February 15, 2005

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EXEC OFFICE

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To Whom It May Concern:

Trout Unlimited Public Workshop March 17, 2005 hard cc: Board, Debbie Irvin

electronic cc:

Exec, OCC, EM VAW, SRH, LLE, RAS, JT

To whom it may concern:

As the owner of property 10800 Bodega Highway, an old dairy, with water rights going back to 1942, the oldest in the area, I am in a position to testify about the water situation in Redwood Creek. In those days, the diary could irrigate the fields and was allotted 20 acre feet of water. This is a water right that still exists on paper, but I cannot use it because there is no water.

Fortunately, there is a neighborhood concern for this important creek. Water quality as well as water quantity has been measured for years. We also did a fish-count with the Department of Fish and Game. Our concern is for the health of what is left of this once magnificent resource, especially the steelhead trout and other endangered species.

Personally, I put a conservation easement on my whole land, 43 acres, and for me "wildlife comes first." There are wetlands and a wildlife pond on this property that border Redwood Creek.

We strongly support the concerns that the Audubon Society and Trout Unlimited have brought forward. We also hope you will use your influence to improve land use decisions made at the county level. Overdrafting of basins by wells has caused dewatering of formerly gaining creeks.

This indeed may be the last chance we have to protect the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Sone

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