

COMMENT LETTER 46 - INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS, ROBERT W. RAWSON (SEPTEMBER 24, 1996), RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

Response to Comment 46-1

Comment Summary: The comment suggests that the Draft EIR/EIS has included 20% Russian River Discharge as one of the alternatives, and has identified it as the environmentally superior alternative based on cost; and urges zero discharge.

Under NEPA, the EIR/EIS must address all reasonable alternatives; reasonable alternatives include those that are practical or feasible from the technical and economic standpoint (NEPA's Forty Most Asked Questions, 2a). Therefore, the EIR/EIS must consider Russian River Discharge as one of the alternatives.

The Environmentally Superior Alternative is discussed in Section 5.5 of the Draft EIR/EIS, starting on page 5-22. This discussion indicates that increased discharge is environmentally superior because it can be accomplished without construction of large physical facilities; cost was not a factor. It is not possible to build dams, pump stations and pipelines without significant environmental effects. Zero discharge was evaluated in the Screening Report for the Long-Term Project (Harland Bartholomew & Associates, March 1994) and was found to be infeasible. Refer to Master Response 15, located in Section 6.2 of this document for a discussion of zero discharge.

Response to Comment 46-2

Comment Summary: The comment states that the Draft EIR/EIS is flawed because it did not consider irrigation of redwoods, and urges selection of this alternative.

Regarding treatment of redwoods irrigation in the EIR/EIS, refer to Master Response 18; regarding the request for selection of a particular alternative, refer to Master Response 2. Both Master Responses are located in Section 6.2 of this document.

Response to Comment 46-3

Comment Summary: The comment is a newspaper article regarding the Headwaters forest and a statement of opinion indicating that another alternative should be considered, using the reclaimed water to grow redwood trees.

Refer to Master Response 18 and Master Response 2, both located in section 6.2 of this document, concerning irrigation of redwoods and selection of a Project.

