



Sam Abed
Mayor
201 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025
Phone: 760-839-4610 Fax: 760-839-4578

December 12, 2011

Mr. Jim Kellogg, President
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 9244-2090

Dear Mr. Kellogg:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Escondido to express our opposition to the proposed Fish Stocking Regulations that will be discussed at the California Fish and Game Commission meeting in San Diego on December 15, 2011.

Escondido owns and operates two lakes: Dixon Lake and Lake Wohlford. These facilities are stocked with Catfish and Rainbow Trout. The lakes are recreational jewels in northern San Diego County and are visited by several hundred thousand guests every year, many of whom come to fish and make great family memories.

The City of Escondido understands the desire to produce fish that are beneficial to the environment but the proposed Stocking Regulations will have a significant negative impact on recreational fishing. Under this proposal all the lakes and ponds that stock fish would be required to do a biological survey of all the species in the lakes. This would be a very costly unfunded mandate that would result in considerable expense to both hatcheries and lakes. It is likely that fishing permit fees would have to be increased to offset stocking costs. In this current economic climate, higher permit fees may force families to seek other recreational experiences, causing potential losses in current and future anglers. In addition, these regulations are likely to put small business owners who stock private lakes out of business and thousands of jobs that rely on outdoor recreation and fishing will be lost. California's economy cannot afford this plan.

For these reasons, the City of Escondido respectfully requests the California Fish and Game Commission to reject the proposed Fish Stocking Regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Abed".

Sam Abed
Mayor

cc: City Council
Christopher McKinney, Director of Utilities
Tony Smock, Lakes and Open Spaces Superintendent