



October 21, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

It is with regret that I tender my resignation as the Director of the California Department of Fish Game, effective November 1, 2009. My decision to resign is unrelated to my duties regarding the State's cherished fish and wildlife resources.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity you provided me to serve as Director. Spending my entire career with the Department has allowed me to work with some of the finest and most dedicated fish and wildlife professionals in the nation. The honor of leading the Department is a privilege few can claim.

I appreciate your personal efforts to acknowledge and address head on complex resource issues. For example, your steadfast support for resolving in a collaborative manner decades of conflict in the Klamath River has resulted in significant accomplishments culminating with the public release of a draft settlement agreement that sets the stage for the largest dam removal and fish restoration project in history. I am confident with your continued support the parties will be able in finalize the agreements in the next few months.

In addition, your leadership in educating the public regarding climate change and taking immediate actions to require California to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies has resulted in California being a global leader in addressing this daunting challenge. Your actions will benefit countless generations of fish, wildlife and people.

Sincerely

Donald B. Koch
Director

Cc: Michael Chrisman
Natural Resources Agency

Victoria Bradshaw
Cabinet Secretary