

Appendix B

Comment Letters

CITY OF CALISTOGA

Administration
1232 Washington Street • Calistoga, CA 94515
Telephone 707-942-2805
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October 9, 2014

Mr. John Madigan
Water Resources Control Engineer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

By Email: John.Madigan@waterboards.ca.gov

**Subject: Tentative Cease and Desist Order for City of Calistoga,
Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant, Napa County**

Reference: September 22, 2014 Notification Letter from Lila Tang

Dear Mr. Madigan:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Tentative Cease and Desist Order (CDO) for the Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant that is scheduled to be adopted by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) on November 12, 2014.

The City of Calistoga understands the need to make improvements to the wastewater collection and treatment facilities that serve existing residences, businesses and future development. The improvements are costly and will take time to identify and construct. The Tentative CDO acknowledges these fiscal and time constraints, and sets forth a manageable schedule for the City to implement and make meaningful progress towards compliance.

As currently drafted, the City of Calistoga does not take any exception to the Tentative CDO. However, we reserve the right to provide additional testimony at the November 12, 2014 Regional Water Board meeting if necessary based on the final Order the Board will consider for adoption. We would appreciate it if you could forward us any written comments you receive so we can be prepared to respond to them as necessary at the Regional Water Board meeting.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the Tentative CDO. If you have questions on this matter please contact our Public Works Director Michael Kim at (707)-942-2782.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R D Spitler', written over a white background.

Richard D. Spitler
City Manager, City of Calistoga

Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 9:08 AM
To: Madigan, John@Waterboards
Cc: Tang, Lila@Waterboards; Austin, Tamarin@Waterboards; Azimzadeh, Farhad@Waterboards; Brown, Kevin@Waterboards
Subject: Tentative Cease and Desist Order for City of Calistoga, Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant, Napa County

Categories: Important

October 9, 2014

Mr. John H. Madigan, P.E.
Water Resources Control Engineer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Tentative Cease and Desist Order for the City of Calistoga, Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant, Napa County; Comments by California Fisheries & Water Unlimited

Mr. Madigan;

I thank the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board for their continued time and attention in the matter of the City of Calistoga Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant, especially as it pertains to critical protections of the Napa River and its resources.

As you're aware, California Fisheries & Water Unlimited has standing in regard to the pollution of the State's waters of the Napa River by the City of Calistoga at the Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant; see the Public Trust Complaint for Investigation by the late Bob Baiocchi of CF&WU, dated March 17, 2013, filed with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. CF&WU is also on record with your agency in opposing the discharge of any/all secondary-treated or tertiary-treated wastewater to the Napa River until all appropriate mitigation measures are in place that protect the beneficial uses of the State's waters of the Napa River, and in opposing select alternatives detailed in the Bypass Alternative Investigation Report of the City of Calistoga, dated June 24, 2013; see communications by Christina Aranguren of CF&WU, dated February 14, 2014 and June 5, 2014, filed with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

At this time, CF&WU would like to reiterate its position on select alternatives of the Bypass Alternatives Investigation Report of the City of Calistoga of June 24, 2013, and respectfully submit into the administrative record new comment related to on-going problems created by the City of Calistoga Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant which continue to affect the beneficial uses of the Napa River.

These include:

1. The opposition of any/all modifications to the City of Calistoga's NPDES Permit that would extend the seasonal discharge start and stop

dates to the Napa River. The Napa River is a federal Clean Water Act 303(d)-listed perennial Class 1, anadromous fisheries-bearing watercourse with threatened or impaired values, mainly due to fine sediment depositions, nutrients, and pathogens. It is not a sewer.

2. The opposition of any/all modifications that would increase the City of Calistoga's effluent pumping capabilities to the Napa River. It is not a city sewer, but an impaired, perennial watercourse capable of supporting anadromous fisheries and should be managed as such. Migratory fisheries are indicator species, highly sensitive to environmental disturbance such as reductions in water quantity, habitat alteration, and degrading water quality resulting from factors such as siltation or pollution, and provide early warning signs of ecosystem deterioration. Coho salmon became extinct in the Napa River watershed in the 1960's. Steelhead were listed as threatened in Napa County in 1997 under the Endangered Species Act and their populations are currently in severe decline. A very small Chinook salmon run still exists today. In the matter of water quality, CF&WU respectfully reminds the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board of its public trust obligations to native fisheries as well as to agriculture.

3. The opposition to increasing the landscape irrigation program by the City of Calistoga of its recycled wastewater at contracted water use sites and city and county-owned properties until the Regional Water Board has been determined that all known contaminants, including antimony, boron, ammonia, cyanide, mercury, copper, arsenic, chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, salts, oil, grease, and PCB's, will not cause or contribute to soil and/or groundwater pollution, having the potential to affect public health and degrade local wells. It is critical to note that City of Calistoga recycled wastewater is currently being used as irrigation on many sports fields utilized by the public, including Calistoga's Little League Field, Logvy Community Park, Napa County's Mount St. Helena Golf Course, Calistoga Elementary School, Calistoga High School, and Community Presbyterian Church, among others. If local reports are accurate, then these sites are becoming more saturated as regulations at the Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant tighten. Other reports claim the loss of trees due to the use of the recycled wastewater; CF&WU urges investigation prior to agency support of this measure. CF&WU requests the specific data which detail any adverse effects to public health from continued recreation on sports fields, lawns, golf courses, et al originating from the irrigation of recycled wastewater containing the nuisance pollutants (above), with particular regard to the specific effects upon children's health.

4. The support of the demolition and relocation of the City of Calistoga's Riverside Ponds due to their proximity to the sensitive riparian environment of the adjacent Napa River and the potential for seepage, percolation, flooding, and/or uncontrolled discharges, and their proximity to agriculture and wells, pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972. CF&WU also supports the subsequent and thorough restoration of the site to original conditions;

5. The support of immediate posting of visible signage at all city/county borders to the Napa River which are located adjacent and/or

south of the Dunaweal WWTP in order to prevent human contact and protect public health until the time when the public can be assured of the safety of the State's waters. (Please note that in the course of light conversation, I have heard testimony from two credible sources who have casually inspected the Napa River adjacent the Dunaweal WWTP; each required antibiotics following their respective treks. Whether the consequences are coincidental or not remains undetermined; any identifications and details may be provided, pending permission);

6. The support of immediate notification to all downstream water users that bypass the State's waters of the Northern Napa River for irrigation, frost protection, or other purposes of current violations by the City of Calistoga;

7. The support of new technologies and related equipment to remove nuisance pollutants at the Dunaweal WWTP prior to its wastewater entering the Napa River environment, and/or soil or groundwater at recycled irrigation sites;

8. The support of immediate new limitations on boron levels for any/all wastewater discharge(s) within the greater Napa County;

9. The support of the immediate implementation of a 2001 Agreement Between the City of Calistoga and The Calistoga Spas to identify, monitor, and meter the City of Calistoga's commercial geothermal water users, effectively reducing geothermal inflows to the wastewater collection system;

10. The support of an immediate, city-wide moratorium on any/all proposed or approved construction within the City of Calistoga limits until the public can be assured that the Dunaweal WWTP is in full compliance of state and federal statutes which affect water quality -- in dry, very dry, and multiple drought years -- and that future violations will not occur under the increased load(s). Calistoga's City Manager made this point clear at a January 7, 2104 City Council meeting when he confirmed that a new effluent storage treatment pond would resolve current storage deficiencies, making it evident that new development would further stress capabilities of the Dunaweal WWTP and would require additional measures.

11. The support of mandatory minimum penalties for current violations in order to provide incentive against future violations of the City of Calistoga's NPDES Permit, since last year's penalty (\$6,000 in fines for violations of elevated antimony levels, March, 2013) does not appear to have influenced changes in city practices. In addition, the on-going drought and effects of climate change may further increase the City of Calistoga's need to discharge in a manner contrary to that described in their NPDES Permit;

12. Lastly, pursuant to PRC 4582.71, CF&WU urges the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to uphold its public trust obligations and duty to protect the beneficial uses of the State's waters in denying THP 1-13-126 NAP, and to make Napa Valley history in doing so.

No state agency may be more aware of the seriousness of the City of Calistoga's current situation than the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. Continuing water rights litigation, severe water supply limitations, critical wastewater treatment plant deficiencies requiring emergency discharges of effluent to an already-impaired Napa River, and on-going pollution of nuisance constituents (primarily geothermal in origin) continue to plague the community and the Northern Napa River watershed. Despite the enormity of its problems with infrastructure, city management has been focused upon aggressive resort development, ignoring the salient fact that the small municipality is simply incapable of handling the added load, and making it vulnerable to violations of the federal Clean Water Act. If a July 15, 2014 study by the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences is correct and a fourth year of drought is likely to continue through 2015 regardless of El Nino conditions, then the Napa River watershed and the larger community of Calistoga is at tremendous risk.

The people of the State of California request relief from their San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. I urge agency support.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Baiocchi Aranguren
California Fisheries & Water Unlimited

cc: Bruce H. Wolfe, Chief Executive Officer; SFBRWQCB
Lila Tang, Chief, NPDES Wastewater Division; SFBRWQCB
Tamarin Austin, Legal Counsel, SFBRWQCB
Farhad Azimzadeh, NPDES Enforcement Officer, SFBRWQCB
Kevin Brown, PG, CEG, SFBRWQCB

bcc: Interested Parties

Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 9:34 AM
To: Madigan, John@Waterboards
Subject: Calistoga Cease and Desist Order

Categories: Important

To San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, Attn. John Madigan
RE: Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant- Tentative Cease and Desist Order
From: Charlotte Williams for Citizens for Green Community

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the tentative Cease and Desist Order for the City of Calistoga's Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant to be discussed at

As a resident of the greater Calistoga area and a member of Citizens for Green Community, I have followed the inadequacies of the Calistoga wastewater plant and the city management's subsequent inability to comply with State and Federal regulations, with interest. Their failure to implement a 2001 agreement between the city and the local spas, the illegal discharge of treated wastewater into the river during low flow periods in defiance of their permit, and the saturation of spray fields on the banks of the Napa River during similar periods with seepage directly into the Napa River.

Calistoga's treated waste water is well documented to contain high percentages of boron, antimony, ammonia, cyanide, copper, and mercury- primarily sourced from the geothermal spas in the region. Knowing this to be the case, in 2001 an agreement was reached between the City and the management of the local spas to monitor the waste water from these sources and to establish a payment scale that would reflect the extra cost of either removing the mineral load or of increasing the storage capacity and developing other uses for the treated water. The action called out in this agreement has never been put in place. Antimony, a heavy metal considered a health risk, is cited in your tentative Cease and Desist as being present at levels greater than allowed. This water is currently watering a sprayfield that leaches into the Napa River as well as the playing fields of the Calistoga Jr Sr High School- at times approaching saturation.

While I believe that the City of Calistoga operates in good faith, I also believe that they need an increased "sense of urgency" to take their responsibilities to the public in this area more seriously. I would strongly support a Cease and Desist Order and would urge requiring the following action

1. the immediate implementation of the 2001 Agreement
2. installation of equipment that can remove nuisance pollutants from the waste water prior to discharge
3. relocation of the wastewater ponds away from the banks of the Napa River

City leadership has put the cart in front of the horse here and has focused their efforts on increasing revenue from Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT) - approving approx. 300 (?) new hotel and resort units in the last year. While this could long term provide funding for improved city services it also increases the pressure on a wastewater system that cannot support the current population. I (we?) believe that it is critical that a moratorium on any new hookups to the existing wastewater system be immediately implemented until such time as the system is brought up to State and Regional standards.

I fervently hope that Calistoga can find the will to take their responsibility to public safety and the environment seriously and clean up this mess. Your concerns are warranted.

Respectfully,

Charlotte Williams



PO Box 506 · Forestville CA 95436 · 707.632.6070

October 8, 2014

Mr. John H. Madigan,
SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

JMadigan@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Tentative Cease and Desist Order for City of Calistoga, Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant, Napa County

Dear Mr. John H. Madigan,

As the Logging Review Program Manager for Forest Unlimited I recently attended the 2nd review for THP 1-13-126 NAP which proposes aggressive timber removal in the City of Callistoga for development of the Callistoga Hills Resort (formerly Enchanted Resorts, Inc.). I was very impressed with the concern expressed by the SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board on the cumulative impacts this logging activity would have especially on the Northern Napa River watershed. I was also very impressed with the high level of professionalism by all involved in the review, especially the waterboard representative Kevin Brown (via telecon). Although obviously not part of the THP review itself, the status of the Callistoga CDO for the Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant came to my attention and I would like to provide the following comments on it.

- The violations discussed in the proposed Callistoga CDO are extremely serious and warrant enforcement to the fullest extent in order to protect the public and the Napa River. The Napa River is considered impaired under the Clean Water Act

which allow no activity to further degrade it. It is to be hoped that the CDO action will be taken at the November 12 meeting to cause the City of Callistoga to remedy the Dunaweal Plant and thus keep the Napa River from additional impairment.

- It is the opinion of Forest Unlimited that the development activity proposed for Callistoga Hills would have the effect of further stressing the already overloaded Dunaweal Treatment Plant which is the subject of the CDO. The City of Callistoga should understand that suspension of all large new development activity would assist it to conform to water quality regulations and to execute the prescribed corrective actions proposed by the Regional Water Board in Table I of the Callistoga CDO.

The following comments reference specific sections of the document entitled "Tentative Cease and Desist Order No. R2-2014-XXXX" on the waterboards website.

- 19 and 20. Measurements of antimony concentrations in the Napa River exceed allowable limits as a result of outflow from the Dunaweal Plant. This is said to be originating from inflow from commercial geothermal spas connected to the City's wastewater system. What other heavy metals have been measured in the river and plant outflow? Since the primary source is over-exploitation of underground hot springs, it is unlikely that antimony is the only such element present. Other dangerous, regulated heavy metals are likely present in the water at some levels. Although an analysis of the chemistry of the Callistoga hot springs is not readily available to the public, hot spring waters frequently contain lead, arsenic, radon, radium, cadmium, selenium and sulfur. All regulated contaminants in the mineral water should be measured, monitored and prevented from entering the Napa River for the benefit of aquatic resources, agriculture and public health. As the Regional Water Board is aware, some of these contaminants may concentrate in the soil if the river is used for irrigation or enter the public supply if the river is used for drinking.

- Table 1, Task a., item 4. "Reduce geothermal inflows to the plant" is not sufficiently specific to protect the Napa River. An obviously poor solution would be to direct these inflows directly to the River bypassing the plant. This will satisfy the plant outflow requirement as worded but will not contribute to

eliminating antimony as well as other dangerous heavy metals including boron, lead, radon, radium, cadmium, selenium, cyanide, arsenic, copper, ammonia, sulfur, mercury, salts, grease, oil, and PCB's from entering the Napa River watershed. Forest Unlimited would appreciate forwarding any information concerning additional contaminants entering the Northern Napa River Watershed especially from geothermal sources.

Forest Unlimited appreciates the Regional Water Board's attention and requests that these comments be made part of the record.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Cruz

Forest Unlimited Logging Review Program Manager



NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

811 Jefferson Street Napa, California 94559 Telephone 707-224-5403 Fax 707-224-7836

October 9, 2014

John H. Madigan, P.E.
Water Resources Control Engineer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 9412

Via email: JMadigan@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Public Comment on Regional Water Quality Controls tentative Cease and Desist Order against
Calistoga Dunaweal Waste Water Treatment Plant

Dear Mr. Madigan,

On behalf of 870 members of Napa County Farm Bureau, we write to support the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's proposed actions to enforce the General Order of Waste Discharge for the City of Calistoga's waste water treatment plant and to set timelines for specific improvements to the waste discharge operations and to build increased storage capacity.

Farmers and ranchers in Napa County take great pride in our sustainable practices to protect water quality and improve conditions in the Napa River watershed. It's imperative that the City of Calistoga move forward in an expeditious timeframe to implement appropriate mitigation measures to protect the beneficial uses of the state's waters.

We oppose modifications which would increase effluent pumping capabilities to an already impaired Napa River. We support the installation of equipment to remove nuisance pollutants at the Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as supporting new, stringent, limitations on boron levels in wastewater discharge.

Further, we support the immediate implementation of the 2001 Agreement Between the City of Calistoga and The Calistoga Spas to identify, monitor, and meter the City's geothermal water users, effectively reducing geothermal inflows to the collection system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Norma Tofanelli
President

Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 12:57 PM
To: Madigan, John@Waterboards
Subject: Public Comment on Regional Water Quality Controls tentative Cease and Desist Order against Calistoga Dunaweal Waste Water Treatment Plant

Categories: Important

Dear Mr. Madigan,

I am writing on behalf of the 690 members of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers to voice our concern over the inadequacy of Calistoga's wastewater treatment and discharges into the Napa River. Our membership includes landowners and vineyard managers that have farming operations and residential property the length of the Napa River, so what takes place in one section can greatly affects many downstream.

The increase of landscape irrigation of Calistoga's recycled wastewater at contracted water use sites and City-owned properties poses a severe threat. Due to the lack of comprehensive studies of probable contaminants, the discharges of treated wastewater could lead to soil and groundwater pollution, having the potential to affect public health and degrade wells. We take seriously any threats to the sustainability of our industry and would like to be included in discussions on this particular issue.

Many thanks and I'll look forward to hearing from the Water Board on this matter,

Jennifer

JENNIFER KOPP PUTNAM • EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER • NAPA VALLEY GRAPEGROWERS

t: 707.944.8311 • f: 707.224.8644 • 1795 Third Street, Napa CA 94559

www.napagrowers.org • Facebook • Twitter

To preserve and promote Napa Valley's world-class vineyards

Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 10:13 AM
To: Madigan, John@Waterboards
Subject: Public Comment on Regional Water Quality Controls tentative Cease and Desist Order against Calistoga Dunaweal Waste Water Treatment Plant

Categories: Important

John H. Madigan, P.E.
Water Resources Control Engineer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 9412

Dear Mr. Madigan,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the issues concerning the City of Calistoga's wastewater treatment plant that have come to the attention of the BARWQCB. While historically there has been runoff from geothermal sources into the Napa River system, the concentration of geothermal derived compounds has been elevated by the practice of local spas discharging to the wastewater plant. A 2001 agreement between the City and many of the spas was to lead to metering of the volume of their discharge. This presumably was to in turn lead to a fee structure based on these metrics. If this revenue stream had been established, perhaps by now a solution would have been financed for removal of these compounds. It has been all too convenient to simply flush them to the Napa River when faced with full storage ponds.

Millions of dollars have been invested in restoration of the Napa River. Fisheries have been recovering, though hampered by recent low flow conditions due to the recent drought. Discharging to the river under low flow conditions undermines these efforts. When spray fields adjacent to the river are allowed to become over-saturated such that there is runoff into the river, surely aquatic life is threatened. Perhaps this is exasperated when local mosquito abatement personnel spray growth inhibitors on these spray fields. This runoff, along with seepage from unlined ponds adjacent to the river, can combine to result in significant effects to the river. In January of this year, prior to rainfall that came later, I walked in the riverbed from a point upstream of the spray field runoff and pond seepage down to Dunaweal Lane. Above the discharge point and the leaking ponds the river ran clear. Downstream of the ponds and discharge point there were white bubbles on the surface, and the volume of the river more than doubled due to these discharges. One would hope that the Department of Fish and Wildlife would be concerned about this. I took samples of the discharges that were analyzed by a certified lab at private expense. The results showed that this discharge was high in boron and other compounds that would make it unsuitable for use in irrigating vineyards.

Besides concerns for effect on aquatic life, I wonder what the effects are on human health. The northwesterly winds that commonly come up in the afternoon often would result in spray from the saturated fields drifting over the adjacent path used for hiking and biking. The drift can often be felt on ones face while using the path, and during one such drift event I observed

parents pushing infants in strollers and young children pedaling bikes. I hope these conditions are monitored by local health authorities for toxins such as antimony and metals.

Recycling of treated wastewater for irrigation usage has been successful in other communities, but here the boron levels make this unfeasible for vineyards. Watering grass at local schools, sport fields, and parks is apparently insufficient to prevent discharge to the river under low flow conditions, even though large volumes are apparently used at these sites (I recently heard the lawns at the elementary school were so saturated it was difficult for the children to play on them—I hope this is not an unhealthy condition for the children).

We do not know if climate change will result in more frequent conditions of low river flow. I don't think increasing the pumping capacity to allow a greater rate of discharge, or extending the seasonal interval during which discharge is allowed are good solutions to the lack of storage capacity. Ultimately there needs to be a solution that allows removal of toxic compounds, and this solution needs to include dealing with increased volumes that will accompany the development that is taking place.

Regards,

Bill Dyer

Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 7:54 AM
To: Madigan, John@Waterboards
Subject: Public Comment on Regional Water Quality Controls tentative Cease and Desist Order against Calistoga Dunaweal Waste Water Treatment Plant

Categories: Important

As a resident of St. Helena, Ca. and thus down river from Calistoga I am concerned about the inadequacy of Calistoga's waste water treatment and the illegal practice of releasing treated waste water into the already impaired Napa River.

Have all appropriate mitigation measures been put in place to protect the beneficial uses of the state's waters? I oppose the release of any/all secondary or tertiary-treated wastewater to the Napa River by the City of Calistoga until those measures have been put in place.

I oppose any/all modifications to the City's NPDES Permit that would extend the seasonal discharge start and stop dates to our already-impaired Napa River; I also oppose any/all modifications which would increase effluent pumping capabilities into an already impaired Napa River.

I oppose the increase of landscape irrigation of the Calistoga's recycled wastewater at contracted water use sites and City-owned properties until it has been determined that all known contaminants (which include boron, antimony, ammonia, cyanide, copper, mercury, chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, oil, grease, and PCB's) will not cause and contribute to soil and groundwater pollution, having the potential to affect public health and degrade wells.

I am in favor of the demolition and relocation of the City's Riverside Ponds due to their proximity to the Napa River and the potential for seepage, percolation, flooding, or uncontrolled discharges, as well as their proximity to agriculture and wells;

Is it possible to install equipment to remove nuisance pollutants at the Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant? I would support this.

Is it possible to implement new county-wide limitations on boron levels in wastewater discharge? I would support this

Has there been discussion of a moratorium on any/all proposed or approved construction within the city limits until the Dunaweal WWTP has proven that it is in full compliance of state and federal statues which affect water quality? I would support this.

I support the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's denial of THP 1-13-126 NAP which will further stress conditions at the Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant;

I also support the immediate implementation the 2001 Agreement Between the City of Calistoga and The Calistoga Spas to identify, monitor, and meter the City's geothermal water users, effectively reducing geothermal inflows to the collection system;

Would it be possible to implement immediate posting of visible signage at all city borders of the Napa River to prevent public contact until the public can be reassured of its safety? I am in favor of this.

Would it be possible to implement immediate notification to all downstream water users that bypass the state's waters of the Northern Napa River and/or its tributaries for irrigation, frost protection, or other purposes? As someone who lives downstream from Calistoga I am in favor of this.

I support mandatory penalties to provide incentive against future violations, especially as the on-going drought and the effects of climate change may further increase the City's need to discharge in a manner contrary to that described in their NPDES Permit. What are those penalties? How can I find out more about those penalties and the processes by which they are assessed?

Thank you
Geoff Ellsworth
St. Helena, Resident

Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 6:32 AM
To: Madigan, John@Waterboards
Subject: Calistoga Cease and Desist Order

Categories: Important

Good Morning Mr. Madigan:

I am a Calistoga resident of over 30 years and am very dismayed by the misguided development agenda the current mayor and city council have driven the city into. In his zeal to gain approval for these resorts the Mayor Chis Canning not only broke the law (2013 FPPC violation ruling and fine of \$3000.00) but he was the leading proponent to build far too much far too fast with far too little regard for the long term consequences, especially considering the lack of adequate wastewater infrastructure, not to mention the huge question mark regarding reliable water access. I am in agreement with all of the following:

1. To oppose the release of any/all secondary or tertiary-treated wastewater to the Napa River by the City of Calistoga until all appropriate mitigation measures are in place to protect the beneficial uses of the state's waters.
2. To oppose any/all modifications to the City's NPDES Permit that would extend the seasonal discharge start and stop dates to an already-impaired Napa River.
3. To oppose any/all modifications which would increase effluent pumping capabilities to an already impaired Napa River;
4. To oppose the increase of landscape irrigation of the City's recycled wastewater at contracted water use sites and City-owned properties until it has been determined that all known contaminants (which include boron, antimony, ammonia, cyanide, copper, mercury, chlorodibromomethane, dichlorobromomethane, oil, grease, and PCB's) will not cause and contribute to soil and groundwater pollution, having the potential to affect public health and degrade wells.
5. To support the demolition and relocation of the City's Riverside Ponds due to their proximity to the Napa River and the potential for seepage, percolation, flooding, or uncontrolled discharges, as well as their proximity to agriculture and wells;
6. To support the installation of equipment to remove nuisance pollutants at the Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant;
7. To support new, stringent, county-wide limitations on boron levels in wastewater discharge;
8. To support an immediate moratorium on any/all proposed or approved construction within the city limits until the Dunaweal WWTP has proven that it is in full compliance of state and federal statues which affect water quality;
9. To support the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's denial of THP 1-13-126 NAP which will further stress conditions at the Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant;

10. To support the immediate implementation the 2001 Agreement Between the City of Calistoga and The Calistoga Spas to identify, monitor, and meter the City's geothermal water users, effectively reducing geothermal inflows to the collection system;

11. To support the immediate posting of visible signage at all city borders of the Napa River to prevent public contact until the public can be reassured of its safety;

12. To support the immediate notification to all downstream water users that bypass the state's waters of the Northern Napa River and/or its tributaries for irrigation, frost protection, or other purposes;

13. To support mandatory penalties to provide incentive against future violations, especially as the on-going drought and the effects of climate change may further increase the City's need to discharge in a manner contrary to that described in their NPDES Permit.

Thank You,

Joe Mathews.

Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 11:13 AM
To: Madigan, John@Waterboards
Subject: Public Comment - Calistoga Wastewater Treatment Plant Tentative Cease and Desist Order No R2-2104

Categories: Important

Mr. Madigan,

Pursuant to the request for public comment concerning the discharge of waste water from the Calistoga Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant into the Napa River, I offer the following for your consideration. As clearly stated in the Tentative Cease and Desist Order No. R2-2104, The City of Calistoga has repeatedly allowed treated / semi-treated wastewater to flow from the Dunaweal treatment ponds directly into the Napa River. The impact on the Napa River and magnitude of the discharge events became acutely apparent during the time of low 2014-15 winter rainfall with the foam and sludge discharges being noted and recorded by concerned Calistoga residents. With City Council approval of the construction of several hotel / resort developments, the burden on the existing wastewater treatment plant will clearly increase – and, the current infrastructure is inadequate to address that demand.

With the significant investment by winery and vineyard owners adjacent to the Napa River in the restoration of that waterway, the scrutiny of the River due to its' federally impaired status and the right of folks (and fish) to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the Napa River, it's alarming that a municipal entity would disregard Water Board Permit guidelines addressing discharge procedures. I support the remedies the Water Board delineates in (Order No R2-2014) Tables I and 2 and believe the enforcement of the provisions of Water Code 13301 have great merit and prudently protect the environment.

Sincerely,

Hal Huffsmith

Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 10:36 PM
To: Madigan, John@Waterboards
Subject: Public Comment on Regional Water Quality Controls tentative Cease and Desist Order against Calistoga Dunaweal Waste Water Treatment Plant

Categories: Important

Dear Mr. Madigan,

I am writing to express my concern about the waste water treatment plant operations in Calistoga. I was pleased to learn of the cease and desist order against Calistoga Dunaweal Waste water Treatment Plant.

My husband and I live opposite Dunaweal Rd. and use the bicycle trail to town often. We have observed that the water that is sprayed onto fields then runs off into the Napa River. We understand that this water contains arsenic, boron and antimony and so we have concerns about the aquatic life in the river.

Calistoga City Council has approved some very large projects which could have an even greater impact on the waste water treatment operations. This will create more problems for the river and we believe this needs to be addressed before any more development goes forward. We understand there are feasible ways to deal with the water before it gets into the waste water system.

Thank your for your attention in this matter of vital importance to our community and our waterways.

Sincerely,

Anne Scott

Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 5:11 PM
To: Madigan, John@Waterboards
Subject: Public Comment on Regional Water Quality Control Board's Tentative Cease and Desist Order Against Calistoga Dunaweal Wastewater Treatment Plant

Categories: Important

John H. Madigan, P.E.
Water Resources Control Engineer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 9412

Subject: Public Comment on Regional Water Quality Control Board's Tentative Cease and Desist Order Against Calistoga Dunaweal Waste Water Treatment Plant

Dear Mr. Madigan:

Calistoga's wastewater system is *clearly not adequate* and poses a serious threat to water quality and wildlife habitat in the Napa River watershed.

In January of this year the Calistoga City Council authorized a planning study for an additional wastewater storage pond – to be located very close to a large mobile home park. When asked by one of the park residents whether this was to provide capacity for the new resorts, City Manager Richard Spitler replied: “No, this is for present needs.”

If we need additional wastewater storage for “present needs,” *what will happen when three large, new resorts – and other previously-approved projects – demand increased wastewater treatment capacity?*

I have appeared before the City Council on two occasions (in April and September), asking whether a building moratorium might be in order. The council has not even deigned to *discuss* a pause in development.

Irresponsible actions by the Calistoga city government threaten to harm the Napa River. Please insist that the city upgrade the system before allowing further development.

Sincerely,

Carl M. Sherrill