

Dear Members of the Board,

My name is Jedediah Parr. I live on the north fork of the Elk River. I'm writing in response to the proposed WDR to comment on the conditions of the north fork in general.

When I moved to Elk River five years ago, I was only abstractly aware of the flooding issue. Since then, a greater awareness has become unavoidable. My yard floods on a regular basis, bringing debris up against my fence, damaging my water supply equipment, and threatening the foundation to my home. I have a well on the property which is now unusable. I've had to miss numerous days of work due to the impassibility of the intersection of Elk River Road and Wrigley Road. Repairs to the house and the phone line (critical in an area with frequent storm damage and no reliable cell phone reception) have been often delayed. And with each flood comes a fine layer of sediment that coats everything, inundates my water pipes, washing machine, and kitchen and bathroom fixtures, and makes the north fork of the river look more and more like a mud-slicked storm gutter and less like anything remotely resembling a river.

I don't exactly know what role the Water Board could or should have played in years past in preventing this abomination before it got so out of hand. I defer to my neighbors in that regard. However, it's readily apparent that someone dropped the ball somewhere, and allowed HRC's predecessor to destroy the north fork, thereby harming the property and even threatening the bodily safety of numerous Elk River residents. It also is beginning to be apparent that a company with significant political connections and financial resources has much more clout in the current river protection and restoration process than the residents who have lived for years in jeopardy.

I appreciate that our society needs lumber, and that our area needs jobs. And I appreciate that in other areas lumber is produced with less regulatory oversight. But those cannot be placed ahead the health and financial security of local residents. A fair and neutral weighing of interests must necessarily fall in favor of personal safety, the right to have one's property not harmed by the impacts of another landowner's actions, and the river's desperate and long-unaddressed need to recover.

Sincerely,
Jedediah Parr
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