



LOIS WOLK

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California Trout honors Wolk as “champion” of healthy fisheries

Wolk awarded for native trout protection, flood protection and water policy reform

SACRAMENTO—A statewide fishing and conservation group honored Assemblywoman Lois Wolk (D-Davis) Tuesday for her leadership as the chairwoman of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on some of California’s most pressing water issues, including the state’s fisheries decline, flood protection, and water policy reform.

California Trout, which advocates the protection and restoration of wild trout and steelhead waters throughout California, presented Wolk its Golden Trout Award at a ceremony in Sacramento. The award is given semi-annually to the individual who makes “the most distinguished contribution to the protection of wild trout, steelhead, and their habitat”— someone whose “actions and deeds exemplify the meaning of public service.” Previous recipients include two former California Governors, Congressman Mike Thompson and former Senator Alan Cranston.

“Lois Wolk is a champion for the protection of our state’s declining fish populations and the failing Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, which provides critical habitat for our state’s fisheries,” said Brian Stranko, California Trout chief executive. “She has successfully taken on some of the most challenging and complicated issues facing the state, taking a leadership role on water policy and in efforts to strengthen flood protection and land use planning in California’s Central Valley and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region. Californians are lucky to have such a strong advocate looking out for their water, recreation, and wildlife resources.”

Last year, Wolk led efforts to protect threatened and endangered native trout, aquatic, and amphibian species from the effects of motorized suction dredge gold mining. This year, she is carrying a package of bills to help protect and restore Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta fisheries.

“Resolving the crisis in the Delta must be one of the state’s top priorities,” said Wolk. “The recent closure of the 2008 salmon fishing season in California is an example of what we can expect if the state doesn’t begin addressing some of the Delta’s most urgent needs. I look forward to working with groups like California Trout to help California live up to its responsibility to protect this natural resource for the public’s benefit.”

Wolk’s package of bills includes Assembly Bill 1806 to help better prepare the state to prevent and respond to emergencies that place Delta fisheries at risk. Other bills in the package expand fishing and hunting opportunities in the Delta, and mitigate for the impacts on Delta fisheries arising from operation of the large water export pumping facilities of the state and federal water projects.

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