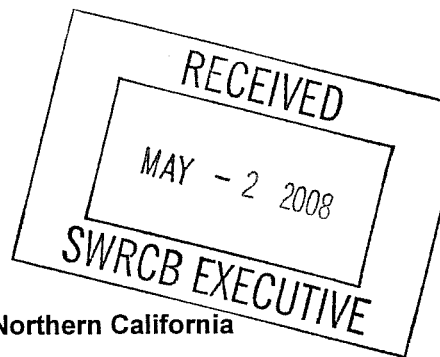




April 24, 2008

Ms. Tam Doduc
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000



Subject: Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows In Northern California Coastal Streams

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Ukiah
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

DAVE RICHARDSON
Executive Director

300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 833-2553

Dear Ms. Doduc:

The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is an association of local public agencies in the Russian River Watershed that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, fisheries restoration, and watershed enhancement. Several member agencies rely on diversions from the Russian River and will be affected by the proposed policy.

Section 12 of the Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams (Draft Policy) offers a watershed approach to resolve water rights issues and help conserve salmonid species and other beneficial uses. RRWA supports a watershed approach to resolve these issues because it will:

- Lead to a comprehensive rather than a piecemeal solution to water rights and habitat issues in the Russian River watershed. A comprehensive solution will more effectively balance competing interests and protect beneficial uses;
- Reduce the cost of necessary studies, applications and possibly facilities in the Russian River watershed and tributaries; and
- Expedite resolution of water rights applications by SWRCB.

The Sonoma County Salmonid Coalition (Coalition) has been formed by federal, State and local agencies (some of which are RRWA members), land owners and NGOs to help conserve salmonid species and resolve water rights issues in the Russian River watershed. Section 12 of the Draft Policy provides a framework for the Coalition to develop a plan for allocation of water and species conservation. RRWA supports the Coalition's activity in this regard and encourages SWRCB to preserve the watershed approach as an appropriate framework to resolve complex issues in the Russian River watershed.

Sincerely,

Jake Mackenzie, Chair, RRWA Board of Directors
Russian River Watershed Association, www.rwatershed.org

cc: RRWA Board of Directors