

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Colby Pepper <ctp163@humboldt.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 8:07 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: Re: Release of North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board "Public Review Draft Staff Report for the 2012 Integrated Report" (March 14, 2014)

Dear Ms. Carter,

I am writing in support of the recommended listing of the following waterways as Impaired by bacteria due to the high number of exceedances documented by Humboldt Baykeeper's Citizen Water Monitoring Program.

I like to kayak, surf, and swim in and near Mad River and Little River, and am in support of listing these waterways as Impaired by bacteria under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This listing will help prioritize the important work of identifying pollution sources and working towards strategies for reducing and eliminating this type of pollution from our streams and Humboldt Bay.

I am not the only resident with a potential to be affected by our rivers and water ways. As an active college student, when I spend time at the beaches and riverbanks, I am surrounded by large groups of people enjoying the same experiences. All of these people are at risk.

Examples of activities that could expose people to pathogenic bacteria in each streams' waters:

Little River: The Little River at Moonstone Beach County Park is a popular spot for children and dogs to play in the shallow river all year long. Many people surf, boogie board, fish and crab at Moonstone Beach, and they kayak, stand up paddle, and even swim in the Little River.

Jolly Giant Creek & Campbell Creek in Arcata: These two creeks flow into the region of Humboldt Bay that support commercial oyster farms. Although the Bay itself does not have high E. coli levels when oysters are harvested, the farms are required to stop harvesting after major storms, when E. coli washes into the creeks and flows into the Bay. On average, the oyster industry shuts down 30 days each year to protect public health and safety.

Widow White Creek/Mad River: This creek winds through suburban neighborhoods of McKinleyville, where children play in the water. Children often play in the creek where its lower reach flows onto a popular public beach before reaching the Mad River. This puts people that use Mad River as a recreation area to kayak, swim and fish at a high risk.

Martin's Slough/Lower Elk River: The Elk River supplies drinking water to many residents. Martin's Slough attracts children to play in its waters where it flows through suburban neighborhoods. People have been known to surf at "Stinky Beach" near the Elk River mouth in Humboldt Bay.

Please take all of this into consideration as if this were your home county. The people of Humboldt County highly depend and take pride in their rivers, and we would like to keep them clean, and our residents safe and healthy, with your help.

Sincerely,
Colby Pepper

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Erin Rowe <babeonblades@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 3:50 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: Public Review Draft

Re: Release of North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board "Public Review Draft Staff Report for the 2012 Integrated Report" (March 14, 2014)

Dear Ms. Carter,

I am writing in support of the recommended listing of the following waterways as Impaired by bacteria due to the high number of exceedances documented by Humboldt Baykeeper's Citizen Water Monitoring Program.

I like to [surf, fish, kayak, swim, wade, etc.] in and near [name of local waterway], and am in support of listing this waterway as Impaired by bacteria under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This listing will help prioritize the important work of identifying pollution sources and working towards strategies for reducing and eliminating this type of pollution from our streams and Humboldt Bay.

Add other relevant info, such as: Have you or your kids ever had an intestinal illness after surfing or other water-based recreation? Do you go in the water year-round? Have you ever noticed unpleasant smells, strange colors or sheens, or other signs of pollution?

Examples of activities that could expose people to pathogenic bacteria in each streams' waters:

Little River: The Little River at Moonstone Beach County Park is a popular spot for children to play in the shallow river all year long. Many people surf, boogie board, fish and crab at Moonstone Beach, and they kayak, stand up paddle, and even swim in the Little River.

Jolly Giant Creek & Campbell Creek in Arcata: These two creeks flow into the region of Humboldt Bay that support commercial oyster farms. Although the Bay itself does not have high E. coli levels when oysters are harvested, the farms are required to stop harvesting after major storms, when E. coli washes into the creeks and flows into the Bay. On average, the oyster industry shuts down 30 days each year to protect public health and safety.

Widow White Creek/Mad River: This creek winds through suburban neighborhoods of McKinleyville, where children play in the water. Children often play in the creek where its lower reach flows onto a popular public beach before reaching the Mad River.

Martin's Slough/Lower Elk River: The Elk River supplies drinking water to many residents. Martin's Slough attracts children to play in its waters where it flows through suburban neighborhoods. People have been known to surf at "Stinky Beach" near the Elk River mouth in Humboldt Bay.

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Erin Rowe <babeonblades@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2014 8:21 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

Re: Release of North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board "Public Review Draft Staff Report for the 2012 Integrated Report" (March 14, 2014)

Dear Ms. Carter,

I am writing in support of the recommended listing of the following waterways as Impaired by bacteria due to the high number of exceedances documented by Humboldt Baykeeper's Citizen Water Monitoring Program.

I like to [surf, fish, kayak, swim, wade, etc.] in and near [name of local waterway], and am in support of listing this waterway as Impaired by bacteria under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This listing will help prioritize the important work of identifying pollution sources and working towards strategies for reducing and eliminating this type of pollution from our streams and Humboldt Bay.

Add other relevant info, such as: Have you or your kids ever had an intestinal illness after surfing or other water-based recreation? Do you go in the water year-round? Have you ever noticed unpleasant smells, strange colors or sheens, or other signs of pollution?

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Little River: The Little River at Moonstone Beach County Park is a popular spot for children to play in the shallow river all year long. Many people surf, boogie board, fish and crab at Moonstone Beach, and they kayak, stand up paddle, and even swim in the Little River.

Jolly Giant Creek & Campbell Creek in Arcata: These two creeks flow into the region of Humboldt Bay that support commercial oyster farms. Although the Bay itself does not have high E. coli levels when oysters are harvested, the farms are required to stop harvesting after major storms, when E. coli washes into the creeks and flows into the Bay. On average, the oyster industry shuts down 30 days each year to protect public health and safety.

Widow White Creek/Mad River: This creek winds through suburban neighborhoods of McKinleyville, where children play in the water. Children often play in the creek where its lower reach flows onto a popular public beach before reaching the Mad River.

Martin's Slough/Lower Elk River: The Elk River supplies drinking water to many residents. Martin's Slough attracts children to play in its waters where it flows through suburban neighborhoods. People have been known to surf at "Stinky Beach" near the Elk River mouth in Humboldt Bay.

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Georgia Salmon <capablew@sonic.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 4:23 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: Clean Waterways

Re: Release of North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board "Public Review Draft Staff Report for the 2012 Integrated Report" (March 14, 2014)

Dear Ms. Carter,

I am writing in support of the recommended listing of the following waterways as Impaired by bacteria due to the high number of exceedances documented by Humboldt Baykeeper's Citizen Water Monitoring Program.

I like to [surf, fish, kayak, swim, wade, etc.] in and near [name of local waterway], and am in support of listing this waterway as Impaired by bacteria under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This listing will help prioritize the important work of identifying pollution sources and working towards strategies for reducing and eliminating this type of pollution from our streams and Humboldt Bay.

Add other relevant info, such as: Have you or your kids ever had an intestinal illness after surfing or other water-based recreation? Do you go in the water year-round? Have you ever noticed unpleasant smells, strange colors or sheens, or other signs of pollution?

Examples of activities that could expose people to pathogenic bacteria in each streams' waters:

Little River: The Little River at Moonstone Beach County Park is a popular spot for children to play in the shallow river all year long. Many people surf, boogie board, fish and crab at Moonstone Beach, and they kayak, stand up paddle, and even swim in the Little River.

Jolly Giant Creek & Campbell Creek in Arcata: These two creeks flow into the region of Humboldt Bay that support commercial oyster farms. Although the Bay itself does not have high E. coli levels when oysters are harvested, the farms are required to stop harvesting after major storms, when E. coli washes into the creeks and flows into the Bay. On average, the oyster industry shuts down 30 days each year to protect public health and safety.

Widow White Creek/Mad River: This creek winds through suburban neighborhoods of McKinleyville, where children play in the water. Children often play in the creek where its lower reach flows onto a popular public beach before reaching the Mad River.

Martin's Slough/Lower Elk River: The Elk River supplies drinking water to many residents. Martin's Slough attracts children to play in its waters where it flows through suburban neighborhoods. People have been known to surf at "Stinky Beach" near the Elk River mouth in Humboldt Bay.

Thank you for your consideration,
Georgia Salmon
capablew@sonic.net

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Hollie Hall <hollierhall@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 2:28 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: Re: Release of North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board "Public Review Draft Staff Report for the 2012 Integrated Report" (March 14, 2014)

Dear Ms. Carter,

I am writing in support of the recommended listing of the following waterways as Impaired by bacteria due to the high number of exceedances documented by Humboldt Baykeeper's Citizen Water Monitoring Program.

I like to eat shell fish/fish from, boat in, and splash in and near the mouth the Humboldt Bay Tributaries, and am in support of listing this waterway as Impaired by bacteria under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This listing will help prioritize the important work of identifying pollution sources and working towards strategies for reducing and eliminating this type of pollution from our streams and Humboldt Bay.

Thank-you for your work and have a nice day,
Hollie

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Hollie Hall, PhD  
Watershed Resources Specialist

Hollie Hall & Associates Watershed Resources Consulting

1-707-502-4870

[www.HollieHall.com](http://www.HollieHall.com) (updated 1/26/14)

PO Box 5306  
Arcata, CA  
95518

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"Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two Nobel prizes - one for peace and one for science." John F. Kennedy

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Joel Mielke <joel@carsonparkdesign.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: Please support putting six streams under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act

Thank you.

Joel Mielke
Eureka, California
707.444.2644
www.carsonparkdesign.com

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Ken Miller <tamer1@suddenlink.net>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 7:13 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: 303d bacteria

Ken Miller, MD

1658 Ocean drive

McKinleyville, CA 95519

707-8397444

Katharine Carter

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Release of North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board “Public Review Draft Staff Report for the 2012 Integrated Report” (March 14, 2014)

Dear Ms. Carter,

I support of the recommended listing of the following waterways as impaired by bacteria due to the findings documented by Humboldt Baykeeper’s Citizen Water Monitoring Program:

Little River

Jolly Giant Creek & Campbell Creek

Widow White Creek/Mad River

Martin’s Slough/Lower Elk River

I kayak year-round near Widow White Creek at the mouth where kids and others often play; I take my dog to Moonstone where Little River flows and where kids like to boogie board; I visit friends affected by pollution in Elk River frequently, and I love to eat oysters, as do so many others who depend on Humboldt Bay's water quality.

I am in support of listing these waterways as impaired by bacteria under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This listing will help prioritize the important work of identifying pollution sources and strategies for reducing and eliminating this type of pollution from our streams and Humboldt Bay.

Gastrointestinal disorders, especially in children and pets, may be associated with polluted runoff, and not just from E. coli, which may be an indicator of other pathogens as well, like c.parvum.

Sincerely,

Ken Miller, MD

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Maggi Draper <maggi@humboldt1.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 2:29 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: "Public Review Draft Staff Report for the 2012 Integrated Report" (March 14, 2014)

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

Dear Ms. Carter:

I live and practice law in Humboldt County. My family has lived here for 22 years, we use waterways and beaches all year around, and notice pollution in these areas. We enjoy water sports in all the local bays, lagoons and sometimes rivers. We walk our dogs in these areas as well. I am writing today regarding the findings of excess coliform bacteria in our local streams, which are impacting the ecosystems in these waters.

Jolly Giant Creek & Campbell Creek. These creeks wash into Humboldt Bay, wherein lie oyster farms. I am concerned that this sort of bacteria could impact the commercial viability of these farms, and aquaculture has been a focus of developing a new economic base here. After major storms, these business have to shut down for long periods, affecting viability. From a legal perspective, it increases the cost of doing business, a burden on businesses due to potential liability among consumers for illness. This is unnecessary. Preventing this fecal contamination is thus important both environmentally and economically, a rare win in the culture wars. We also enjoy canoeing in these waters, and the prospect of a possible boating accident is made worse by the thought of getting ill as well as surviving cold water.

Little River: We often walk our dog at moonstone Beach, and our dog, Puppies, who is now deceased, was sick once or twice after being there. Our daughter attended and taught surfing to small children there. Kids should not be exposed to such levels of contamination as their immune systems are more sensitive. Of course none of us should be exposed.

Widow White Creek/Mad River: This creek winds through suburban neighborhoods of McKinleyville, where children play in the water. Children often play in the creek where its lower reach flows onto a popular public beach before reaching the Mad River.

Janes Creek: This site has also been found to have excessive coliform. Since we kayak and canoe in the Arcata Bay, we do not want to get sick. We do notice that the Mad River slough has some pretty foul looking sheens and stuff in it when we go there and the tidal conditions are "right" (or wrong!) for such things. While I am aware that soapy foam is not, even when brown, necessarily a bad sign, still don't think the amount of brown material is all natural biological material. There is an oily appearance and sometimes odor that indicates trouble in an otherwise wonderful BLM wildlife refuge. In addition, it could conceivably be related to the mill, located next to Mal 'el Dunes.

While I love recreating in all of these areas, I find myself yelling at the dog not to drink when she's thirsty, and hating it when I splash myself while boating. When I was a child we all used to like picnics. Now I feeling unable to enjoy a picnic lunch when boating because I fear eating any food I bring to my mouth with my hands. We have an energy bar since we can hold it by the wrapper. There's a quality of life issue that speaks volumes, yet probably has never been mentioned!

A few comments about Martin's Slough/Lower Elk River: I do not use the Elk River except to walk the dog, but I worry about her getting a mouthful of water. There are few toilets (none?) in the area for those using the area for walking. Additionally, I see many homeless individuals there, who risk being contaminated by fecal matter floating down stream.

The Elk River, as you probably are aware, has been logged to kingdom come and has an excessive sediment problem. What is in those sediments? The Elk River supplies drinking water to many Elk River residents, and it's residents may have had trouble with perc due to the river's siltation. I believe if there is work to be done on those systems, those responsible for over logging should be made to pay for remediation. The damage to Elk River is surely not an Act of God. '

I have some experience in environmental law, and if Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act can be brought to bear on the situation it will do much to improve the ecologic *and* economic values of Humboldt County and California - not to mention the waters of the United States. Humboldt Baykeeper's Citizen Water Monitoring Program has identified these problems due the the dedication and hard work of many unpaid people who care about clean water, and they deserve the appropriate response to their volunteering. The result should be a listing that will lead to prioritizing the identification of pollution sources and working towards strategies for reducing and eliminating this type of pollution from our streams and Humboldt Bay.

It's not easy protecting North Coast waters. Thanks for all you have done to date, and for attention to this as well.

Sincerely,

Margaret Draper

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Margaret Draper
Attorney at Law
POB 176
Bayside, CA 95524
707.826.9072

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Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Mary Ella Anderson <cslrep1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 3:47 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: Clean creeks, clean bay

Dear Ms. Carter, I recently read disturbing news that the coliform count of several local waterways, including those that flow into Humboldt Bay, have been found to be very high. I am particularly concerned about Jolly Giant Creek, Campbell Creek, Widow White and the Mad River which are all in the vicinity where I live. I hope that you will do more research and identify the sources of this pollution and take steps to correct the situation. This pollution is bad for the people who live here and come in contact with the creeks and for the oyster industry which is becoming an important part of our economy.

Please give this your attention.

Sincerely,
Mary Ella Anderson
Arcata, CA 95521

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Rita Carlson <timrita@suddenlink.net>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 6:33 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: Support: Listing of six Humboldt County waterways as impaired

Re: Support- Listing of six Humboldt County waterways as impaired

Dear Ms. Carter,

I am writing in support of the recommended listing of the following waterways as Impaired by bacteria due to the high number of exceedances documented by Humboldt Baykeeper's Citizen Water Monitoring Program: Little River, Widow White Creek, Martin Slough, Elk River, Jolly Giant Creek and Campbell Creek.

I am in support of listing this waterway as Impaired by bacteria under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This listing will help prioritize the important work of identifying pollution sources and working towards strategies for reducing and eliminating this type of pollution from our streams and Humboldt Bay.

Sincerely,

Rita Carlson
POB 3753
Eureka, CA 95502-3753
timrita@suddenlink.net

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Terri Bonow <t.bonow@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2014 11:32 AM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: Please clean up our streams, waterways, and beaches

Dear Ms. Carter,

I am writing in support of the recommended listing of the following waterways as Impaired by bacteria due to the high number of exceedances documented by Humboldt Baykeeper's Citizen Water Monitoring Program.

I like to [surf, fish, kayak, swim, wade, etc.] in and near [name of local waterway], and am in support of listing this waterway as Impaired by bacteria under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This listing will help prioritize the important work of identifying pollution sources and working towards strategies for reducing and eliminating this type of pollution from our streams and Humboldt Bay.

Add other relevant info, such as: Have you or your kids ever had an intestinal illness after surfing or other water-based recreation? Do you go in the water year-round? Have you ever noticed unpleasant smells, strange colors or sheens, or other signs of pollution?

Examples of activities that could expose people to pathogenic bacteria in each streams' waters:

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Jolly Giant Creek & Campbell Creek in Arcata: These two creeks flow into the region of Humboldt Bay that support commercial oyster farms. Although the Bay itself does not have high E. coli levels when oysters are harvested, the farms are required to stop harvesting after major storms, when E. coli washes into the creeks and flows into the Bay. On average, the oyster industry shuts down 30 days each year to protect public health and safety.

Widow White Creek/Mad River: This creek winds through suburban neighborhoods of McKinleyville, where children play in the water. Children often play in the creek where its lower reach flows onto a popular public beach before reaching the Mad River.

Martin's Slough/Lower Elk River: The Elk River supplies drinking water to many residents. Martin's Slough attracts children to play in its waters where it flows through suburban neighborhoods. People have been known to surf at "Stinky Beach" near the Elk River mouth in Humboldt Bay.

Thanks for preserving this wonderful and scenic area.

Terri L. Bonow MLIS
t.bonow@hotmail.com

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Urania <ourania@zoho.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 05, 2014 9:47 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: Clean up waterways

Dear Ms. Carter,

Please make sure the following waterways are cleaned up:

Little River

Jolly Giant Creek & Campbell Creek

Widow White Creek/Mad River

Martin's Slough/Lower Elk River

Our families love going to these places and it is scary to think we could get sick from wading in the water.

Thank you,

Urania Hunter