

Elk River Forum Notes: Desired Outcomes

Participants in the Elk River Forum (November 16, 2013) generated a list of some of the desired outcomes from collaborative TMDL and other watershed planning efforts with landowners and stakeholders. The outcomes are listed by interest group including residents, industrial timber, the RWQCB, and the County as follows:

Residents:

- On-going forums for Elk River
- Healthy forest conditions (maximize biological potential) in watershed
- Return to circa 1987 conditions, i.e. flood regime, access to property, water supply, septic system function, and land use.
- Clean-up/sediment removal, and vegetation management to rehabilitate Elk River channel
- Declaration of “nuisance condition” by County to leverage funds and labor, e.g. CCC, SWAP, etc.
- Interim property tax reduction for lost landuses
- Adherence to CEQA guidelines and processes
- Section 15130 B.5 - requiring EIR for projects of certain scale/impact
- Section 15064 H.3 – ensuring cumulative effects are considered (do not piecemeal)
- Section 15130 C - - adopt ordinance
- Maintenance or increase in jobs in the watershed
- Enhancement of eco-tourism in watershed

Industrial timber

- Flexibility with RWQCB
- Coordinated monitoring for TMDL compliance
- Consensus from regulatory agencies on requirements and support mechanisms (mitigate conflicting requirements and reduce duplication)
- TMDL based on current practices, including HCPs
- Unlink upslope remediation from channel remediation
- Reconsider 1.5% max harvest rate
- Obtain AB 1492 Restoration Funds (1%)
- Begin proactive acquisition of permits for solutions

Regional Water Quality Control Board

- TMDL/WDR adoption by 2014
- Formation of ongoing coordinated monitoring/adaptive management working group/TAC
- Permitting and funding support from other agencies and County
- Address water supply alternatives via Dept of Health funding for “disadvantaged” communities

County of Humboldt

- Include other Elk River residents
- Improve conditions for residents
- Hasten implementation
- Consider interim fixes