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April 8, 2013

Charles Hoppin, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



**Re: Support of the Elk River Watershed Recovery Assessment and Pilot Sediment Remediation Project proposal for Cleanup and Abatement Account funds**

CT  
DFA

Dear Chairman Hoppin:

I am writing in support of the Elk River Watershed Recovery Assessment and Pilot Sediment Remediation Project submitted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB). The Elk River watershed is an important component of the larger Humboldt Bay ecosystem, historically providing valuable freshwater habitat for salmonid species now threatened with extinction. The lower and middle reaches of the watershed are populated with homes and ranches, while the upper watershed supports commercial timber harvesting operations.

Past timber harvesting activities have left a legacy of problems in the Elk River, resulting over the last several years. For example, there have been increased rates of winter flooding in the lower and middle reaches of the watershed. Elk River area residents petitioned the NCRWQCB in 1999 to address the excess sediment deposition and relieve them of the health risks, safety concerns, and property damage associated with increased flooding.

I wholeheartedly support the proponent's efforts to develop and implement a sediment remediation action plan for the Elk River watershed. It is important that any remediation of instream stored sediment be conducted in such a manner as to ensure the health and safety of area residents, protect private property, and reduce environmental risk. I urge you to fund the NCRWQCB's proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of this most worthwhile project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

WESLEY CHESBRO  
Assemblyman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



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