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April 18, 2014

Ms. Katharine Carter  
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

*Via Electronic Mail to Katharine.Carter@waterboards.ca.gov*

**Subject: List Northern California Rivers as Flow-Impaired**

On behalf of the Northcoast Environmental Center, our supporters, and member organizations, I am writing to voice our support for listing the Scott, Shasta, Eel, and Mattole Rivers as flow-impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Unsustainable water withdrawals, coupled with current drought conditions, pose significant threats to our region's waterways. These rivers are urgently in need of more water to support beneficial uses protected under the Clean Water Act, particularly the most sensitive coldwater fish species such as steelhead, Chinook salmon and endangered Coho salmon that live there.

We believe that there exists ample evidence to support listing the Shasta River, Scott River, Mattole River, Eel River and other California streams proposed in 2010 for flow impairment listing under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Further, we urge the State Water Resources Control Board to expedite development of statewide criteria for flow impairment listings.

The identification of waterways impaired by altered flows is a critical step in protecting and restoring the vital aquatic habitats that sustain the culture, economy, and ecosystems of Northern California. We stand with the coalition of fishing groups, watershed groups, scientists, tribes and community members in urging the State Water Board to take action now to list the aforementioned flow-impaired waterways.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for working to protect our vital watersheds.

Sincerely,

Dan Ehresman  
*Executive Director*