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Subject: Elk River
Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 4:07:30 PM

The proposed TMDL is inadequate, particularly in terms of its limited restrictions on logging. The Water Board's job is water, not the protection of the interests of logging companies. I have watched the situation in Elk River for at least 18-20 years now and what I have seen is a disgraceful failure to apply rules for years now. I can remember watching Kristi Wrigley at least 16 or more years ago effortlessly push an 8' pole into the sedimented bottom of the river till the pole was embedded at least 6' down into the silt. And nothing has been done. Now it's time to put a stop to ALL logging and start the cleanup. Humboldt Redwood Company should be responsible for a portion of the costs for that cleanup. This should not be some "externality" that they can just walk away from. The residents have been living in hell for all these years and the Water Board has stalled and stalled, has done studies and held meetings year in and year out and done nothing. What you are proposing now is a slow and partial start and is totally insufficient, particularly in the face of your years of all talk and no action. Property destruction, lives endangered, loss of water supply, loss of incomes and on and on and you have done nothing but protect the logging companies. Your job is to protect the watershed from destruction and pollution and you have done neither after all these years. The river is polluted from the logging and from cattle and you do nothing but talk. Stop all logging now and see that the pollution from the cattle is dealt with, that is what you are supposed to do and it's past time you do it.

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“The greatest country, the richest country, is not that which has the most capitalists, monopolists, immense grabbings, vast fortunes, with its sad, sad soil of extreme, degrading, damning poverty, but the land in which there are the most homesteads, freeholds – where wealth does not show such contrasts high and low, where all men have enough - ...” Walt Whitman