

California State Senate

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SENATOR
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RETIREMENT



August 10, 2011

Mr. John McCamman
Director, California Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Director McCamman:

I am writing regarding Eagle Lake in my Senate district and the issue surrounding the open bypass valve located in Bly Tunnel.

Eagle Lake is home to the Eagle Lake Trout, a fish unique to the lake and a prize for anglers from around the state and country. The lake is part of "California's Heritage Trout Waters" program and its proper management is critically important to the local environment and economy. An unhealthy Eagle Lake, and a threatened or diminished population of the Eagle Lake Trout, harms residents and businesses in the region, as well as diminishes one of our state's premier fishing destinations.

I recently visited with Eagle Lake residents and had the opportunity to visit the lake. Their stories of economic despair and plight due to the lake's conditions were saddening. They blame the open bypass valve for lowering the lake's water level, therefore damaging the lake and its fish population as well as the economy that depends on the business of the fishermen and other tourists. They were also frustrated that despite repeated efforts to get the bypass valve closed, they had not been successful.

I support the efforts of the Eagle Lake residents to shut off the bypass valve and believe it's worth the attempt to at least see if doing so would give the residents and other interested parties the results they anticipate.

I am asking you to support the shutting of the valve and to work with the Bureau of Land Management regarding its closure.

Please call my office if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Gaines".

TED GAINES
SENATOR, 1st District