



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

F/SWR4: MH  
SEP 19 2000

Ms. Nina Bicknese  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Sacramento Division  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Bicknese:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the General Re-Evaluation Report/Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed modifications to the Guadalupe River Flood Control Project in downtown San Jose, California. NMFS has been active in the development of this project by participating on the Guadalupe River Flood Control Project Collaborative effort. As a result we are very familiar with the contents of the document and concur with its environmental conclusions and support the proposed mitigation measures. In addition, we have expressed our concerns and offered additional measures for conserving riverine habitat functions and values in our completed Biological Opinion in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and our Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Recommendations in accordance with the Magnuson -Stevens Act that were submitted to your agency in August, 2000. Our only additional comment that we offer is that your agency and the Santa Clara Valley Water District continue to examine all opportunities for minimizing impacts to the Guadalupe River by: 1) reducing the amount of hardscape bank and river bottom armoring in the project whenever and wherever possible; 2) ensuring that all locations for onsite replacement and reestablishment of riparian vegetation and instream habitat functions are met ; 3) protecting and enhancing offsite mitigation actions that could expand the existing range of steelhead and fall-run chinook in the watershed; and, 4) insuring that all mitigation areas set aside as compensation for project impacts resulting from this project or any other project will not be disturbed or impacted during construction activities.

NMFS-1

NMFS-2

NMFS-3

NMFS-3

NMFS-4

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and we look forward to continuing our working relationship with you and your agency.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca Lent, Ph.D.  
Regional Administrator

