

**Russian River Flood Control &  
Water Conservation Improvement District**

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April 28, 2008

2008 MAY -1 AM 9:02  
DIV. OF WATER CONTROL  
SACRAMENTO

Ms. Tam M. Dudoc, Chairman and Members  
State Water Resources Control Board  
c/o Karen Nilya, Senior Engineer  
1001 I Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comment Letter - AB 2121 Policy

Dear Ms. Dudoc and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (MCRRFC&WCID), please accept the following comments regarding the proposed Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams.

1. MCRRFC&WCID believes that it is important for the SWRCB to recognize, and specifically incorporate into its decision-making process, that considerations and issues affecting the Russian River and the beneficial uses of its tributaries' waters in Mendocino County are different than other regions in the Policy Area. We ask that careful and detailed analysis, consideration, and specific application of individualized flow criteria be used by the SWRCB on the Mendocino tributaries to insure that inadvertent damage is not done to the legal, beneficial users of water from the tributaries. As has been shown in previous situations with other governmental agencies, broad brush applications of imprecise modifications to flow regimens, particularly in well-developed riverine systems, can cause significant and troubling uncertainties and significant monetary expenses with limited benefits.
2. MCRRFC&WCID asks specifically that the SWRCB consider seriously the different and unique nature of the topography and hydro-geology of the tributaries of the Russian River in Mendocino County as compared to other areas of the watershed. We ask that detailed and specifically applicable criteria to the circumstances and idiosyncrasies of our tributaries must be used as part of your process to maximize your restorative intent and to minimize economic damage to existing , lawful appropriators of water.

**President**  
Judy Hatch

**Vice President**  
Richard Shoemaker

**Treasurer**  
Bill Townsend

**Trustee**  
Mike Lucchetti

**Trustee**  
Lee Howard

3. The interests of our agency are unique. We are the largest water rights holder in Mendocino County and all of our water has been put to beneficial use. Contrary to the representations by some parties, the issues and concerns of our agency, our Mendocino agricultural industry, and our Mendocino urban water users are not always similar to the interests or desires of other agencies holding appropriative rights in the waters of Lake Mendocino. Our Board asks that our unique Mendocino County issues, concerns, desires, and considerations for our specific needs, be individually and expressly addressed in detail by your Board should you decide to pursue changes in the flow criteria.

Our Board greatly desires to work cooperatively with your Board in the same manner that we have been working with your staff to address issues of mutual concern. We reserve the right to further comment on SWRCB staff proposals as they may be developed.

Most Respectfully,

MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Barbara Spazek  
Executive Director