

**COMMENT LETTER 71 - SHARI BIGGS (SEPTEMBER 24, 1996), RECEIVED
OCTOBER 3, 1996**

Response to Comment 71-1

Comment Summary: The comment states that is not acceptable to continue to contaminate the Russian River with sewage.

The EIR/EIS authors do not agree that the Russian River is currently "contaminated", or that continued discharges would result in contamination. Existing water quality of the river is described on pages 4.6-10 through 4.6-23 of the Draft EIR/EIS. The Draft EIR/EIS has evaluated discharge to the Russian River. Section 4.7 concluded that "Direct discharge of reclaimed water into the Laguna de Santa Rosa or the Russian River will not adversely affect water quality at drinking water sources and would not adversely affect human health via other potential exposure pathways" (see page 4.7-61). Section 4.6 found significant unavoidable impacts to conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and biostimulatory substances in the Russian River (see page 4.6-150). However, with implementation of cumulative projects to reduce nutrient inputs to the Laguna, and with mitigation proposed for project impacts, analysis concluded that 20% design discharge to the Laguna could be implemented without significant water quality impacts.

