

Memorandum

To : Mr. Benjamin D. Kor, Executive Officer
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403

Date : December 1, 1997

From : Department of Fish and Game - Region 1
601 Locust Street, Redding, California 96001

Subject : Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the 1998 Water Quality Assessment and Revisions to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Bodies for the North Coast Region

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) has reviewed the subject list of water bodies recommended for listing under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of water bodies. The list describes waters that do not fully support all beneficial uses or are not meeting water quality objectives. The list includes a description of the pollutants for each listed water body which limits its use or prevent attainment of its water quality objectives. We concur with the proposed addition of Elk River and Freshwater Creek to the list. We also agree with the proposal to add the limiting factors of dissolved oxygen to the Klamath River and temperature to the South Fork Trinity River.

The Department recommends that the following constituents be added as pollutants to the following listed water bodies:

1. Shasta River, sediments and nutrients
2. Klamath River, sediment
3. Trinity River, temperature
4. Laguna de Santa Rosa, dissolved oxygen
5. Stemple Creek, dissolved oxygen
6. Americano Creek, dissolved oxygen

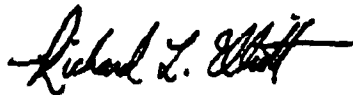
We understand that proposals for listing new water bodies may not be appropriate at this time, however, we would like to call attention to the following water bodies which potentially could be included in the next list revision.

1. McDonald Creek, Humboldt County. This is the only viable spawning tributary to Stone Lagoon. The upper watershed has been impacted by sediment from old logging roads with many road failures. A rock quarry and the access road have caused major slides into the creek. Logging continues in the lower watershed with major sediment impacts. This stream provides habitat for chinook and coho salmon, coastal cutthroat trout and steelhead.

Mr. Benjamin D. Kor
December 1, 1997
Page Two

2. Little River, Humboldt County. This stream is impacted with sediment from logging operations and the related road system. Little River provides habitat for chinook and coho salmon, coastal cutthroat trout and steelhead.
3. Elk Creek, Siskiyou County. Elk Creek contains a significant fishery including summer and fall/winter steelhead, coho, fall chinook and occasionally spring chinook. It also serves as the main source of domestic water for the community of Happy Camp. The flood of 1997 severely damaged much of Elk Creek's riparian vegetation and filled in many large holding pools used by adult salmon and steelhead. Temperature studies begun in 1990 show that 1997 summer temperatures were nearly five degrees higher than the previous six-year mean due to the substantial reduction in riparian cover and reduced depths. This stream should be protected from further degradation.

We appreciate the Regional Water Quality Control Board's efforts to improve protection of water bodies which are not currently supporting all beneficial uses. Department staff are available to answer questions and provide further information regarding biological resources and pollutants in these streams. If you have any questions or comments please contact Environmental Specialist III Jane Vorpapel at (530) 225-2124 (CALNET 442-2124).



Richard L. Elliott
Regional Manager

cc: Mr. Brian Hunter
Department of Fish and Game
Post Office Box 47
Yountville, California 94599

Ms. Jane Vorpapel
Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, California 96001