

**From:** Jennifer Savage <jenniferelizabethsavage@gmail.com>  
**To:** <mstjohn@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**CC:** <surfrider-humboldt@googlegroups.com>  
**Date:** 3/20/2009 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** comments re 303(d) listings: Mad River, Little River

March 19, 2009

Matt St. John, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A  
Santa Rosa CA 95403  
mstjohn@waterboards.ca.gov

We write you on behalf of the Humboldt Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education. Clearly, advocating for clean water is a key component of our mission; the rivers feed into the ocean, including many popular surf breaks. We support the listing of Mad River as impaired and further encourage the addition of Little River as impaired. We have over 200 members who spend time in and around the ocean. In addition to surfing, they fish, clam, kayak, tidepool and otherwise play in and around the river mouths. Collectively, they represent a wealth of historical experience and knowledge about the area.

Mad River and Little River, the beaches where they end and the ocean locales into which they empty offer many beneficial uses, primarily recreational, but also as a food source. Cleaning up these rivers through the procedure outlined in the 303(d) listing process is imperative. Without proper attention, the threat to humans and wildlife will only increase; by solving the problems now, not only will those rivers improve, but so will the beaches downstream.

The North Coast RWQCB's own website contains documentation of the DDE contamination in the Mad River. As far as Little River, evidence includes witnesses noting bad smells, experiencing itchy skin and observing unnatural texture on the water surface. Further extensive study should be done to ascertain the amount of damage.

Regarding scientific data on Mad River, again, according to the report available through your website, "Two of the 12 DDE samples exceed the evaluation guideline used to interpret the water quality objective. Based on the readily available data and information, the weight of evidence indicates that there is sufficient justification in favor of placing this water segment-pollutant combination on the Section 303(d) List in the Water Quality Limited Segments category (i.e., sufficient justification to list)."

Thank you for accepting our comments supporting the listing of Mad River as impaired with regards to DDE levels and encouraging the addition of Little River for bacterial impairment.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Savage  
Kalei Colridge  
Bill Hoopes  
Colleen Clifford

Surfrider Foundation Humboldt Chapter  
humboldt@surfrider.org