**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**
DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 219000
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821-9000

October 9, 2012

Ms. Elizabeth Hadley, Chairman
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group
City of Redding Electric Utility
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, California 96001

Dear Chairman Hadley:

This letter is in response to your inquires on September 10, 2012 at the TAMWG meeting regarding possible solutions to improve snow survey data collection and augment automated climatic data collection of your watershed.

In regards to the snow surveys, of the nine snow courses in the Trinity River watershed, three require the use of Foster's Cabin in order to safely measure the courses. We are working with our partners in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest to finalize access and permits for use of Foster's Cabin. Overnight use of Foster's Cabin is essential for the surveyors since travel to and from the courses is more than one day on skis. Travel to these courses can only be conducted on skis since they lie within the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area and helicopter operations were suspended several years ago for safety reasons. We hope to get permission to perform the necessary cabin refurbishments and repairs in time for the upcoming winter and are working closely with our U.S. Forest Service (USFS) partners to make this happen. Overall, reestablishing the routine measurement of the snow courses in the Trinity River watershed has been going well, thanks in part to our USFS partners and the efforts of Joshua Smith at the Watershed Center in Hayfork. Last year was a bit of an experiment in reestablishing regular measurements and I am sure there will be more lessons learned this coming winter. If there are ways that the TAMWG can assist, I will not hesitate to contact you.

As far as augmenting the automated climatic data collection system in the Trinity River watershed, we are in pretty good shape. We are currently receiving precipitation data for all the required precipitation stations to produce a statistical water supply model and summer maintenance has been performed. This last water year we installed a state-of-the-art weather station at the existing NOAA Cooperative Precipitation Station at Coffee Creek; a location that correlates well to the Trinity River forecast. Generally speaking, the more gauges available to collect data in a watershed, the better a forecast can be and reservoir operations can improve. However, a thorough study should be conducted to determine where additional instrumentation would be beneficial in order to maximize the benefit-to-cost ratio of installing any new gauges. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to evaluate your watershed climatic station data needs. However, if the TAMWG were to look into this type of investigation, I would encourage the group to include the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the USFS, and our Snow Surveys

group in this discussion, since we collectively provide the management of the land and water resources in the Trinity River watershed.

Thank you for your interest in the Trinity River runoff forecasts and for the stewardship that the TAMWG provides within the Trinity River watershed. As opportunities to assist with the snow data collection or other gauging efforts come to our attention, we will be sure to let you know.

Sincerely,

David Rizzardo, Chief
Snow Surveys Section
Division of Flood Management

cc: Mr. Seth Naman
National Marine Fisheries Service
1655 Heindon road
Arcata, California 95521

Ms. Teresa Connor, PE
Department of Water Resources
Northern Region Office
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, California 96080