



# Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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June 2017

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## Calendar

June 14 DFF Barbecue, Oak Grove Park

June 15-18 Lake Almanor Outing, PG&E Campground

The club does not hold General Membership meetings during the months of July and August.

June 24, Delta Bass Outing, 4pm Paradise Point

July 29, Rock Bass Outing, Santa Cruz

August 16, DFF BoD meeting, Oak Grove Park

September 13, DFF General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

September 16-21, Bridgeport Outing

September 27, DFF Board Meeting, Oak Grove Park

October 11, Club potluck and swap meet, John R. Williams school

October 18, BoD Meeting, Oak Grove Park.

October 25, Fly of the Month fly tying session, Oak Grove Park

## The June BBQ is coming on the 14th

I can smell the sizzling steaks now as I picture Al Smatsky working furiously at the barbecue pit, testing and turning each of the New York strip steaks to make sure each is cooked to perfection.

The steaks, along with the membership provided hot and cold side dishes, salads and desserts make for a summer feast of gigantic proportions.

The order of dishes this year is:

A—H..... Side Dishes

J—O ..... Desserts

P—Z ..... Salads

The start time for the event is 6:00 PM at the barbecue area next to the boat house at

Oak Grove Park. When arriving at the park gate, inform the person working admittance to the park that you are part of the Delta Fly Fishers to gain free access.

### The Barbecue Raffle

Past president Gil Parker will be in charge of the club's raffle with over twenty great prizes including a set of size nine flats boots, a box of dry flies, a Mr. Heater propane heater, a Weber smoker, a brand new seven piece 5 weight travel rod in its tube and a complete 5 weight, 9' 4 piece rod, 5/6 full drag reel and a brand new floating weight forward line.

The club will furnish soft drinks as well as the steaks but don't forget to bring your own plates, glasses and utensils.



President's message for June

## Helping hands, our club has lots of them; they're needed at the Cat Fish Derby on June 3rd

Our club never stops surprising and amazing me. While its had its ups and downs, one thing has been constant, the willing of our members to lend a hand to get things done. For fear of leaving someone out, I won't give a litany of those who have given of themselves over the years but there have been many, some now fishing in the clouds, and many still with us.

Because of them we have a functioning set of officers and directors, a Fly of the Month program, great speakers at our GM meetings, committed outing fishmiesters, a beginning fly tying class, an aggressive new member program, fishing mentors for new members, a casting instructor, a salmon in the classroom program and a hard working conservation chair.

### The Catfish Derby, you're needed

Very big on the list is our commitment to San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation

and their Oak Grove Park fishing derbies. The coming Catfish Derby to be held at the park this coming Saturday will be no exception.

John and Karen Keagy have stepped up once again to head up the affair but they will need some major support to make the whole event a success.

They ask that a few people show up at 5:30 at the park, entering through the maintenance gate and meeting at the club's storage shed to carry the supplies to the boat house.

The remainder of the helpers should plan on arriving early as well, around 7am. People will be needed to help prepare and serve the food, register participants and weigh their catches, drive the golf cart supplying food and drink to the anglers along the lake side, do some demonstration fly

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## The Cat Fish Derby, you're needed

tying, and someone to photograph the event for the club's newsletter. The weather should be perfect for the event which means large crowds. Volunteers arriving at the park at 7:00am should expect a delay entering the park due to the line of cars filled with participants, waiting to get in. The event will end around 1:00pm so you'll have the whole rest of the day to kick back and enjoy the great late spring weather.

Remember, admittance to the park is free to our members working the event. Just tell the person working the gatehouse that you're a Delta Fly Fisher and you'll be waved through.

New members, this is a great opportunity for you to get to know your fellow members while lending a hand to a great public service event. Lots of fishing talk takes place where you can learn new spots and hook up with veteran members for future fishing expeditions.

## Lake Almanor is site for club's June 15-18th outing

After three less than spectacular June outings at Lake Davis, the club moved the June outing to Lake Almanor last year. The first year's event was attended by nine anglers, fewer than the Lake Davis crowd. Fishing was difficult, even given that the outing fell in the center of the Hex hatch. However, Bob and Jean Fujimura and Cliff Hoover and grandson all had great days with the help of guides. Jerry Neuburger caught a couple of almost 20 inch browns and a catfish and Harv Ham-low nailed over a handful of smallmouth.

The board, without any other choices being put forward, selected Almanor for a second try this year. The dates were moved forward a week to try to avoid some of the Hex crowds and to accommodate the club's BOD meeting.

Almanor is a huge lake but the fly fishing is close to the campsites, just yards off shore. Float tubes, pontoon

boats, prams, kayaks and full sized craft are all viable craft for fishing. The lake is famous for its Hex hatch and last year did not disappoint with millions of the bugs coming off the lake on Thursday night. The hatch diminished Friday and Saturday but on all three days, most of the action was subsurface with Hex nymphs the productive fly.

Huge brown trout inhabit the lake, at least

for now since DFW has decided to stop their stocking in the future in favor of rainbows.

The U.S. Forest Service campgrounds on the south side of the lake were damaged by winter storms and are under repair, leaving only the [PG&E Rocky Point campground](#) as a camping choice. Sites can be reserved but only a few are left. If you're planning on attending this outing, it's suggested that you go on-line and make reservations ASAP. Camp sites are priced by size with the average cost about

\$25 for a small trailer. Tent sites are less expensive. Some of the PG&E sites are on a first come, first served basis but with the closure of the adjacent Forest Service campgrounds, demand is expected to be high.

### Details:

Where: Lake Almanor

Distance: 220 miles from Stockton

Dates: June 15-18

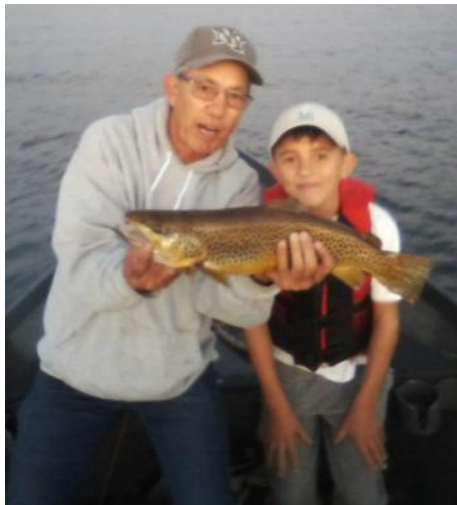
Camping: Rocky Point PG&E campground

Equipment: Float tube, pontoon boat, pram, kayak, canoe, boat.

5-6 weight rod with a variety of floating to quick sinking lines.

Hex nymphs and emergers, streamers

For a comprehensive guide to the lake's fly fishing, check out [Fly Fishing the Sierra](#).



*Cliff Hoover and grandson.*

## DFF Officers



<b>President</b> <a href="#">Jerry Neuburger</a>	209-327-5993
<b>Vice President</b> Cliff Hoover	209-642-3809
<b>Secretary</b> Karen Keagy	
<b>Treasurer</b> Jason Stapleton	209-334-9201
<b>Directors</b> Ron Forbes Karen Keagy Larry Schmidt Sam Thompson Gary Tecklenburg Steve VonBerg Dena Mason Tim Costello Mike Nicholson	209-368-5767 209-482-8742 209-327-6161

## Committees

<b>Beginner's Fly Tying</b> Tim Costello	
<b>Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)</b> John and Karen Keagy	
<b>Catfish Derby (June)</b> Earl Summers	209-957-6756
<b>Conservation/Restore the Delta</b> Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
<b>Education</b> Dena Mason	
<b>Fishing Mentor Program</b> Tim Costello	
<b>Fly of the Month</b> Mike Nicholson	
<b>Membership</b> <a href="#">Bob Fujimura</a>	209-339-0683
<b>Monthly Raffles</b> Jerry Neuburger	
<b>Programs</b> Al Smatsky Bob Sousa	209-368-9261 209-368-2683
<b>Property/Historian</b> John Keagy	
<b>Publicity</b> <a href="#">Steve VonBerg</a>	209-327-6161
<b>Rod Building</b> Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
<b>Trout Bout (November)</b> Bob and Jean Fujimura	209-339-0683
<b>Webmaster</b> John Keagy	

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Stockton, CA 95207-7862

DFF's Outing is scheduled for Saturday, June 24, at Paradise Point, 4:00pm start time. KFC dinner after!

## Delta Bassin', a world class fishery and so close to home!

Heartstopping! That's what the top water lunge of a 5 pound largemouth seems like when it engulfs a fly fisher's popper. And the delta has lots of five pound bass, and larger... the largest I've heard caught being a 17 pounder.

How good is the delta? Well over 300 bass tournaments take place every year when you count pro, amateur, and club events. The largest pay hundreds of thousands of dollars and draw the top talent in the country. The daily five fish weigh in from these people approach 30 pounds. That's close to six pounds per fish!

The changing delta, with lower flows to the ocean because of the pumps, has turned into a largemouth heaven. Heavy weed growth and a good population of smaller pan fish for forage as well as frogs, threadfin shad, juvenile stripers and juvenile salmon and even springtime goslings and ducklings provide a steady food supply for these ambushing predators.

Two obstacles hold the fly fisher back from really getting into this fishery. The first is the need for a floating craft other than a float tube. That has changed with the advent of the pontoon boat, including motorized versions, and inexpensive kayaks and prams. A beginning fly fisher can now get on the water for as little as \$200 with one of the big box stores 10 foot discount kayaks. While not a Cadillac model, (the really good ones start at about \$1,500), it will get you on the water for the four or five hours when the bite is hot.

The second obstacle is the one that has made the delta a haven for these fish, the heavy weed growth including the invasive subsurface egeria densa and the top water hyacinth, make subsurface fishing a

study in frustration with the necessity of having to clean weeds off a streamer on almost every cast.

But there is a more than serendipitous solution, forget the subsurface fishing and just wait until the water warms and the fish are crushing poppers. The rewards of a topwater presentation gurgler on a seven weight far outweigh anything a subsurface grab could provide.



Topwater action starts in the late spring, usually around the end of May, when the water temperature reaches 70 degrees and continues on through the third week in September even though the water drops in temperature at the end of the season.

Taking advantage of all of the above, the club has scheduled a topwater bass outing on June 24th with the venue being Paradise Point Marina, off Eight Mile Road.

The date was selected because of high tide occurring about half way through the outing hours, around 7:30. The tide change allows for the use of pontoon boats and other smaller craft that can take advantage of the low current flow during the tide change. And high tide is what is needed to move the fish into the shallow water along the delta's rock walls.

Since the delta is new to many of the club's anglers, a half hour seminar will be offered at the picnic area in back of the Paradise Point office at 3:30pm with fishing started at 4:00pm. The fish usually start feeding in earnest when shadows reach the water and that's usually about 5:30pm along the delta's west rock walls. The fishing will continue until just before dark, about 9:00pm when anglers are asked to be off the water because of safety reasons. The club will provide a KFC dinner to those attending so **it's important to SIGN UP for this outing in advance.** Please e-mail or phone fishmeister, Jerry Neuburger, [gneuburger@yahoo.com](mailto:gneuburger@yahoo.com), 369-5752 to sign up. (Jerry will be out of town until the 18th so write or call after that date)

### Details:

Date and time: June 24, 3:30pm for seminar, 4:00pm for launch and fishing.

Location: Paradise Point Marina, Eight Mile Road, (Possible \$13 launch fee)

Floating craft: Pontoon boats, kayaks, prams, boats

Rod and line: 6—8 weight rod with weight forward floating line (preferably one to two weights heavier than rod to turn poppers over)

Flies: Poppers and gurglers, 2 to 2/0 size

Dinner: 9:00pm rear of Paradise Point office, KFC dinner, chicken, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, biscuits, soft drinks.

**WARNING: The delta can experience heavy winds during the spring and summer. It's important to sign up so that you can be contacted if the event is cancelled because of weather.**

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## A message for our newer members, our club goes "dark" during the summer

New members, if you're wondering what happened to the club as the summer passes, be advised, we go "dark" during the summer. The fishing opportunities and member travel are just too great and club meetings are just an obstacle to plans. We'll resume our full schedule in the fall with the September general membership

meeting scheduled at the John R. Williams school on September 13th.

If our volunteer army has the time, we'll continue with our Fly of the Month classes, and if a demand, a full fly tying class for newbies. Casting will be offered while the light lasts on Wednesday nights and the fall's outing are some of the best

attended. If you want to stay in touch in the meantime, check out the club's [Face-Book Page](#). It's maintained by Membership Chair, Bob Fujimura and is a source of lots of fly fishing information as well as a way for club members to communicate. You might even find someone suggesting a impromptu outing somewhere close by.

# Here's a chance to fish the salt! Join other DFF members fly fishing for rock fish on July 29 at Santa Cruz

This outing is a totally different experience for our DFF members and can be a whole lot of fun! The day starts early with a 5:00 am or earlier departure time from Stockton unless you want to drive to Santa Cruz the day before and enjoy some of the sights.

Once on the pier, bring your Skiff Rental University Diploma with you and secure the boat you reserved two weeks before. Load your stuff in, get the handout map of skiff boundaries and fire up that engine.

The outing date was selected because it features a neap tide and low water in the morning. The neap tide means that there will be very light currents throughout the bay allowing the fish to move away from the rocky structure they routinely cling to, and the low tide means that the fly fisher will be closer to the rocky pinnacles that these fish are drawn to.

Use the chart and your Buddy II (or follow some-one else that has one) to locate the rocky pinnacles shown. Once over them, start casting. Allow your line to sink and start stripping in, using a strip similar to what you would use striper fishing but with slightly smaller strips. You should start getting strikes right away if the currents have slowed. You may even see the fish following your fly to the surface. On really calm days with little current you can sometimes even see the fish cruising right below the surface. (I don't know if it will produce a strike but I'm bringing a rod with a floating line and popper just in case!) Some days are better than others but you should expect to catch from about 15 to 50 fish per rod. You're encouraged to release these fish. While the fillets are good eating, the fish are a slow growing species and are already overfished.

While the target is kelp bass, don't expect to see any kelp. You'll be fishing in water 30 feet deep over rocky high spots. You won't have to fight casting into a maze of vegetation. If you find that the bite has fallen off, you've probably drifted away from the pinnacles,



*The prez with a fly caught ling cod from a previous Santa Cruz outing*

fire up that engine and get back over the fish. In addition to kelp bass, there is always the possibility that a school of white sea bass will move through. This is especially true since the smaller kelp bass have left their cover and are exposed. If you tie into one of these fish you'll have your hands full, especially on that seven weight. White sea bass are as tough as stripers and will peel line off your reel faster than a bone fish.

We'll check in the boats about 2pm to



*A "Blue" rockfish, one of several varieties that you might catch.*

beat the check-in rush. Once everyone is checked in, we'll pick out a restaurant order a few brewskies and a seafood

lunch. Then, unless you're staying for Sunday, you'll have the two hour drive home with photos and memories to keep us smiling.

## Details

Saturday—Sunday, July 29-30, 2017

Fishmeister: Jerry Neuburger

Location: Santa Cruz Pier

Directions: South on I-5 to I-205/580 then West on I-205/580 to I-680 then South on I-680 to Hwy 262 then West on Hwy 262 to I-880 then South on I-880 and continue south on tot Hwy 17 then left onto SR 1 at Santa Cruz. Continue on to Chestnut Street. Turn Left on Lincoln Street to Center Street then turn right on Center Street to pier area.

Distance: 107 miles. Estimated Driving time from Stockton 2 hours, 15 minutes. Start Time from Stockton approximately 5:00 a.m. unless you leave the day before.

Save gas, money, and the environment! Carpool! Arrange a ride with three other people. Except for the driver, the crew can sleep all the way down, and if someone else drives home the morning driver can sleep all the way home. Or even better, stay over and fish Sunday as well!

PLEASE CONTACT THE FISHMEISTER IF YOU'RE GOING ON THIS OUTING. Jerry's phone number 209-327-5993, or (preferred) gneuburger@yahoo.com

Boat Rental: [Capitola and Santa Cruz Boat Rental](#) - On the Pier at Santa Cruz (831-423-1739)

From their website. "Our sturdy first-class ocean skiffs are equipped with 8hp out-board motors and are just about the best way to enjoy the beauty of Monterey bay – and maybe catch "the big one"! Your boat will be lowered to the water equipped with an outboard motor, fuel, life vests, anchor, oars, gaff, a safety kit, and a ton of advice.

The price is only \$125 for the day! Boats can depart as early as 7:00am any day. Boats rented from each store must stay

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## Rock Fishing at Santa Cruz, cont.

within rental boundaries. Boats must be back at the wharf by 3:00pm.

Call ahead and make a reservation. This is usually a good idea during holidays or whenever you want to be certain you'll get a boat. It is suggested that you make your reservations at least two weeks in advance.

Skiff Rental University is accepting students! Get your diploma and save time getting on the water. Tuition is free!! Take this ON-LINE test and print your Diploma to save time. **IF YOU BRING YOUR DIPLOMA, YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO TAKE THE REQUIRED BOATING OPERATIONS COURSE ON THE PIER."**

Fish Species:

Kelp bass run from about a half pound to six to eight pounds with two pounders being an average fish. Olives and blues are the most prevalent but other species are present.

White sea bass can exceed 40 pounds and are excellent eating!

Equipment:

7 to 9 weight rods

Reel with decent drag

An express type six sinking line

#20 six foot straight leader

A Buddy II fish finder if you have one

Sun block

Sun glasses

Light jacket or coat

Flies:

Clousers, deceivers, other streamer patterns 2 to 1/0

### Boating and Sea Sickness in the salt:

While many people worry about sea sickness, some things can be done to prevent it. The swell at Santa Cruz where the club will be fishing is usually very gentle to non-existent. Unless you KNOW you are subject to Mal De Mer and know that using a patch or taking pills will help, I

recommend that you NOT take those precautions. Plan a non-greasy breakfast. Oatmeal, cereal, waffles, pancakes are better than sausage, eggs and hash browns. Don't over-hydrate but do not deprive yourself of all liquids.

Rig your gear while on the dock! Mount your reel on your rod, string up the line and tie on a fly! Have your other flies and all other gear easily accessible. Do NOT spend a lot of time looking down into the boat rigging lines, gear, changing flies, etc. When tying on a new fly, hold it up at the horizon. If you feel at all queasy, STOP focusing on things near you, get your head up and look at the horizon. In the two outings our club held in the past, no one had to leave the water because of sea sickness.

**Important: Please call or e-mail Fishmeister Jerry Neuburger 209-369-5752, gneuburger@yahoo.com if you plan to go on this outing. Ocean weather conditions can change rapidly and the outing is subject to cancel if the weather turns sour.**

Conservation by Ron Forbes

## Some shady dealing by the governor and why the Delta's fish are dying

*Fishing is the chance to wash one's soul with pure air. It brings meekness and inspiration, reduces one's egotism, soothes our troubles and shames our wickedness. It is discipline in the equality of men --- for all men are equal before fish.*

~ Herbert Hoover

My apologies for not having a conservation article for last month's newsletter. Family health issues took precedence over other responsibilities. And, once again, thanks to Jerry Neuburger for his comments and articles that took its place.

In the years I have been DFF's conservation chair, my attitudes on many issues have changed radically. I spoke with Bill Jennings the night Restore the Delta (RTD) formed, expressing my concern of my lack of knowledge of our fisheries, the environment, the Delta, and the intricacies of the politics involved. Jennings told me that the initial learning curve would take a year and a half or two years. He was being conservative. Then a for-

mer member of our club gave me a copy of The Cadillac Desert and suggested I read it. The book opened my eyes to the politics, mismanagement, illegal actions, egos, and greed for water in the western states. I realized very quickly that water issues and our fishes would be a never-ending study and battle.

I'm grateful to our club for allowing me to be its Conservation Chair. It has changed my perspective of life in many ways. During talks for RTD about the Delta, its environment and its fisheries in Northern California, people have approached me saying, "Your viewpoint is that of a conservative Republican/liberal Democrat/Libertarian or some other group. Actually, I no longer trust either party as they have both taken actions that will ultimately destroy the Delta, its fisheries, and the environment. Fortunately, there are a few political exceptions in both the state and federal government. Unfortunately, within the present leadership in the executive branch of government and in both houses of congress there

is neither respect for science for the environment. Neither party is actively protecting our environment leaving our fisheries and many species to face possible extinction.

### Lethal Arrogance: A Brief History



For over 150 years, water issues have been a major problem in California. Currently we are living with problems created by Gov. Jerry Brown's father, Ed-

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mond G. "Pat" Brown, in the 1950's and 60's. Pat Brown was the state's Attorney General and was interested in becoming our governor. At that time, he had no particular interest in or knowledge of the intricacies of California's water issues. Nor was he an adept political type. In his book, Cadillac Desert, Marc Reisner describes Pat Brown "as a politician of less than star-lit promise". Reisner further describes Pat Brown as, "a cheery, Irish ward-heeler, who was lacking in complexity." Then the state engineer convinced Brown to do something about the

of accuracy or certainty. Sound currently familiar doesn't it?

Brown would not listen to studies for recommendations to delay Oroville Dam's construction. Nor would he listen when he was told that substandard materials were being used in the construction of the dam. During the construction, 34 workers lost their lives. Neither the primary or secondary spillway were well studied and are built on geologically poor sites. J. David Rogers, an expert on dam safety and professor of Geological Engineering at Missouri Science and Technology says, "You go up to where the spill-

as stagnation pressure.

At the beginning of the spillway crisis, the acting head of the Dept. of Water Resources (DRW) said the restoration would cost between \$100-200 million and take a year to complete. However, as he made the comments, over \$149 million had already been spent. Now it appears that it is going to cost at least \$550 million and at least 2 years to finish the job. Even when adjusted for inflation, that's 5 times the original cost. But the spillway and its costs are shrouded in secrecy with Brown and the DRW claiming security issues prevent the release of cost and construction disclosure. Over 50 years later, Pat Brown's huge ego to build the SWP has returned to haunt his son and California's taxpayers.



state's "water crisis". He and others convinced Brown that northern water must be shipped south. Brown, with help, had an epiphany and he envisioned the State Water Project (SWP) as his legacy. The concept consumed him.

The Sacramento Bee has an ongoing series of articles about the catastrophes of Oroville Dam. It's entitled, "Lethal arrogance? The Oroville Dam crisis sprang from Pat Brown's towering ambition." The Bee points out that 60 years before the current crises, Pat Brown brought "almost evangelical zeal" to building the Oroville Dam and the State Water Project.

His focus on the project consumed him to the point where truth and safety were ignored. When cost estimates were established, Brown realized the project was prohibitively expensive and that the voters would balk at its approval. So he lied! In 1960 dollars the real cost was projected to be \$2.5 billion, which is \$20.4 billion in today's money. He told the public the SWP would only cost \$1.75 billion. Brown later confessed to UC Berkeley Oral History researchers that he lied and told the public it would cost only \$1.75 billion (\$14.3 billion in today's money). He also admitted the real cost hadn't been determined with any degree

way was and the upper 40-80 feet of the soil is garbage. It's a special kind of metamorphic mess. During the heavier water flows in 1997, the spillway had much more water flow. But over the aging of 20 years cracks and ruptures in the seams have taken place. Currently, it's apparent

Interestingly, just after I had finished research for the article, I received an email from The Association of Dam Safety Officials (ADSO) and the United States Society on Dams (USSD). These organizations are well-recognized, both nationally and internationally, as top flight experts of dam engineering and dam safety. Both groups have contacted the DWR and offered their assistance with the Oroville dam issue. They have offered a team of forensic dam experts noted for their expertise in dam failure and safety. They emphasize this group was chosen because of its high standards and that it operates with full independence. Up to this point

### The erosion that could lead to a collapse at Lake Oroville

Water pours over a concrete wall that forms an emergency spillway when the lake overflows.

The water erodes the earth, forming a hole.

If the hole reaches the lake, the wall could collapse.



Sources: DWR

Graphics reporting by Rong-Gong Lin II, Chris Megerian

@istimesgraphics

that the spillway inspections were poorly performed. The metamorphic rock the spillway was constructed on is sapolite." Translated from the Greek, sapolite means "rotten rock". Rogers said that high-velocity water was flowing under the spillway, eroding the sapolite causing a spillway failure by a mechanism known

Gov. Brown, the DWR, and the Bureau of Reclamation (BR) have kept things secret and hidden from the public. Both groups (the ADSO and the USSD) realize that the implantation must move forward quickly, however, they emphasize they will only operate with total independence from the DWR and others. They intimate

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that they would not be there to point fingers, "but while the investigation proceeds, it is prudent for these factors to be considered in the implementation of current repairs." It's going to be interesting to see how or if Gov. Brown and the DWR and BR will deal with an independent expert review. Reading between the lines, it's apparent that ADSO and USSD believe that the spillway crisis can only be solved by independent study and not by either the state's or DWR's suggestions.

### Apples Don't Fall Far From The Tree

It's impossible to research Gov. Pat Brown's role in the SWP and not draw comparisons to his son Gov. Jerry Brown and his desire for a bullet train and the twin tunnels. Both governor's projects are predicated on ambitious egos and are dependent on increasing the wealth of special interest groups at public expense. Pat Brown lied to his taxpayers about the cost of the SWP and Jerry Brown has done everything he can to conceal the real cost of the twin tunnels. Pat Brown had only inaccurate estimates for the SWP. Pat Brown had no problem using inferior materials. Jerry Brown's promised tunnel intakes that would prevent trapping fish don't exist. Jerry Brown finds himself paying for his father's ego, dishonesty, and blunders. Hopefully we, our children, and grandchildren won't have to pay for Jerry Brown's ego, dishonesty, and blunder.

### The Understudied Delta and

### Why our Fish are Dying

Three years ago, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) asked me



to participate in a meeting of the State Water Board. Valley farmers were again requesting a waiver of compliance with California's Clean Water Act. In a typical, pre-determined outcome meeting, the SWB listened to the valley farmer groups request the waiver of compliance and promised they would hire an expert (he was from New Jersey) to monitor the possible over-use of fertilizers and other chemicals in the Delta and San Francisco Bay. Of course, there is no evidence of them having complied with their promised studies. Despite the testimony of scientifically-orientated and environmental groups, the farm-orientated organizations won the day. All scientific and environmental evidence was, once again, swept under the table and disregarded.

Historically, there has been little research of the urban and agricultural use of Delta

pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides. Recently, UC Davis sponsored a symposium on the multiple stressors of the Delta. A major area of concern was the little understood effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on the Delta and SF Bay's fish. The Delta and SF Bay present different issues. There are differences between the chemicals found in the agricultural areas and in fresh and salt water. It's a complex issue. San Francisco Estuary toxicologist, Tracy Collier, put it bluntly. "We just don't know what's in the water." Every year since 1995, an average of 9 new pesticide ingredients have been introduced into the Delta. That's at least 194 unstudied toxins. The Delta can now be considered a toxic soup. Over half of the pesticides introduced in the Delta are never studied or monitored. Some chemi-



cals introduced in the Delta and SF Bay are non-lethal. However, when these non-lethal chemicals are combined in the Delta's toxic soup, the synergistic effects on fish can be lethal.

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 (209) 368-9261, (209) 601-0819 cell 1/14



## The Headwaters Kayak Shop

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We specialize in fishing kayaks and even have a small fly fishing section featuring rods, reels, lines and delta flies.

(Continued from page 7)

Collier pointed out, "When you expose salmon to chemicals at levels in streams, they don't die from the chemicals alone in some cases. But when you put pathogens in the water as well, they die at a faster rate." The pathogens Collier refers to are viruses and bacteria. "Also the chemicals in the Delta's water, weaken the salmon's immune system which makes them easier prey for pathogens." The salmon are in double jeopardy since the pathogens of the Delta and SF Bay are different.

Two years ago the Delta Monitoring Program (DMP) started. Unfortunately, there are only 5 sites which are monitored and only 150 chemicals being examined. That

is just 5 sites studying over 800,000 acres of land and waterways. Unfortunately, some of the chemicals tested for are now used less and many new chemicals are being introduced. Another flaw in the DMP's studies is its ability only to count the number of chemicals found at just 5 sites. This study does not accurately reflect the reality of the Delta's stress on fish. Just collecting samples does not tell the effects of those samples. Are the samples having any effect on the organisms or not? Is synergism happening and are non-lethal toxin chemicals now toxic.

How are they killing fish? And how many fish are being killed? The Delta and SF Bay need more and much better scientific studies to prevent the continuing stress and loss of their fisheries.

The Delta is getting more attention for many reasons. I hope that this added attention will generate the multitude of environmental studies that will solve issues plaguing the Delta's environment,



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