

Hand delivered on
August 6, 2008
by Chris De Gabriele

March 3, 2008

Ms. Tam Dudoc
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Sonoma County Salmonid Coalition Efforts – Watershed Approach to Determining Water Availability and Evaluating Environmental Impacts

Dear Ms. Dudoc:

The Water Advisory Committee (WAC) consists of elected representatives from each of the agencies (cities of Windsor, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Petaluma and Valley of the Moon and North Marin Water Districts) receiving water deliveries from the Russian River under a contract with the Sonoma County Water Agency. The WAC is supportive of the Sonoma County Salmonid Coalition's efforts at developing a watershed approach to address allocation of water, as well as habitat restoration and conservation plan for Salmonid protection in specific watersheds tributary to the Russian River. Section 12 of the *Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams (Policy)* recognizes that a "watershed approach for determining water availability and evaluating environmental impacts of multiple water diversions in a watershed may be a viable alternative to evaluating individual projects using the regionally protective criteria set forth in this policy."

The Sonoma County Salmonid Coalition (Coalition) is made up of the federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over water quality and endangered species issues, local governments, private landowners, trade associations, and NGO's. Participation in the Coalition has provided all parties a better understanding of the inter-relatedness of Salmonid needs, agricultural needs and potable water supply needs for our region. We recognize that urban representatives need to work closely with agricultural producers to develop a watershed approach to improve the health of our fisheries and maintain a vital economy.

The watershed approach appears to be an efficient method to comply with the proposed Policy and will bring stakeholders together, as has been done under the States Integrated Watershed Management Plans, and as contemplated under the Farm Bills Regional Watershed Enhancement Program.

Sincerely,

S/B

Jake MacKenzie
Chairman, Water Advisory Committee

Cc: Randy Poole
Water Advisory Committee
Salmonid Coalition