



Over my 40 years as an elected and appointed official, it has been my pleasure to work closely with John Corbett as a dedicated and spirited public citizen and lawyer.

John Corbett has spent a lifetime fighting for the health and well being of the natural environment of the North Coast and for the people who live here.

Using his legal skills he played a crucial role in stopping the clear cutting of old growth redwoods long enough for Congress and President Carter to save those forests through expansion of the Redwood National Park.

John played a crucial role in assisting the City of Arcata in it's fight to get approval for the innovative and world- renowned Arcata Marsh Treatment system.

And he was instrumental in achieving the cleanup of Humboldt bay pulp mill toxic discharges.

There is almost no aspect of life in our region that has not been touched and made better by John's service as a member of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. This on top of serving as an elected member of the McKinleyville Community Services District Board and innumerable other acts of volunteer and pro bono work on behalf of his community.

I offer my gratitude and respect for all that John Corbett has accomplished for the community and region that he loves.

**-Wesley Chesbro**  
**California State Senator, retired**



John has worked tirelessly to protect water quality deploying his deep knowledge of the Clean Water Act and Porter-Cologne. His creativity and ability to bridge divergent points of view has resulted in a stronger Basin Plan and cleaner water for the Region.

Cat Kuhlman  
NCRWQCB Executive Officer

I worked with John Corbett for many years on Klamath River issues. The Klamath River is a better place because of John's work. John was a tireless worker, and often sent emails from all hours of the night about the issues we worked on. It was very clear that restoring the Klamath River, fixing the river, and cleaning up the water were more than just a job to him; but rather they were a calling.

John is very unique. His shirt tail might have been untucked, but his thoughts and writings were precise and effective. Haha. Anybody who worked with John knows exactly what I'm talking about.

John was also a valuable strategist and always saw things a few steps ahead. He was instrumental in negotiating the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement, which will result in the removal of four dams on the Klamath River. His designation of cultural purposes as a Beneficial Use for the Klamath River is a gift that will live on, and was both groundbreaking and incredibly important.

I traveled a lot to different meetings with John and still consider him a good friend to this day, even if we don't get to see each other physically so much anymore.



Michael Belchik  
Sr. Water Policy  
Analyst  
Yurok Tribe

John – Congratulations on your retirement from the North Coast Water Quality Control Board!



Dave Hillemeier

Thanks so much for your many years of service with the Water Board as well as working as General Counsel for the Yurok Tribe.

Your contributions toward developing the Tribe's Legal Department, acquisition of Yurok lands within the Blue Creek watershed, and negotiations for removal of the Klamath Dams will never be forgotten.

Happy trails!



I would like to commend John Corbett upon his retirement from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and thank him for his indefatigable service on that body, for the McKinleyville Community Services District, and for the Yurok Tribe.

Being fully engaged and serving with an open mind and a deference to science, John has helped keep the Board on keel and helped protect our treasured North Coast rivers. He understands that maintaining and restoring beneficial uses, including cold water fish such as salmon and steelhead, is the key to sustainability and for maintaining community health and our quality of life.

Pat Higgins  
Eel River Recovery Project, Managing Director

For over 40 years I, along with a number of others in Humboldt County, have held the opinion that at the time John Corbett had completed his studies in Sweden about California water law and been admitted to the California bar, he probably knew more about California water law than anybody in the jurisdictional area of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

I think it must be said that all of the Water Boards have benefitted greatly from John's knowledge, efforts at fairness, consistency, and determination.

**Bill Bertain, Attorney, Eureka, CA**

John Corbett's commitment to clean water, social justice, and racial equity has been an inspiration to me and many of my colleagues working on Klamath Basin issues.

He was a key player in the push for Klamath dam removal, an unprecedented restoration project, that will bear fruit in the near future.

I will forever value John's leadership, moral compass, guidance. I hope he enjoys retirement, but I expect to see him at the next public meeting as a citizen activist very soon!

S. Craig Tucker, Ph.D.

Principal

Suits and Signs Consulting, LLC

I greatly appreciated working with John during his tenure on the Regional Board.

John's long-term presence on the Board provided a historic perspective, and he had a thorough knowledge of water quality regulations.

His legal background brought additional depth to issues before the Board.

I wish him the best in retirement.

Gary Ryneason, Green Diamond Resource Company