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Subject: Opposition to rescinding CDO R5-2011-0097 City of Colfax supplement
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The City of Colfax (City) has not met the requirements of the order proposed to be rescinded.

Paragraph 16 requires the City to continue I&I repair until the peaking factor is within normal limits recommended by USEPA unless the City does a cost analysis. The City's April 2014 report states, "... (C)onfidence that the Peaking Factor will remain at 3.1 during future water years is low." Page 11. Meeting the factor in only one year that is a drought year with this absence of confidence it will continue in wet years does not meet the requirement. The City has done no cost analysis. Further, the City wants to continue its lateral improvement program which states it has had more applications for than it has been able to fill.

Paragraph 17 requires the City to determine if additional I&I reductions are necessary after a number of steps have been taken. It has made no such determination.

The City had 54,000 lateral feet of gravity and force flow sewer lines, not including laterals, and has repaired about 18,000 feet, which is about 33% of the system. It is common knowledge that when I&I is repaired in one area, more I&I will occur in the remaining leaking areas. The recent I&I wet year reductions are a roughly similar percentage to the line repair percentage, so to maintain and increase I&I, continued repair of the system is necessary.

The Storage Capacity Evaluation Report and Water Balance are similarly compromised by operational and methodological failures. The Regional Board has assumed that POTW shutdowns for repairs and maintenance are about two days a month. In the first six months of 2014, interference, upset and other problems caused the plant to fail half of the time. For an incredible 90 days January through June of this year, there was no discharge from the POTW. Instead, plant effluent was diverted to Pond 3 which is a 75-foot high sewage dam. Shut down internal diversions, not including for maintenance short repair times, were 1/17-1/18, 1/2-1/11, 2/11-2/19, 2/3-2/7, 2/27-4/23, and 6/17-6/30. In a wet year the POTW and its pond could not meet operating requirements.

The humor-laden aspect of this POTW is that much of the time it literally does not discharge into receiving waters. Smuthers Ravine above the discharge point is usually dry. It's also been regularly dry at the monitoring point below the POTW discharge point. In other words, the POTW effluent is its own receiving waters. Smuthers Ravine enters Bunch Creek which flows year-round, and Bunch Creek enters the North Fork American River that also flows year-round. Regional Board executive staff can not stomach the idea of monitoring in the creek and river above and below these confluences. It might help to understand that the Colfax POTW was designed built and a treated sewage land application operation on a ridge above the North Fork. The scheme quickly failed and treatment operations have been

added on to it with uneven results.

The recent shut downs have largely been attributed to an alcoholic fruit drink distillery referred to by the City as Crispin Cider Company. A recent USEPA-funded Colfax pretreatment inspection only reviewed the distillery, which is the only industry in Colfax regulated by the City's industrial sewer program. The report inexplicably fails to investigate whether a Clean Water Act industrial Pretreatment program is needed in Colfax.

Colfax has had regular problems meeting copper and aluminum limitations

The Regional Board and City methods of calculating the copper Water Effects Ratio (WER) are impermissible.

A court decision this week requires amending Board Permits with an established weekly Aluminum limitation.

The same decision will require the Board to change to the legal California Toxics Rule calculation.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Garabedian, President
Friends of the North Fork