



Keeping Northwest California wild since 1977

July 31, 2014

TO: California State Senator Noreen Evans and Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro

*Sent via email transmission*

**RE: Bill Language Exempting Scott River from Groundwater Legislation**

Dear Ms. Evans & Mr. Chesbro,

I work for EPIC - The Environmental Protection Information Center, which has over 20,000 members. Living on the North Coast, I am deeply connected with the Klamath River Basin and have been closely following the California groundwater legislation that is being crafted and I see that in the most recent draft, the Scott River is included on the list of rivers that would be exempt from the groundwater legislation. Lead Senate drafter Dennis O'Connor has indicated to one of my colleagues that this was a mistake, and that in the next draft, the Scott will be removed from the list of basins that would be exempt from the new legislation. As my representative, I am asking you to please contact Dennis O'Connor and Tina Canon-Leahy and ensure that the Scott will not be exempt from groundwater legislation.

Last week, I swam several miles of the Salmon River to count fish, and we found over 50 dead adult spring-run salmon. The Klamath Basin is becoming toxic, our rivers and tributaries are drying up, and the fish are dying. The Scott is one of the rivers that should be flowing into the Klamath, but it is currently being sucked dry by unregulated pumping, leaving no water for downstream users and fish. If the Klamath River had more water flowing into it, the fish would not arrive to the Salmon River, (which is the biggest salmon run in the Klamath Basin), already sick and dying before spawning.

Please help us protect our rivers, as they are the life blood for this region. Feel free to contact me at 707-822-7711 if you have any questions, and please email me with any updates related to this matter.

Thank you for your time.

For the wild,

Amber Shelton  
Conservation Advocate

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