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Subject: Opposition to rescinding CDO R5-2011-0097 City of Colfax
Date: Monday, August 04, 2014 12:23:05 AM

The City of Colfax is a bad neighbor to the North Fork American River and the Auburn State Recreation Area which receive its discharges.

Please be informed that pursuant to the July 23, 2014, letter to City Manager Mark Miller, Friends of the North Fork opposes the proposal to rescind City of Colfax Cease and Desist Order R5-2011-0097 by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Existing, under construction and proposed City of Colfax infiltration and inflow controls are inadequate. Order-permitted use of economic factors regarding whether to continue with I&I control are a fatal weakness in this regulatory effort.

Colfax industrial pollution information, controls, and fees for industrial sewer hook up, regulation and penalties are inadequate and absent. The letter does demonstrate some progress in this regard when it states, "According to Recent self-Monitoring Reports (eSMRs) and the Water Balance, the majority of recent diversions are due to plant upsets caused by discharges from an industrial user." The street industrial survey we submitted several years ago included major obvious and likely sources of interference and upset.

The actions and inaction by the State Water Resources Control, Board, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and the City of Colfax fail to implement and undermine the Clean Water Act, The Porter Cologne Act, USEPA regulations, the NPDES and Industrial Pretreatment delegations to the State of California by USEPA, and all public information, public involvement and public disclosure requirements. On this last point, in spite of requests to do so, the Regional Board seems unable to create a map in for permit documents and orders that shows the relationship of the Colfax POTW to the North Fork.

There is nothing in the July 23 letter that justifies the recommendation to rescind. In fact, the contents of the letter document that it should be kept in place until it is replaced by a new order that sufficiently addresses the problems.

All water board orders for Colfax are insufficient and are regularly made without adhering to law.

Friends is looking into the documents described in the letter and related information.

I would appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt of this e-mail.

Please update my address and e-mail information for all Region 5 purposes or inform me of the extent to which the address is updated or not at the regional board.

Michael Garabedian, President

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