March 9, 2012

George Gentry, Executive Officer
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 9th Street, Room 1506-14
Sacramento, CA  95814

Subject:  County Roads in Battle Creek Watershed

Dear Mr. Gentry:

The Shasta County Department of Public Works is aware of the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project. The Department has agreed to cooperate with Tehama County Department of Public Works and Sierra Pacific Industries to address the road related findings within the Battle Creek Watershed. Shasta County Public Works is now taking into consideration sediment reduction as part of road maintenance efforts in this watershed.

In November of 2011, Shasta County Public Works Staff began evaluating the best way to address the impacts of sediment from County maintained roads on the watershed. Staffs from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Geological Survey and Sierra Pacific Industries have assisted with this effort. It was determined that the most conducive way to proceed was to compile an inventory of sediment sources along pertinent County roads. The inventory includes potential projects to reduce sediment at the problem locations. Each of the potential projects is ranked based on potential for sediment generation, feasibility of construction and effectiveness. The Public Works Director has committed maintenance resources over the next several years towards projects listed in the inventory.

Since Rock Creek Road was of the greatest concerns, it was evaluated first. The inventory for this road is complete. Two projects are planned for this summer. The first will be to pave approximately 700 ft. of dirt road to the north of the bridge over Battle Creek. It is a steep grade that drains into the creek. In addition to greatly reducing sediment transport into the creek, the paving will benefit motorists as well. It will enhance the ability of vehicles to traverse the slope during bad weather. The other project will include replacing and extending culverts at various locations along Rock Creek Road.

It is anticipated that it will take four to five years to complete the projects on Rock Creek Road. Once these projects are near completion, the next road to be inventoried will be Long Hayflat Road. The long term goal is to complete an inventory and improvement plan for all of the County maintained roads that have an impact on the water quality in the watershed.
The demand for resources always far exceeds the availability. The Department must always keep safety, access, and legal issues a priority. At the February 23, 2012, Monitoring Study Group held in Redding, it was discussed that there may be funds available for road improvements to reduce the impacts on water quality in the watershed. Shasta County is interested in pursuing these funds. Any assistance that you could provide in this endeavor would be appreciated.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Neil McAuliffe, Associate Engineer, at 245-6848 or Troy Bartolomei, Deputy Director, at 245-6827. Please distribute copies of this letter to members of the Interagency Task Force that participated in preparing the Battle Creek Assessment report.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Minturn, Director

By

C. Troy Bartolomei,
Deputy Director - Operations

CTB/ldr

c:  Neil McAuliffe, Associate Engineer, Shasta County Public Works
    Matt Boone, Regional Water Quality Control Board
    Angela Wilson, Regional Water Quality Control Board
    Duane Shintaku, Assistant Deputy Director, Forest Practice, CAL Fire
    Cajun James, Research & Monitoring Manager, Sierra Pacific Industries