

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG THE COOPERATIVE MEMBERS OF THE
TRI-COUNTY F.I.S.H. TEAM FOR THE
ATTAINMENT OF FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING FOR THE
RECOVERY OF PACIFIC COAST SALMON AND STEELHEAD**

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is entered into by and between the local government agencies, sponsoring agencies, and non-governmental organizations within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties listed in Attachment A and hereinafter collectively referred to as "COOPERATING MEMBERS".

WHEREAS, the decline of salmon and steelhead populations along the Pacific Coast region from California to Alaska over the last decade has led to their listing by National Marine Fisheries Service of salmonid populations as "threatened" or "endangered", pursuant to the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, numerous watersheds that are tributaries to the Pacific Ocean are subject to these listings; and

WHEREAS, for a number of years, state and federal funding for salmon and steelhead restoration has focussed on north-central and northern California; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Game has conducted a statewide assessment of the steelhead population, and concluded the southern steelhead stocks (South of San Francisco Bay) are the most jeopardized of all the California's steelhead populations; and

WHEREAS, the COOPERATING MEMBERS share common interest to improve salmonid habitat conditions and to implement restoration work that promotes long-term recovery of naturally-spawned salmonid populations; and

WHEREAS, local funding resources are limited; and

WHEREAS, the COOPERATING MEMBERS formed the **Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team** (**Funding for Improved Salmonid Habitat**) to work with federal, state and local agencies and groups to secure funding for the recovery of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead trout to the tri-county area; and

WHEREAS, the **Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team** is formed in accordance with the "Purpose and Procedures" document set forth in Attachment B and as they may be revised from time to time as set forth pursuant to the Purpose and Procedures document.

NOW, THEREFORE, the COOPERATING MEMBERS agree to work together as the **Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team** in good faith and in a cooperative manner to seek funding and

additional means for the recovery of Pacific Coast salmon and steelhead in the tri-county area as follows:

1. To maintain group membership open to those interested in participating in the development and implementation of restoration plans and projects within the tri-county area, and
2. To provide the most complete picture of the actions that are occurring with the region and to coordinate those actions to the benefit of the salmon and steelhead restoration, and
3. To work with other regional groups, federal and state agencies, and other organizations to secure resources for projects in the tri-county area;
4. To develop an annual regional project plan; and
5. To focus efforts on those projects which improve habitat conditions and migratory access for naturally-spawned salmonid populations; and
6. To bear their respective expenses with regard to project specific funding acquisition activities sponsored by individual agencies/organizations under this MOU; and
7. To seek grant funding to hire consultants to provide coordination and technical assistance to the COOPERATING MEMBERS; and
8. To maintain a minimum level of administrative support should grant funding be unavailable, each county's local government and sponsoring agency participants shall commit to funding up to \$15,000 per county (\$45,000 total) with the proportion between agencies within each county determined within each county group.

Any signatories to the MOU may terminate their participation in this MOU with 30 days written notification to the Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team Coordinator.

Any local government or sponsoring agency terminating participation which later wishes to participate in this MOU shall first make payment of any funding due from such party at the time of its termination, and also pay its share of any obligations, costs and expenses for which it otherwise would have been obligated absent such termination, as determined by the local government and sponsoring agency participants from the county of such party which provided such funding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the COOPERATING MEMBERS hereto have executed this MOU effective on the dates provided hereof. This MOU may be executed in one or more counterparts and each counterpart shall be evidence of participation by all signatories.

Attachment A

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: _____

CATEGORY: Local Government Agency; Sponsoring Agency; Public Member

BY: _____ DATE: _____
NAME/POSITION