many of our members have lakes and ponds which offer recreational fishing opportunities. Fishing is a core activity of the 4.4 million campers here in California.

These regulations would force our members to spend thousands of dollars every year in order to complete an Environmental Impact Review on the impact stocked fish has on the indigenous plant and wildlife population. In a time in which many recreational facilities are already facing possible closure, this added cost will threaten the already fragile outdoor industry.

Recreational fishing brings thousands of tourists to California each year, all with the hopes of catching that beautiful California trout or bass. These regulations will unnecessarily destroy the reason California is such an attraction to these fishing tourists: stocked fish and lots of them. With the destruction of this niche tourism sector, comes the demise of the outdoor industry and businesses, such as our member campgrounds, that rely upon tourists visiting this state.

We urge the Commission to reject these costly regulations and allow the California camping and fishing industries to flourish.

Sincerely,

Deborah M. Sipe
Executive Director