

# Request for Emergency Regulatory Action



**Fish and Game Commission Meeting  
August 6, 2014  
Stafford Lehr  
Fisheries Branch**



“The overarching goal is to protect as many wild spawning adults this year due to long-term projections that conditions will not improve throughout the rest of the water year. It is anticipated that there will be compounding mortality for every life history stage above normal mortality rates.”

# Problem Statement

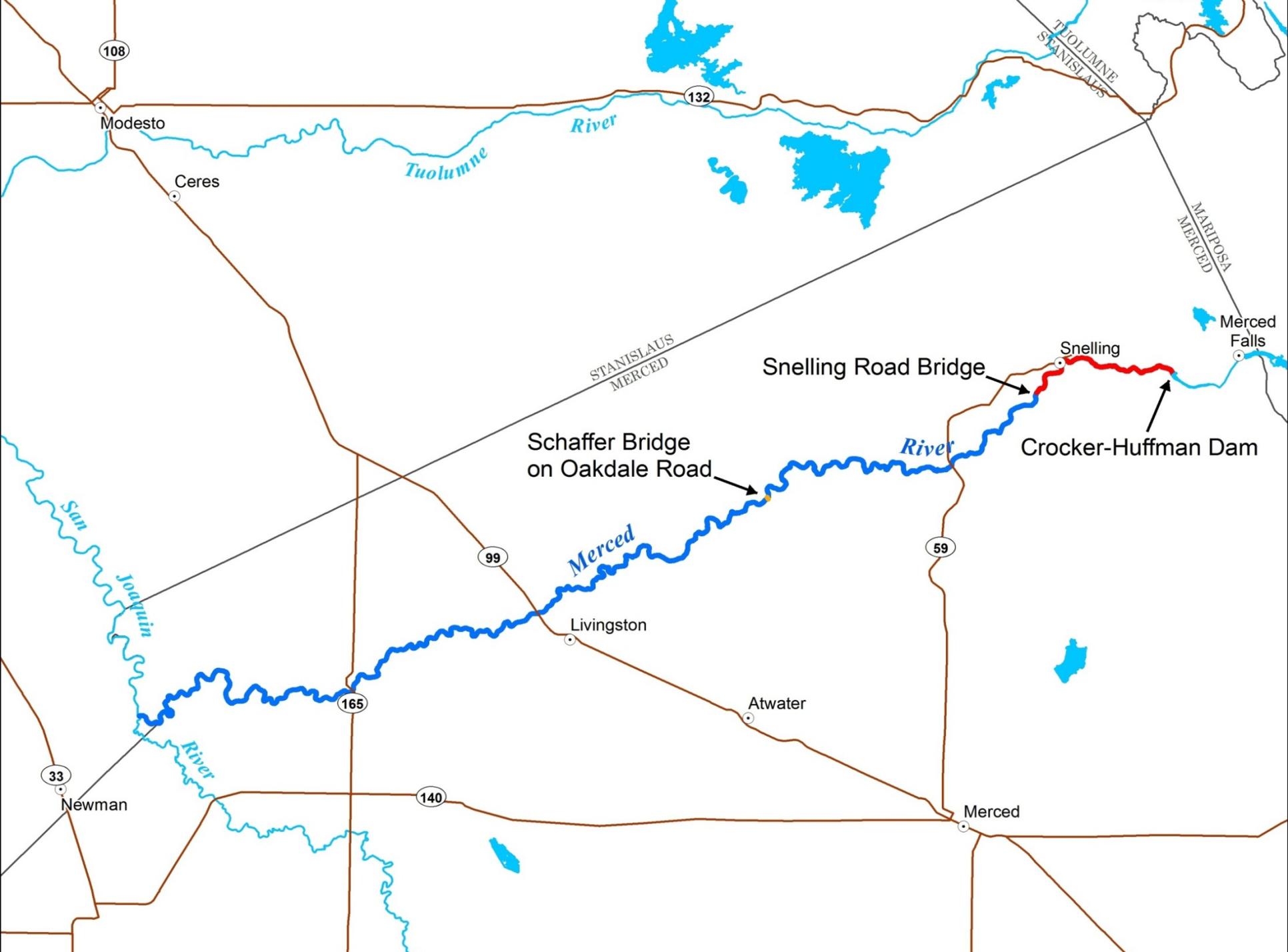
- Current historically low stream flows and high water temperatures in the lower Merced River have concentrated rainbow trout, that may include steelhead, into shrinking pools of cold water making them easy prey for poachers, illegal angling methods such as snagging, and increased hooking mortality.

# Proposed Emergency Response

- Implement an emergency angling closure of the lower Merced River to eliminate angling as an additional stressor on the existing rainbow trout population. This action is necessary to conserve the wild rainbow trout population by protecting as many adult fish as possible.

# Proposed Angling Closure

- Lower Merced River from Crocker-Huffman Dam downstream to the Snelling Road bridge
- A distance of approximately 5.5 miles
- Closed to all fishing from \_\_\_\_\_ through October 31



108

Modesto

Ceres

132

Tuolumne River

TUOLUMNE  
STANISLAUS

MARIPOSA  
MERCED

STANISLAUS  
MERCED

Snelling Road Bridge

Snelling

Merced Falls

Crocker-Huffman Dam

Schaffer Bridge  
on Oakdale Road

Merced River

99

Merced

Livingston

59

Atwater

165

140

Merced

33

Newman

# Questions / Thank You

