

February 15, 2016

VIA E-MAIL

RE: DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR THE UPPER ELK RIVER SEDIMENT TMDL

Dear Members of the Board:

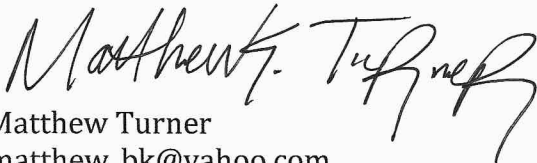
I can tell you that the draft TMDL action plan for Upper Elk River is not going to do a single thing to recover the beneficial uses of water on anything resembling a reasonable schedule. We've already been dealing with poor water quality and undue threats to our health and safety for 20 years because our public trust agencies were asleep at the regulatory wheel. Now we have to wait until 2020 for full-scale remediation to even begin? The residents of Elk River deserve meaningful environmental improvement *now*.

Table 2 of the draft TMDL action plan scares me. The "numeric target" for sediment delivery due to surface erosion from roads is "Decreasing road surface erosion" (please tell me where the number is in that target) and for peak flows the target is a 10% reduction in 10 years. Ten percent less than what? The horrendously unnatural, harmful peak flows we experience now? These targets are so weak and vague that they cannot possibly represent worthwhile goals. Well-defined, hard targets for the recovery of beneficial uses of water need to be developed.

Please explain to me how you maintain a margin of safety when the channel has zero loading capacity. With this type of blatant lack of logic, you are giving residents of Elk River the run-around on paper (and the shaft in real life). When will I be able to drink water directly from Elk River again? When am I going to be able to fish in Elk River, like I did when I was a child?

Let's be honest: a meaningful action plan for Elk River would include a moratorium on timber harvest for an extended period. It's a proven method of watershed recovery. It wouldn't be a huge public expense. But you would have to stand up to well-funded timber interests. Hey, isn't that kind of your job?

Don't piss on my shoes and tell me it's raining,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Turner". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Matthew Turner
matthew_bk@yahoo.com
707-498-8138