

From: jerry martien <martien@humboldt1.com>
To: "Matt St. John" <mstjohn@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/20/2009 10:13 AM
Subject: Humboldt Watershed Council 303(d) comments
Attachments: 3.20.09 303(d) letter.doc

Dear Mr. St. John and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board:

On behalf of Humboldt Watershed Council, I submit the comments attached and pasted below. Thank you. Jerry Martien, HWC Secretary

20 March, 2009

Matt St. John, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Mr. St. John and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board:

Humboldt Watershed Council is an organization of Humboldt County residents and property owners who are concerned with the continuing degradation of our watersheds, and the tremendous impact this has upon our safety, property, and quality of life. We call for the restoration of water quality and the recovery of wild salmon runs.

Based on the experience and observation of our members and member groups, we support the continued listing of Humboldt County's 303(d) severely impaired waters — Trinity River, Redwood Creek, Mad River, Jacoby Creek, Freshwater Creek, Elk River, the Van Duzen, Eel, and Mattole. In our largest watershed to the north, we join with Riverkeepers and strongly support the listing of the upper reaches of the Klamath River due to toxic algae. We also call for the new listing of Little River and Widow White Creek due to fecal coliform contamination.

Our deeper concern in this process, however, is that it is not leading to recovery of water quality, nor of salmon and steelhead populations. Further, we remain opposed to the exceeding of TMDL limits granted through your Tier 2 "zero sediment logging" exemptions in Elk River and Freshwater Creek. We are disturbed that these exemptions have recently been grandfathered to Humboldt Redwoods Corporation, and see this as a dangerous precedent. The NCRWQCB's own calculations, based on the flawed Landscape Reduction Model, may contribute to the impairment of these watersheds and prevent the recovery of water quality and of our fisheries.

We appreciate the opportunity for comment, and hope this review will lead to healthier rivers and fisheries.

Sincerely,

Jerry Martien, Secretary
Humboldt Watershed Council