

**COMMENT LETTER 44 - ROBERT PARONT (SEPTEMBER 24, 1996), RECEIVED
SEPTEMBER 24, 1996**

Response to Comment 44-1

Comment Summary: The comment states that the Russian River has been slowly recovering from man's influence and asks if we are willing to risk this sensitive recovery process. Specifically, the comment mentions the recoveries associated with anadromous fisheries and the river otter, and expresses particular concern about effects of fertilization.

The Draft EIR/EIS is a decision-making tool which will be used by the appropriate public officials when selecting the final Project alternative. The Draft EIR/EIS provides full disclosure of potential impacts associated with each of the Project alternatives. Section 4.6, of the Draft EIR/EIS considers the potential for increased algal growth and turbidity associated with both discharge and other project elements such as agricultural irrigation. The analysis has shown that the project will reduce sediment and nutrient loads in irrigation areas (refer to page 4.6-89). Measure 2.2.6: Agrochemical and Fertilizer Best Management Practices is designed to ensure that fertilizers do not affect surface waters. Water quality impacts of discharge are discussed starting on page 4.6-90.

Response to Comment 44-2

Comment Summary: The comment states that tourism is the mainstay of the lower River economy and that the Draft EIR/EIS did not treat these matters justly. The comment also asks the question, "With 20 percent effluent would you swim in the River?"

Refer to Master Response 7, located in Section 6.2 of this document, regarding impacts to the tourist economy.

