

WESTERN WATERS CANOE CLUB

40 Redding Road
Campbell, CA 95008
July 27, 2011

San Francisco Bay
Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay St
Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612



Subject: Comment Letter - SF Bay Region Beneficial Uses/Waterbodies Update.

I have reviewed the subject document for the Western Waters Canoe Club and submit the following comments:

We strongly support the proposed additions and updates to the Beneficial Uses of our waterways in the Basin Plan. However, we have a deep concern that the REC 1 and REC 2 designations due to a stated **presumptive use** for a number of Santa Clara Basin waterways should more accurately be annotated as an **actual or existing use**. I know I have canoed the entire length of the Guadalupe River numerous times over the past 20 years only portaging around the Alamosa Dam and have also canoed various segments of the river almost every year with others. Both the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek have Class II rapids at moderate and higher flows, so boating them are white water, REC 1, activities at higher flow events. I have canoed the entire length of the downtown reach of Coyote Creek from Hwy 280 to the tidal sloughs and have paddled segments of the downtown reach every year with others for at least the past 12 years. I have also paddled Los Gatos Creek from the San Tomas Expressway dam to its confluence with the Guadalupe River a number of times with others. I have hundreds of photos documenting these events. In addition, I have dozens of photos showing people fishing along the Guadalupe River, Los Gatos Creek and Coyote Creek, which also documents water contact recreation. We are concerned that some opposed to listing additional beneficial uses of our waterways may argue that a presumptive use is not sufficient to designate a water body for that use so we feel it is very important for the Basin Plan to indicate actual usage especially when there is a significant amount of evidence supporting it. I have enclosed several photos to document some white water recreation events on Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River as examples and would be more than happy to provide additional photos if deemed necessary. Thank you.

cc: GCRCB

Lawrence Johmann
President



Los Gatos Creek April 1995



Guadalupe River 1995



1999

Guadalupe River

2000



Guadalupe River 2006



Guadalupe River 2006



Guadalupe River 2006