



MENDOCINO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY

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FORT BRAGG, CA 95437



July 12, 2006

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Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Doduc,

The Mendocino Audubon Society supports the proposal for the State Water Board to consider a State Revolving Fund loan to the State Conservation Fund in order to help purchase some 16,000 acres of land in the Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds in Mendocino County.

Bird watching has given us an appreciation of the profound gift of Big River to this community – especially the conservation of an estuary that defines our natural history. We have worked hard and have participated at every level to protect and appreciate Big River. That is why we support this resolution to acquire major parts of the river watersheds. We know that the natural history of Big River is about more than river fish and water sports. If the watersheds are not healthy, all wildlife and plant life will be affected in the most disastrous way. We must consider insects, rare and endangered plants, reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, mushrooms, lichens, micro-organisms and mammals.

With that in mind, it might surprise you that our organization recently has supported wise, effective, sustainable forestry. We consider it good science and the adoption of this proposal will sustain and preserve these forests, our livelihoods and our wildlife.

Not long ago, Matt Gerhart, the Mendocino Land Trust Big River Program Manager, took a group of Mendocino Coast Audubon Society members into the Fritz Wonder Plot at Big River State Park to observe old forest growth. We encountered two Great Horned Owl infants perched in the redwood canopy, watching us watch them..

Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board

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It was a moment that told us everything about what we do and why we do it.

Please join us in supporting this proposal. And please contact us so we can take you out into this state park with a pair of binoculars. We can show you exactly what we are talking about.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Warren F. Wade".

Warren F. Wade, President
Mendocino Coast Audubon Society