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*Marin Audubon Society*    *Box 599*    *Mill Valley, California 94942-0599*

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER

May 14, 2001

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QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

Loretta Barsamian, Chief  
SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 14  
Oakland, CA 94

RE: RESPONSE TO SOLICITATION OF WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

Dear Ms Barsamian:

The Marin Audubon Society would like to submit the following creeks in Marin County for consideration as additions to the CWA Section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies:

- 1) Petaluma River, at least the portion near the mouth, for sediment, mercury and selenium. Water quality data on mercury and selenium levels has been required from the Bahia Homeowners Association for their Dredging/lagoon and lock project near the mouth of the Petaluma River. The sampling data is not currently available to us, but needs to be submitted to the RWQCB and other LTMS agencies for permitting purposes. This section of the estuary is known to be a high sediment deposition area. Information on sediments can be obtained from monitoring reports prepared by consultant Stuart Siegel, Wetlands Water Resources, for the Carl's Marsh Restoration project across the river in Sonoma County. We anticipate there also are high coliform levels along the Marin side north and south of Highway 37. There are homes build right on the marsh and we have had reports of direct flow of untreated effluent to the Petaluma River.
- 2) Novato Creek, for mercury and sediment. Data to support these categories of impairment can also be obtained from RWQCB and other LTMS files. These agencies have received sampling reports from the Bel Marin Keys Community Services District for purposes of permitting their dredge project on Novato Creek.
- 3) Corte Madera Creek, for sediments. Information is being provided by the Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed.
- 4) Gallinas Creek, for sediments. We have no specific data, but the area near the mouth needs dredging on a regular basis, so historic permitting records from the Corps and RWQCB should be applicable.

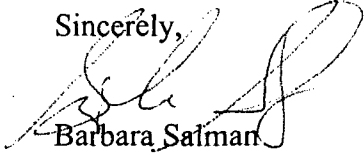
As you know, the Petaluma River, Novato Creek and Gallinas Creek empty into San Pablo Bay and Corte Madera Creek is tributary to San Francisco Bay.



*A Chapter of National Audubon Society*

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Salman', written over the printed name.

Barbara Salman  
Conservation Committee

cc: BayKeeper