



REDWOOD EMPIRE
TROUT
UNLIMITED

redwoodempiretu.org

April 30, 2009

Jeanine Townsend
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Order 2009-0027-DWR

The Redwood Empire Chapter of Trout Unlimited (RETU) represents 570 anglers and conservationists dedicated to the restoration of a run of 50,000 wild steelhead in the Russian River, a goal set by resolution by the State of California, the County of Sonoma and the City of Healdsburg. Clean cold water in the Russian is necessary to achieve this goal.

RETU also has a set goal of ACCELERATING the overdue Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process on the Russian River which is listed as impaired by the following 7 pollutants: sediment, temperature, mercury, nutrients, pathogens, low dissolved oxygen (DO), and conductivity.

RETU feels that the TMDL process on the Russian River MUST be accelerated if flows are going to be reduced as has been proposed in the emergency order. Lower flows mean increased impacts from pollutants. So far, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has delayed action on the TMDL process claiming lack of funding.

The real reason for the delay is the undue influence of the polluting special interests that are inappropriately represented on the NCRWQCB such as Bob Anderson, executive director of United Winegrowers an organization that is perhaps the largest contributor of some of the pollutants listed above to the Russian River and its tributaries.

The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972, now 37 years ago and still we find the Russian River polluted by sediment, temperature, mercury, nutrients, pathogens, low DO and conductivity while the responsible regulatory agency, the NCRWQCB is impotent to correct the situation because of undue political influence.

The State of California needs to concentrate on improving the water quality in the Russian River in parallel with any plans to reduce its flow which will further concentrate the pollutants in this once magnificent Northern California river and fishery.

Sincerely,
REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED

Kent MacIntosh
President