Chuck Bonham, Director September XX, 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Director Bonham,

***Sometimes, the need to do something so bold — to fix a place and right past wrongs — means you have to sit down and just be pragmatic on how you’re going to get a deal done,”***[***Chuck Bonham***](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Director)***, director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, told CalMatters.*** Comments on the Klamath Dam Removal Project

The recent canal failure and massive sediment dump into Butte Creek, on August 10th, from PG&E’s failing DeSabla-Centerville project is just one more blow to the iconic, last, best run of **wild** spring run Chinook salmon in California, whose annual returns far exceed the Klamath River spring run. The canal that failed has a long history of failure. Being that it is built on steep, forested slopes of upper Butte Creek canyon, it would be prohibitively expensive to repair to a point where we could declare the spring run Chinook salmon “safe” from future disasters. The canal diverted water at the Butte Head Dam, an aging, completely sedimented in and dangerous small dam. It literally dewaters miles of great habitat that could be used by endangered salmon and steelhead. In addition, the Centerville Head Dam has been out of operation for 10 years and the powerhouse has been shut down for 12 years. The lower Centerville canal, from the dam to the powerhouse, is in a state of disrepair that is appalling.

Also, the temperature management of this project has always been suspect and we reference a research paper by Lisa Thompson and Peter Moyle of UC Davis in 2012 that stated: ***“The most important conclusion of this work is that long-term survival of SRCS in Butte Creek is unlikely in the face of climate change and that simple changes to water operations are not likely to dramatically change vulnerability to extinction.”*** <http://buttecreek.org/documents/ClimateChangeandButteCreek.pdf>

As you said: ***“It is time to do something bold – to fix a place and right past wrongs!”***

It is time for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to do something bold to save the salmon and Butte Creek from this disastrous, physically and financially failing hydroelectric project. Butte Creek is a gem of a watershed with the last, best run of **wild** spring run Chinook salmon and needs to be treated with a greater level of respect. It has all the makings of a Wild and Scenic River, a state or federal park, monument or reserve. Please take the time to better understand the impacts this project has on Butte Creek and the great opportunities we have ***to fix the place and right past wrongs***, once and for all.

Sincerely,

Your name and address

Additional copies can be sent to:

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