

Letter to the Editor of *California Fly Fisher* magazine; published in June, 2015 issue

As Steven Bird points out in his article "A Return to the San Gabriel" (April 2015), it is indeed time for the fly fishers of Southern California to increase their efforts to protect and improve the fishery of the San Gabriel River and its tributaries. The declaration of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument provides a prime opportunity. The National Forest Foundation (<http://www.nationalforests.org/SanGabrielMountains>), which has committed three million dollars to the Monument, is moderating the 3-year management planning effort, and welcomes all to participate. Trout Unlimited, through its Southern California Region office, is already involved. CalTrout has not yet stepped up, and should be encouraged to do so.

A second and more urgent opportunity is to influence the language of a Wild and Scenic River bill, which Representative Judy Chu (CA 27) is being asked to submit for the West Fork, North Fork, and East Fork of the San Gabriel River, all declared eligible streams by the National Forest Service. Unfortunately, because of a concern that L. A. County would not support a bill which included the lower West Fork below Cogswell Dam, this historic seven-mile section would be excluded from the bill. This may have made tactical sense in the past, before the recent election of Hilda Solis to the county Board of Supervisors. Solis was the prime mover behind the NM outcome, starting years ago when she was in Congress, and later, in Obama's cabinet. She is in a good position to influence how L. A. County would view a Wild and Scenic bill for the entire West Fork.

Contact Rep. Chu to encourage her to include the lower West Fork in a Wild and Scenic River bill, at <http://chu.house.gov/connect-with-me/email-judy>, and Supervisor Solis to support it, at <http://hildasolis.org/>.

John Tobin
Conservation Chair
Pasadena Casting Club