

Hill, Stephen@Waterboards

From: Hill, Stephen@Waterboards
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:33 AM
To: Hill, Stephen@Waterboards
Subject: Board's "correspondence" item - timber harvest plan review

Below is a letter to the editor that ran in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat on Friday, January 9 (link plus text). The letter compliments staff from this Water Board for their role in reviewing a Timber Harvest Plan in the Calistoga area. While the letter doesn't identify the staff by name, they are Kevin Brown and Jim Ponton. Both have primary duties in other divisions, Kevin in Toxics Cleanup and Jim in Planning/TMDL; they provided this oversight in support of the Watershed Management Division.

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<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/opinion/3346617-181/fridays-letters-to-the-editor>

Protecting public trust

EDITOR: I am writing to thank and applaud the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board for questioning the impacts on the Napa River watershed of Calistoga Hills, a proposed 144-unit resort on steep slopes within the city of Calistoga.

The water board points out the Napa River is already classified as impaired due to sedimentation and contends that the erosion control plan accepted by the municipality for the project is "less robust" than those commonly required for vineyard development on similar slopes in the jurisdiction of Napa County.

The water board seems to take seriously the need to respect the Public Trust Doctrine, firmly entrenched in our legal tradition, which is meant to ensure that the actions of a property owner don't infringe on the public good.

The board has requested that the state forestry department schedule an additional site inspection before approving a timber harvest plan, to allow state agencies to view any erosion issues after the high rainfall storms of mid-December. So far, CDF has declined to schedule this inspection. One wonders if the agency gets the concept of public trust and if it is aware of the recent efforts to restore the Napa River fish habitat.

BILL DYER

Calistoga