

**COMMENT LETTER 104 - DIAN HARDY (OCTOBER 7, 1996), RECEIVED
OCTOBER 7, 1996**

Response to Comment 104-1

Comment Summary: The comment expresses general concern about the impact of reclaimed water on harbor seals.

Harbor seal impacts are evaluated in Appendix K-4 (Ecological Risk Assessment). Direct exposure to reclaimed water was predicted to present no risk to harbor seals and exposure to aluminum through consumption of fish was predicted to present low risk to harbor seals. Because cumulative impacts of aluminum were determined to be potentially significant, the Draft EIR/EIS proposes Mitigation Measure 2.4.16: Ecological Risk Monitoring and Source Control Program on page 2-119. With this mitigation, impacts to harbor seals will be less than significant.

Response to Comment 104-2

Comment Summary: The comment refers to an unspecified study of cyanide effects on San Francisco Bay harbor seals and indicates that results are disturbing.

Cyanide impacts on Russian River harbor seals are evaluated in Appendix K-4 (Ecological Risk Assessment). Direct exposure to cyanide and exposure to cyanide through consumption of fish was predicted to present no risk to harbor seals. Because no reference is provided for the study cited in the comment, no further response can be provided.

Response to Comment 104-3

Comment Summary: The comment urges a “more comprehensive look at this marine mammal population,” in apparent reference to harbor seals at the mouth of the Russian River.

Refer to Responses to Comments 104-2 and 104-3. Since no unavoidable impacts were identified, further studies were not deemed to be necessary.

Response to Comment 104-4

Comment Summary: The comment suggests that the project may violate the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act.

No unavoidable adverse impacts on marine mammals were identified in the Draft EIR/EIS.

