



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT: CALIFORNIA TROUT SUPPORTS NEW STATE DFG DIRECTOR

Sacramento, CA – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced the appointment of Don Koch as Director of the State Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Watershed and fish conservation group California Trout is in strong support of Mr. Koch’s appointment.

“Don Koch has been an effective Department of Fish and Game employee for many years. His collaborative and determined work in the Department’s Region One has provided substantial aid for salmon and steelhead recovery,” said California Trout Chief Executive Officer Brian Stranko. “We expect that Mr. Koch will provide renewed leadership for our beleaguered wild fish populations, making fisheries and river and stream protection and restoration a top priority for the Department.”

California Trout is particularly eager to see changes in DFG priorities under Mr. Koch’s leadership, including:

- Increased funds and staffing for the Wild and Heritage Trout programs;
- Greater financial support and leadership for steelhead and salmon recovery, including clear follow through on the 1996 Steelhead Recovery Plan and the recent Coho Recovery Plan;
- Vocal and determined support for beneficial in-stream uses of water under rights law;
- Firmer enforcement of environmental regulations;
- Focused implementation of the Strategic Trout and Management Plan of 2004;
- Redoubled efforts to complete and implement findings from the recent hatchery lawsuit; and
- Increased resolve for maintaining fishing license fee funds for mandated uses under Section 711 of the fish and game code.

California Trout looks forward to working with Mr. Koch on these and other pressing issues once his appointment is confirmed by the State Senate.

About California Trout: Founded in 1971, California Trout was the first statewide conservation group to focus on securing protections for California’s unparalleled wild and native trout diversity. Working with local communities, business, partners and government agencies, California Trout employs conservation science, education, and advocacy to craft effective policy for California’s water resources and fisheries.

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