



September 25th, 2017

Chair Felicia Marcus and Board Members
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I St., 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 9814
Sent via electronic mail to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

**RE: Comment Letter – Proposed Amendment to The Policy On
Supplemental Environmental Projects**

Dear Chair Marcus and Board Members:

Russian Riverkeeper (RRK) is a local non-profit environmental organization, based in Healdsburg (Region One). We are dedicated to the conservation and protection of the Russian River's mainstem, tributaries, and watershed through public education, citizen action, scientific research, and expert advocacy. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) statewide policy on Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs). We also appreciate the SWRCB Office of Enforcement efforts to create greater transparency, and consistency in the process of soliciting, approving, administering and implementing SEPs

While RRK is pleased with the policy in general, and agree with the rationale for the proposed amendment to the policy (the recognition of the "Human Right to Water" {Resolution No.2016-0010}, Environmental Justice concerns {Gov. Code 65040.12(e)} and Climate Change issues {Resolution No. 2017-0012}, we would like you to consider how the current policy is being implemented at our local regional level as well as offer some suggestions we believe are critical to maximizing the efficacy of the policy, particularly at the Regional Board level.

Audits - Currently, the "Audit" policy consideration [2017 SEP Policy Amendment Staff Report, Pg. 5] is proposing a requirement for third party financial audits for any SEP over \$1,000,000.00. As the majority of SEPs entered into within Region One are under this threshold, and several SEPs issued at the local level have failed to complete the requirements, RRK recommends that internal audits be conducted whereby the SWRCB evaluates all SEPs on a regional basis (perhaps based upon the number of complaints and/or environmental impact of the failure to complete the SEP) no matter the financial amount, in order to determine whether the policy as amended is being adhered to.

Annual SEP List – Current policy requires Regional Boards to maintain and post a list of authorized SEPs. RRK, along with other organizations within our watershed have



submitted SEPs and currently we cannot find evidence of them being listed at either Regional One's website or on the SWRCB approved SEP website.

The Russian Riverkeeper thanks you for the opportunity to comment on Proposed Amendment to The Policy On Supplemental Environmental Projects and looks forward to working together with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Bob Legge

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