



November 17, 2011

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Mr. Jim Kellogg, President
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: Fish Stocking Regulations

Dear Mr. Kellogg:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties, I write to express our opposition to the proposed Fish Stocking Regulations that the California Fish and Game Commission will be considering at their December 15, 2011 meeting. CSAC is an association that represents county government before the California Legislature, administrative agencies and the federal government. Representing all 58 of California's Counties, CSAC places a strong emphasis on educating the public about the value and need for county programs and services critical for healthy communities.

As you are well aware, our country is in the mist of the worst economic crisis, considered by many economists, to be the worst since the Great Depression. As such, CSAC is very concerned that the creation of a new regulatory program and fee structure related to fish stocking on currently exempt counties will result in untenable costs and cause many affected by the regulation to go out of business.

Counties are not immune from the fiscal crisis, and nearly every revenue stream, including sales tax, has fallen precipitously and almost every county has already implemented or is strongly considering deep cuts and widespread layoffs. Recreational and sport fishing spur economic development in some California's hardest hit rural communities. New regulations and fees will have a serious impact on the industry and the local communities that depend on them.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully request the California Fish and Game Commission to reject the proposed Fish Stocking Regulations. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please feel free to contact me at 916-327-7500, ext. 511, or kkeene@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Keene".

Karen Keene
CSAC Senior Legislative Representative