



ROBINSON RANCHERIA

CITIZENS BUSINESS COUNCIL

Public Comment
Beneficial Uses and Mercury Objectives
Deadline: 2/17/17 12 noon

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
digitally submitted to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



RE: Support for the proposed SWRCB Proposed Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays & Estuaries Plan for Tribal, Tribal Cultural & Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses and Statewide Mercury Water Quality Objectives

Dear Jeanine Townsend, SWRCB Chair Felicia Marcus, esteemed Board Members and Staff to the Board,

On behalf of the Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians, I am writing in support of the proposed SWRCB Proposed Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays & Estuaries Plan for Tribal, Tribal Cultural & Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses and Statewide Mercury Water Quality Objectives. The adoption by the SWRCB is the first step in developing management goals and programs that will enable the Tribal Members to safely practice their traditions.

As the Environmental Director for a Pomo Tribe, I have had the privilege of participating in what some would describe as the most religiously sacred Pomo ceremonies performed on the shoreline of Clear Lake. As an invited guest of the community, I am cautious not to state more than required to meet my responsibility of protecting the health of the community. I have observed water quality that I would consider hazardous during the fall of the year ceremonies and due to tradition neither the time nor location can be varied. The current beneficial uses do not enable the Tribal Members to practice these cultural uses safely.

Because the presence of mercury in California Waters negatively affects the ability of California Indian Tribes to practice their culture and to eat traditional foods, it is clear that the inclusion of Tribal considerations in this Plan is appropriate. Without such inclusion any Water Quality Objectives or resulting actions to reduce toxicity would be incomplete.

We look forward to assisting the Mercury Program and in implementing the Plan in the future. If you have any questions or would like to conduct consultation on any of the included topics, please contact the Tribe at the below address of number.

Sincerely,

Mike Schaver, Environmental Director

