

Comment Letter NA_Hale

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 13 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

SUSAN J. HALE
(Name: Please Print)

168 Golden Hind
(Street Address)

Corte Madera 94925
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Hale-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and _____

NA_Hale-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Hale-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Hale-4

NA_Hale-5

NA_Hale-6

NA_Hale-7

NA_Hale-8

NA_Hale-9

Sincerely,

Susan J. Hale
(Signature)

1-11-11
(Date)

Susan Hale, January 11, 2011

- NA_Hale-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Hale-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Hale-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hale-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hale-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hale-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hale-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hale-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Hale-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Hales

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB 10 2011

Martha S. Hales
29133 Willow Creek Road
Bridgehaven (Jenner), CA 95450

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "*Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report*" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Hales-1

As a property owner near Jenner, I love Russian River and kayak regularly on the river between Duncans Mills and the coast. My primary concern is with changing the minimum flow during normal years from 125 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 70 cfs in the lower Russian River. Flow reduction will seriously impede my enjoyment of the river. I am concerned not only for my recreational use of the river, but also for the overall health of the watershed, including impacts to other species such as amphibians, sea birds, seals, unlisted fish, etc. As we have seen in recent years, invasive species, including grasses and blue-green algae, flourish in times of low flow. I would like to see a broad range of water quality issues addressed that would result from diminished flows.

NA_Hales-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "*Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project*". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Hales-3

I would like to see continued environmental monitoring and analysis, including recreational, public health, and economic impacts of the project. Please assure me that this EIR will mitigate all potential impacts from this project.

NA_Hales-4

Please address the following issues:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth often stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.

NA_Hales-5

NA_Hales-6

NA_Hales-7

NA_Hales-8

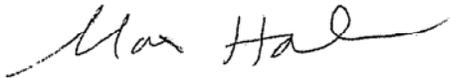
Comment Letter NA_Hales

- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Hales-9

NA_Hales-10

Sincerely,



Martha S. Hales

Mailing address:
1512 Willard Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Martha Hales, February 11, 2011

- NA_Hales-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Hales-2 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**. As part of the environmental analyses for the proposed Estuary Management Project, the Draft EIR includes individual analysis of potential impacts to recreational resources and opportunities (Section 4.7, Recreation), biological resources including amphibians and seals (Section 4.4, Biological Resources), and Endangered Species Act-listed and unlisted fish species (Section 4.5, Fisheries). For additional discussion regarding water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hales-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hales-4 For a discussion regarding mitigation and compliance with a mitigation program, please refer to **Master Response 2.6, Recreational Impacts, Socioeconomic Impacts and Mitigation Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**. Analysis of public health issues is discussed in **Master Response 2.4 Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hales-5 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hales-6 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hales-7 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, and Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

- NA_Hales-8 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA_Hales-9 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses,** for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Hales-10 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

Comment Letter NA_Hall

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 13 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

CAROL M. HALL
(Name: Please Print)
11796
31796 Summer Home Park Rd
(Street Address)
Fresnoville, Ca 95436
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. ~~Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.~~

NA_Hall-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and boating.

NA_Hall-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Hall-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Hall-4

NA_Hall-5

NA_Hall-6

NA_Hall-7

NA_Hall-8

NA_Hall-9

Sincerely,

Carol M. Hall 1-12-11
(Signature) (Date)

*Please do all that you can
to protect our beautiful river,
my family has been on the river since 1927*

Carol Hall, January 12, 2011

- NA_Hall-1 The comment is consistent with other form letter comments, but strikes the request to include contact information in the Project distribution list. Pursuant to CEQA procedures, as a commenter to the Draft EIR, participant will receive a copy of the Final EIR and Responses to Comments document.
- NA_Hall-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Hall-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA_Hall-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA_Hall-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA_Hall-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, and Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA_Hall-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA_Hall-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses,** for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Hall-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

COPY

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 21 2011

EARL T. HEMMI inc

(Name: Please Print)

14488 OLD CAZ ROAD

(Street Address)

GUERRILLICE CA 95446

(Town)

(Zip Code)

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Hemmi-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and ALCEA SANTA MARTINI

NA_Hemmi-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Hemmi-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Hemmi-4

NA_Hemmi-5

NA_Hemmi-6

NA_Hemmi-7

NA_Hemmi-8

NA_Hemmi-9

Sincerely,

Earl T. Hemmi

01-20-11

(Signature)

(Date)

Earl Hemming, January 10, 2011

- NA_Hemmi-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Hemmi-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Hemmi-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hemmi-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hemmi-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hemmi-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hemmi-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Hemmi-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Hemmi-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Henri

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 14 2011

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

ROY HENRECHS
(Name: Please Print)
P.O. BOX 2824 (16356 - 3RD STREET)
(Street Address)
GUERNEVILLE, CA 95446
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Henri-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, ~~business owner,~~ recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and ~~_____~~

NA_Henri-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Henri-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Henri-4

NA_Henri-5

NA_Henri-6

NA_Henri-7

NA_Henri-8

NA_Henri-9

Sincerely, [Signature]
(Signature)

1/14/2011
(Date)

Roy Henrichs, January 11, 2011

- NA_Henri-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Henri-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Henri-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Henri-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Henri-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Henri-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Henri-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Henri-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Henri-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Herr

Katie Blank

From: David Herr [dherr10@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 6:44 PM
To: estuaryproject
Subject: Estuary Project. Attention Jessica Martini-Lamb

2/5/11

The mouth of the Russian River should not be artificially and mechanically opened. This project and study should also be in conjunction with the low flow proposals and the two should be considered together. INA_Herr-1
INA_Herr-2

The mouth is impeded from functioning naturally due to a cement barrier which keeps the River and Estuary from opening and closing as it should. INA_Herr-3

As it did in the past when the Russian River was a world class fishery.

Artificially opening the mouth to prevent two or three structures from flooding in perpetuity makes no sense! Raise the structures which will allow the Estuary to function in a natural manner as do other natural River estuaries further North. It will also allow the estuary to be deeper which will protect fish from an already temperature impaired habitat. Mechanically opening the mouth is also destructive to bird and wildlife, particularly the Harbor Seals. INA_Herr-4
INA_Herr-5

As I previously mentioned this project should be considered with the low flow proposal as there is no purpose for one without the other. INA_Herr-6

I've lived on the Russian River since 1987. Every project the Water Agency has considered to "protect the fish" as well as state agencies has failed. The low flow proposal is the granddaddy of them all and one can't listen to the ridiculousness of it without getting a headache and giving up! Low flow will produce a further temperature impaired river and will result in the River being choked with invasive plants and harmful bacteria. INA_Herr-7
INA_Herr-8

If the purpose is to protect the fish why not focus on something that matters. How about condemning the recently approved gravel mining project in the Alexander Valley? (350,000 tons per year) Another project to provide "fish habitat". Give us a break! How about educating home owners that live on the river and enforcing rules that prohibit cutting down trees in the riparian corridor to have a view of the river. How about vineyard conversions in the watershed and construction that increases sediment in an already sediment impaired river. INA_Herr-9

Do something that matters for the fish. Use common sense and stop manipulating projects "for the fish" when in reality they're for the purpose of greater storage and increased water sales. Go ahead and push the sand around at the mouth it's meaningless. INA_Herr-10

Sincerely, David Herr

David Herr, February 5, 2011

- NA_Herr-1 The resource analyses in Chapter 4.0, Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures, include a discussion of impacts associated with channel creation. The proposed Estuary Management Project is intended to relieve some of the impacts associated with artificial breaching.
- NA_Herr-2 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Herr-3 The Estuary Management Project does not include a specific component for jetty removal. As described in Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, Alternatives Analysis, the Water Agency does not own, maintain, operate, or have jurisdiction over the jetty structure, and is therefore not authorized to make policy decisions for action to remove the jetty. However, the Water Agency is required by the Russian River Biological Opinion to develop a study plan to analyze the effects of the Russian River Estuary jetty on Estuary water levels and on beach morphology, as well as evaluate alternatives that modify the jetty to achieve target estuarine water levels. This is included as a potential alternative to the Estuary Management Project in Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, Alternatives Analysis. For additional discussion regarding feasibility and uncertainty of outcomes of jetty removal, refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Herr-4 The Estuary Management Project is intended to achieve primary objectives related to fisheries habitat and flood management. An Alternative Flood Management Alternative is presented in Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, Alternatives Analysis. For a discussion of the range of alternatives, refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Herr-5 The “Setting” Section 4.4.2 and Table 4.4-3 (Draft EIR Section 4.4, Biological Resources, Pages 4.4-29 – 33) discuss the special-status wildlife species, including birds and harbor seals, with potential to occur within the study area. Potential short term impacts associated with disturbance to special-status fish and wildlife, including birds and harbor seals, and fish from machinery used to breach the barrier beach and create the lagoon outlet channel are disclosed in Impact 4.4.1, in Draft EIR Section 4.4, Biological Resources, and determined to be less than significant due to requirements stipulated in the Marine Mammal Protection Act IHA. Additionally, incorporation of Mitigation Measure 4.4.1a and 4.4.1b would minimize impacts to nesting birds. Please refer to Draft EIR Section 4.4, for analysis of potential impacts to birds.

- NA_Herr-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA_Herr-7 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.** Refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses,** for discussion regarding the adaptive management process.
- NA_Herr-8 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.** For additional discussion related to Draft EIR analysis of Estuary Management Project impacts to water quality including invasive plant and bacteria, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.** Reduced minimum instream flow is addressed in the Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis which concludes that recreational and water quality impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project, considered in conjunction with foreseeable effects associated with lowering flows, could result in cumulatively considerable impacts.
- NA_Herr-9 The Draft EIR provides analysis and disclosure of potential physical environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. Analysis of other issues within the Russian River watershed, including those listed by the commenter, is beyond the scope of analysis for this EIR. The Water Agency does not have decision-making authority over logging, gravel mining, vineyard conversion, or chemical pollutant discharge.
- NA_Herr-10 The project objectives driving the proposed Estuary Management Project are established in Draft EIR Chapter 1.0, Introduction, and are specific to provide enhanced rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids within the Russian River Estuary. The project objectives driving the proposed Estuary Management Project are established in Draft EIR Chapter 1.0, Introduction. For additional discussion, refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

This page intentionally left blank

Comment Letter Holz

JOAN HOLZHAUSEN
(Name: Please Print)

11733 OAK RD
(Street Address)

FORESTVILLE, CA, 97530
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Holz-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise, and personal health, fishing, swimming, and family time together in beauty.

NA_Holz-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Holz-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Holz-4

NA_Holz-5

NA_Holz-6

NA_Holz-7

NA_Holz-8

NA_Holz-9

Sincerely,

Joan Holzhausen
(Signature)

1-27-11
(Date)

Joan Holzhausen, January 27, 2011

- NA_Holzh-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Holzh-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Holzh-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Holzh-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Holzh-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Holzh-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Holzh-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Holzh-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Holzh-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Irvin

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 14 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

Carol Irvine
(Name: Please Print)

11250 Vellutini Rd.
(Street Address)

Forestville 95436
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Irvin-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and R. R. County Water District has wells @

NA_Irvin-2
Stealthed Beach

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Irvin-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Irvin-4

NA_Irvin-5

NA_Irvin-6

NA_Irvin-7

NA_Irvin-8

NA_Irvin-9

Sincerely,


(Signature)

1-12-11
(Date)

Carol Irvine, January 12, 2011

- NA_Irvin-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Irvin-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Irvin-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Irvin-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Irvin-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Irvin-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Irvin-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Irvin-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Irvin-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NORMA JELLISON
PO BOX 1636
BODEGA BAY CA 94923
(707) 875-3799
NJELLISON@SONIC.NET

January 14, 2011

Jessica Martini-Lamb
Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd
Santa Rosa CA 95403
by email: Jessica.Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov
and: estuaryproject@esassoc.com

Below are my comments on the Russian River Estuary Management Plan Draft EIR.

The DEIR inadequately assesses several impacts of the proposed Estuary Management Plan (EMP).
By topical area my comments to that effect are:

Recreation Impacts:

Impacts on Recreation are inadequately assessed.

The criteria for assessing impacts in this section of the EIR is:
Restrict access to or the beneficial use of existing recreational sites or facilities.
Eliminate or modify an existing recreational resource so that it no longer satisfies the recreational use for a significant number of the users.

NA_Jelli-1

The document fails to acknowledge the existence of and assess the impacts of the EMP on Goat Rock State Beach, specifically the river side beach area. This riverside beach area is heavily used especially by families with children.

Isn't it true that higher water levels, up to 9' in some locations, as posited in the EIR will inundate riverside beaches for the long periods of time that the lagoon is in place – up to 5 months?

NA_Jelli-2

How is the loss of river side wading/swimming opportunities at Goat Rock State Beach not a significant impact to the many families with children who use the riverside beach area at Goat Rock State Beach exclusively due to the dangers of the ocean side area?

NA_Jelli-3

Further, the document fails to identify the existence of and assess the impacts of loss of the beach below Rivers End used by Inn guests and residents of the houses on Burke Avenue. How is this loss not significantly impacted by the EMP?

NA_Jelli-4

Doesn't inundation of these two riverside beach areas, prime areas right in the center of the lower lagoon management area, “restrict access to or the beneficial use of recreational sites or facilities; eliminate or modify an existing recreational resource so that it no longer satisfies the recreational use

NA_Jelli-5

for a significant number of users?" Recall that over 4Million park visitors annually use the Sonoma Coast State Beaches – it is one of the most heavily used state parks in the system.

NA_Jelli-5
↑ cont.

The loss of Goat Rock State Beach riverside beach areas is even more significant loss than the EIR acknowledged private beach area loses because it is a PUBLIC access beach area. This river side beach area is arguably the only State Beach that is safe for children to wade and swim along the entire 10 mile length of the Sonoma Coast State Beach. All other State Beaches have only ocean side beach areas. Wouldn't this loss be a major and significant impact of this project for the duration of the project period May to October each year, which coincides with prime vacation periods?

NA_Jelli-6

All of the above comments are applicable to these two areas as take outs for boaters and kayakers as inundation and changes to the beach contours will make these two areas, heavily used by the boating community to take out for picnics, to rest and to walk across the beach to the ocean side. Why aren't the impacts to recreation associated with boats/kayaks use of these 2 river side areas identified as significant unavoidable impacts of the project?

NA_Jelli-7

Biological Resources

Pinnipeds, Specifically Harbor Seals

Impacts on the Harbor Seal colony are inadequately assessed. The conclusion that the impacts are reduced to less than significant by virtue of the Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) permit and its protocols is disputed.

NA_Jelli-8

Among the criteria for assessing impacts of this sections is:
Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the CDFG, USFWS, or NMFS;

The Jenner Harbor Seal colony has been established on Goat Rock Beach at the mouth of the Russian River since 1974 - 34 years.

Of the 21+ Sonoma Coast Harbor Seal haul outs that constitute the Sonoma County Harbor Seal Census, the Jenner/Goat Rock haul out is the most significant. The Jenner colony is the largest and most significant Harbor Seal colony in Sonoma County and from Drakes Beach in Marin County to the mouth of the Eel River in Mendocino County. (Mortenson data)

Harbor Seals are colonial and have a large degree of site fidelity. Being diurnal, they haul out during the day. The haulout period is critical for metabolic processes (e.g. reoxygenation) that allow them to dive in cold ocean waters when they feed at nite, for bonding with pups, nursing pups and generally resting in a colony where there is safety in numbers.

NA_Jelli-9

Harbor Seals are easily disturbed. Disturbances, whether natural by birds flushing or man induced harassment whatever the source – boats, beach walkers approaching too close, mechanical equipment associated with the project - interfere with the needed biological processes, rest and restoration.

The EIR documents the short time frame after a harassment incident that the Harbor Seals will return to the haul out site. However, what has been observed over time is short term incidences of harassment for

Coment Letter NA_Jelli

short periods of time. At no time over the years that breaching activities have been implemented has the river mouth been closed for more than one month maximum.

NA_Jelli-9
↑
cont.

The protocols of the IHA permit are intended to mitigate the impacts of harassment associated with the individual times mechanical breaching of the river and construction associated with creating the lagoon occurs.

These protocols CAN NOT and DO NOT mitigate the impacts of 1) the up to 15 times/year the colony can/will be disrupted by these actions nor 2) the up to 5 month closure of the river mouth.

NA_Jelli-10

Long term, chronic disturbances result in 1) reduced use of a site, 2) a shift to nocturnal rather than diurnal feeding, 3) reduced pup production and 4) site abandonment. (Allen lecture)

Given the lack of assessment of the multiple times the colony will be harassed and disrupted in any given year, year after year of the project life (undefined as to length anywhere in the EIR document), in other words the long term impacts of the continual disturbances, how can the EIR claim protocols for individual harassment incidents reduce the long term impacts of the project to less than significant?

NA_Jelli-11

Moreover, given the lack of assessment of the long term impacts of a 5 month closed mouth, how can the IHA Permit protocols be used to find the impacts of the project are less than significant based on the protocols?

NA_Jelli-12

Isn't creating a closed mouth for 5 months and the associated long barrier beach which will result in multiple ongoing disturbances/harassment associated with beach walkers approaching the colony – ignoring the signs warning them to maintain the statutory distance and when no Seal Watch volunteers are present to interpret and maintain the statutory distance - “having a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications?”

NA_Jelli-13

How can the protocols of the IHA Permit, intended for individual incidents of construction equipment and associated staff presence on the beach, be used as the basis for declaring these substantial adverse effects which were not assessed can be reduced to less than significant?

NA_Jelli-14

How can harassment protocols for short term impacts be suggested as mitigating the long term potential for loss of the colony associated with ongoing, continual, chronic disturbance/harassment of the colony and the likely resulting abandonment of the site?

Birds

Impacts on birds are inadequately assessed.

The beach at Goat Rock State Beach is a colonial site. Not only does it provide a resting place for Harbor Seals, it provides a resting place for birds. At any one time, hundreds of gulls, terns, Brown Pelicans and/or cormorants rest on this beach. This is a community haulout! There are few places like this along the coast – large sandy beach area with access to both the river and the ocean. As such it is a very important site for birds to rest and preen, giving them access to the river and to the ocean to swim and to feed. Gulls nest on Haystack Rock, cormorants congregate on it and on the smaller rocks disbursed in the river.

NA_Jelli-15
↓

Coment Letter NA_Jelli

As with Harbor Seals, birds are easily disturbed. The major disturbance for birds is beach walkers whose approach results in flushing the birds.

↑NA_Jelli-15
└cont.

Why was no assessment made of the impacts of prolonged closure of the river mouth on the flushing of birds which rest on the beach as a necessary part of their metabolic processes?

┌NA_Jelli-16

Regardless of whether flushing the birds is considered a take under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, isn't the fact that both equipment operation and beach alteration will increase flushing an impact of the project on species that inhabit/use the beach and are a part of the biological community of the beach?

┌NA_Jelli-17

Water Quality

Impacts on Water Quality are inadequately assessed.

┌NA_Jelli-18

An overarching criticism of the EIR is that it is not comprehensive as to assessing the impacts of modifying Decision 1610 and the EMP. Segmenting is illegal under CEQA and this bifurcating of the analysis of the two projects, which are intrinsically linked, is flawed. Lowered flows are necessary for successful sustained mouth closure. The BO does not and cannot supersede state law and allow segmenting of the EIRs. A more robust comprehensive EIR should fully examine impacts to Water Quality from changes in inflows as well as from the EMP.

┌NA_Jelli-19

┌NA_Jelli-20

The EIR concludes that since the Russian River is not listed under Clean Water Act as impaired for nutrients, current levels can serve as baseline for project as serving beneficial uses identified such as aquatic habitat and recreation.

┌NA_Jelli-21

In fact, nutrient levels can be too high for fish even though the River is not yet listed as impaired.

Isn't it true that a Basin Plan standard is that nutrients must not exist that cause biostimulation of nuisance substances (algal blooms) and that there is more than enough evidence of algal blooms in recent years?

┌NA_Jelli-22

Moreover, isn't the fact that the monitoring requirements associated with the Temporary Order that SCWA did not meet result in the North Coast State Water Resources Board Board arranging for their own nutrient testing this upcoming (2011) summer?

┌NA_Jelli-23

The environmental costs of "low flow" must be balanced with the EMP. During low flow, water quality in the lower river deteriorates extensively with high bacteria readings, excessive nutrients and associated algal blooms and Ludwegia mats. This is another reason why the two should be studied in a single EIR.

┌NA_Jelli-24

A comment in the EIR scoping session statements in the appendices: Dick Butler (NMFS) June 22, 2010 letter "*We believe that it is reasonable that the EIR for the Estuary Project consider the effects of flow changes associated with interim flow changes (associated with the TUC petitions) and use existing information to address the effects of these interim changes on the environment and resources such as recreation boating.*" seems to argue further for a comprehensive EIR that addresses the proposed changes to Dec 1610 and the EMP.

┌NA_Jelli-25

The lack of analysis of the impacts of the EMP created lagoon and associated water quality impacts on body contact sports (boating, swimming, wading) is troublesome. To the extent that these recreation uses remain viable in the lower river, given the EMP and the lowered flows, how will increased bacteria levels and nutrients impair these uses?

NA_Jelli-26

Please advise how adverse water quality impacts such as increased temperature, increased bacteria counts, increased nutrients impact the many other fish species, invertebrates and vertebrates that use the lower river and for that matter the salmon that will be captive and supposedly benefiting from the other lagoon characteristics?

NA_Jelli-27

Other Impacts Not Addressed. Inadvertent Impacts of the Project.

The EIR fails to assess the creation of a prey environment. A prolonged closed river mouth and the associated lagoon creates an attractive site for birds (osprey, gulls, cormorants, pelicans, terns) and river and marine mammals (river otters, Harbor Seals, Sea Lions) to prey on the salmon confined in the lagoon.

NA_Jelli-28

What impact is likely to result from the broadcasting among the birds and mammals the source of readily accessible food – the salmon?

Sea Lions specifically are quick learners and able to telegraph the availability of prey. Sea Lions are voracious feeders, able to quickly decimate salmon, as exhibited at the Ballard Locks for example. We already see examples of feeding frenzies in the river by the above listed birds, often joined by pinnipeds.

NA_Jelli-29

Wouldn't this “corral” exacerbate this situation and negate the entire project? What is the plan when this happens? Would we then be looking at takes to protect the salmon?

NA_Jelli-30

What is the time horizon for this project? What is the time frame that will be used to determine if this is a successful project or a failure? How long will this effort be continued before alternatives not pursued are investigated and implemented – for example removal of the jetty, raising the housing/structures threatened by flooding, other alternatives not pursued?

NA_Jelli-31

Unfortunately, no consideration is given to irreversible commitments of resources and the long term irreversible impacts of the project. A major concern is the long term impacts of this project on the entire estuary ecosystem and the potential irreversible nature of those impacts. This is especially of concern when taken into consideration with the still emerging understanding of the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

NA_Jelli-32

In closing, for the regulators and policy makers it must be asked how it is possible to reconcile that it is acceptable to take and alter a public resource – Goat Rock State Beach – a part of the commons owned by the citizens of California, to alter a State owned Beach, interfere with multiple state owned and state protected resources, alter the river and its recreational uses as well as access to the river for so many users who have few safe alternatives to enjoy the coast side environment. The loss of the Harbor Seal colony of 34 years duration at the mouth of the river, the loss of the inaugural volunteer program, Seal Watch, that was the genesis for Stewards of Slavianka now Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods are other collateral damage associated with this project. Again, in the face of the questionable success of this effort, the question must be asked is it worth it?

NA_Jelli-33

NA_Jelli-34

Coment Letter NA_Jelli

I submit these are all unacceptable in the face of the high likelihood the goals of this project will fail to be realized for a host of reasons. Unfortunately, many of the impacts are irreconcilable commitments of resources as well as irreversible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Norma Jellison

Norma Jellison, January 14, 2011

- NA_Jelli-1 Recreational impacts, including access at Goat Rock State Beach during lagoon outlet channel creation and maintenance, is addressed in Draft EIR Section 4.7, Recreation, Impact 4.7.1, on page 4.7-8. The impact analysis is applicable to the entire Goat Rock State Beach area, and addresses the entire beach area.
- NA_Jelli-2 Recreational impacts, including inundation of portions of riverfront beaches during the Lagoon Management Period, is addressed in Draft EIR Section 4.7, Recreation, Impact 4.7.1, on page 4.7-8.
- NA_Jelli-3 It is not anticipated that wading or swimming opportunities at Goat Rock State Beach will be lost, and there is no substantial evidence presented in the comment to suggest recreation will be eliminated at this location.
- NA_Jelli-4 The Draft EIR identifies expected water surface levels along the Estuary Study Area. Figure 3-4a shows the area along Burke Avenue as being inundated at the 9-foot water level. This area is included in the quantification of river front beach impacts in Impact 4.7.1, even though the specific location name is not explicitly listed.
- NA_Jelli-5 Recreational impacts, including restricted access at Goat Rock State Beach during lagoon outlet channel creation and maintenance, is addressed in Draft EIR Section 4.7, Recreation, Impact 4.7.1. This response recognizes that Sonoma Coast State Beach is a heavily used state park. The Water Agency is required to comply with conditions stipulated in the Use Permit issued by California Department of State Parks, which limits the days that the Water Agency may conduct work on the beach. Weekends, holidays, and consecutive days on the beach are not allowed.
- NA_Jelli-6 See response to comment NA_Jelli-5, above.
- NA_Jelli-7 Refer to response to comment NA_Jelli-2 above. The Draft EIR Section 4.7, Recreation, specifically acknowledges that kayak and picnic stopover areas may be inundated during the lagoon management period (page 4.7-9).
- NA_Jelli-8 Water Agency activities conform to the conditions and monitoring measures established in the NMFS IHA to avoid and minimize impacts on pinnipeds at the Jenner haulout. These measures are listed on Draft EIR pages 4.4-69 through 4.4-71 in Impact 4.4.1. The Estuary Management Project will require an IHA from NMFS and will incorporate the same conditions and monitoring measures. Mitigation Measure 4.4.8 details an adaptive monitoring plan that will be implemented in compliance with the NMFS IHA. Conditions are established in the IHA to avoid and minimize effects to harbor seals and their haulout, and all

activities associated with Estuary management are subject to these conditions. The Draft EIR considered the IHA, drafted by government scientists and regulators with the responsibility of species protection, which represents a reasonable approach for mitigating impacts and its provisions, were consequently adopted. Under this adaptive monitoring plan, seal counts will continue to be conducted at the Jenner haulout and nearby coastal and river haulouts. If monitoring indicates decreases in overall use at the Jenner haulout are correlated with increases in use at the three closest haulouts, the Water Agency will consult with NMFS and CDFG to alter the Estuary Management Plan such that the haulout site is maintained as a resource. The IHA does not allow long-term harassment or alteration of habitat conditions that would contribute to abandonment of the Jenner haulout. The IHA, drafted by government scientists and regulators with the responsibility of species protection, represents a reasonable approach for mitigating impacts and its provisions were consequently adopted, recognizing the criteria listed by the comment.

- NA_Jelli-9 The Estuary Management Project proposes implementation of a lagoon outlet channel following formation of a barrier beach and closure of the river mouth. The potential long-term impacts of the Estuary management, including implementing the lagoon outlet adaptive management plan, on the harbor seal haulout at Jenner are disclosed in Draft EIR Section 4.4, Biological Resources, Impact 4.4.8. Disturbance phenomena to harbor seals can be complex. The best information available to the Draft EIR (page 4.4-71), where five years of monitoring supporting the conclusion were reviewed) allowed the Draft EIR to conclude that impacts would be less than significant.
- NA_Jelli-10 See also response to comment NA_Jelli-8 above.
- NA_Jelli-11 Refer to responses to comments NA_Jelli-8 and NA_Jelli-9 for a discussion of potential impacts that are disclosed in the Draft EIR relevant to the harbor seal colony and applicability of IHA measures.
- NA_Jelli-12 Refer to responses to comments NA_Jelli-8 and NA_Jelli-9 for a discussion of potential impacts that are disclosed in the Draft EIR relevant to the harbor seal colony and applicability of IHA measures.
- NA_Jelli-13 Refer to response to comments NA_Jelli-8 and NA_Jelli-9. The Estuary Management Project proposes implementation of a lagoon outlet channel following formation of a barrier beach and closure of the river mouth.
- NA_Jelli-14 Please refer to responses to comments NA_Jelli-8 and NA_Jelli-9, and NA_Jelli-13.
- NA_Jelli-15 Please refer to Draft EIR Section 4.4 Biological Resources, Impact 4.4.1 on page 4.4-68 for a discussion of the effects of the project on birds using haulout

areas. As stated on page 4.4-68: “Although flushing may increase the birds’ energy demands, it is not expected to result in a substantial adverse effect on any special-status birds potentially present. The CEQA baseline for the proposed project includes frequent human-related disturbances within the outlet channel management area and access route.”

- NA_Jelli-16 Please refer to response to comment NA_Jelli-15.
- NA_Jelli-17 Please refer to response to comment NA_Jelli-15. Please refer to Draft EIR Section 4.4, Biological Resources, page 4.4-59 for a discussion of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and its consideration under CEQA.
- NA_Jelli-18 Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of water quality impacts and demonstration of range of impacts included in Draft EIR Section 4.3.
- NA_Jelli-19 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jelli-20 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jelli-21 Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion regarding water quality impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project. Under CEQA, baseline conditions are considered the physical conditions at the time of the Notice of Preparation.
- NA_Jelli-22 Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion regarding water quality impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project. Under CEQA, baseline conditions are considered the physical conditions at the time of the Notice of Preparation.
- NA_Jelli-23 Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion regarding water quality impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project. The RWQCB is implementing water quality sampling on the mainstem Russian River irrespective of the Temporary Change Order. The Water Agency is sampling nutrients in the Estuary as part of the Temporary Urgency Change Order in 2011. The sampling plan was coordinated with NCRWQCB staff.

- NA_Jelli-24 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jelli-25 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. Refer to responses to comments G_DOW-6 and G_RRWPC-25 regarding the scoping letter from National Marine Fisheries Service.
- NA_Jelli-26 Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion regarding water quality impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project.
- NA_Jelli-27 Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, includes a description of the common and special status aquatic species found in the Estuary, and characterizes the type of habitat provided by the Estuary. The Estuary provides habitat for a variety of fish species including salmonids and other important recreational fish species such as American shad and smallmouth bass. In terms of conservation, much attention is given to three Endangered Species Act-listed salmonid species that are known to occur in the Russian River watershed. These are Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), California Coastal Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), and Central California Coast coho salmon (*O. kisutch*; NMFS, 2010). The Estuary is important for adult and juvenile passage for the three ESA-listed salmonids (NMFS, 2008). The Estuary provides an opportunity for smolts to acclimate to ocean conditions before migrating to the ocean, as well as potentially providing rearing habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon. Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, quantifies that anticipated increase in potential available rearing habitat that would be created through lagoon conditions. It is expected that the Estuary Management Project will have a discernable environmental benefit and would further the goal of environmental protection through provision of 6,357 acre feet of potential rearing habitat in the Estuary from the mouth to Vacation Beach (Draft EIR page 4-21). Draft EIR Section 4.5, Impact 4.5.1, Habitat Availability, quantifies the expected increase in potential rearing habitat that would be made available through implementation of the Estuary Management Project. Impact 4.5.2, Habitat Quality, describes expected habitat conditions that would be made available through implementation of the Estuary Management Project.
- NA_Jelli-28 For a discussion regarding CEQA analysis of the predator/prey relationship, refer to responses to comments G_NCRW-6 and G_RRWPC-45.
- NA_Jelli-29 Please refer to responses to comments G_NCRW-6 and G_RRWPC-45.

- NA_Jelli-30 Please refer to responses to comments G_NCRW-6 and G_RRWPC-45.
- NA_Jelli-31 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. The Estuary Management Project is anticipated to occur through 2023, as specified in the Biological Opinion. Results of implementation will be recorded and reviewed to determine the appropriate adaptive management action that should be taken. Results of implementation will determine the timeframe for evaluating success or failure, or implementing other alternatives. The Water Agency is required to implement changes to its Estuary management practices. The Biological Opinion also required the Water Agency to prepare a Work Plan to study the potential effects of the jetty on natural processes, and consider other approaches to meet habitat objectives in the event that the Estuary Management Plan does not meet criteria established in the Biological Opinion, and identified in Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description.
- NA_Jelli-32 Chapter 7.0, Other Topics Required by CEQA, includes a discussion of potentially irreversible and irretrievable commitments. The project would not have an effect on sea level rise. Sea level rise is addressed in Draft EIR Section 4.2, Hydrology and Flooding and Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis, page 5-2.
- NA_Jelli-33 Please refer to response to comment NA_Jelli-5.
- NA_Jelli-34 No response or text revisions to the Draft EIR are necessary.

This page intentionally left blank

Comment Letter NA_Jenni

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 20 2011

MARA JENNINGS
(Name: Please Print)

9491 Champs Elgsees
(Street Address)

Forestville 95436
(Town) (Zip Code)

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Jenni-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and relaxing.

NA_Jenni-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Jenni-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Jenni-4

NA_Jenni-5

NA_Jenni-6

NA_Jenni-7

NA_Jenni-8

NA_Jenni-9

Sincerely,

Mara Jennings
(Signature)

1-18-11
(Date)

Mara Jennings, January 18, 2011

- NA_Jenni-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Jenni-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Jenni-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jenni-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jenni-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description and Impact Areas**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jenni-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jenni-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jenni-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Jenni-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Jobin

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 19 2011

June Jobin
(Name: Please Print)

8420 Park Ave
(Street Address)

Forestville, Ct 95436
(Town) (Zip Code)

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Jobin-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and _____.

NA_Jobin-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Jobin-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Jobin-4

NA_Jobin-5

NA_Jobin-6

NA_Jobin-7

NA_Jobin-8

NA_Jobin-9

Sincerely,

June Jobin
(Signature) 1/17/11
(Date)

June Jobin, January 24, 2011

- NA_Jobin-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Jobin-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Jobin-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jobin-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jobin-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jobin-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jobin-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jobin-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Jobin-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

January 24 2011

Sonoma County Water Agency
c/o Ms Martini-Lamb
404 Aviation Blvd
Santa Rosa CA 95403

JAN 27 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

RE Draft EIR on Estuary Project

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb

I am a 72 year old who has used the Russian River at Summer Home Park, ^(GHP) near Healdsburg, for all of those years. I was just "dipped" in the River, which is our tradition at the age of 2 weeks in June 1938. The River was in good shape back then.

Your Draft EIR does not study the effects on the river at GHP where I, my children, and grandchildren swim and canoe. Why Not!

Your draft ignores the fact that you could / or would not have any problem with an 8 foot depth in the Estuary. Why Not!

You should redo or amend the draft to include GHP river frontage and an 8 ft depth of the Estuary.

NA_JohnC-1

NA_JohnC-2

NA_JohnC-3

JOHN J JOHNEK
11941 HILLSIDE DR
FORRESTVILLE CA 95436

John Johnck, January 24, 2011

- NA_Johnc-1 As described in the Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, the geographic scope of the EIR includes the Estuary Study Area and maximum backwater area (upstream to Vacation Beach). Summerhome Park is located approximately 20 river miles upstream and direct environmental effects resulting from the Estuary Management Project are not expected to occur at this location. For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project please refer to **Master Response 2.2 Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA_Johnc-2 The Draft EIR considers a Reduced Project Alternative (8 foot maximum water level) in Chapter 6.0, Alternatives Analysis. As discussed in Section 4.2, Hydrology, of the Draft EIR, approximately 76 properties, 9 of which have structures or infrastructure, would be affected with water level maintained at 9 feet maximum. The Reduced Project Alternative (8 foot maximum water level) would achieve the primary project objectives of enhancing rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids, particularly steelhead, and managing Estuary water levels to minimize flood hazard.
- NA_Johnc-3 Since the Draft EIR includes an explanation of geographic scope of analysis and considers an 8-foot water level alternative (Reduced Project Alternative), the Draft EIR complies with CEQA, and does not need to be amended or redone. **Master Response 2.7, CEQA Statutes: Adequacy of EIR Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses,** for addition information.

Comment Letter NA_Johns

DIANE JOHNSON

(Name: Please Print)

2503 Woodlake DR.

(Street Address)

Santa Rosa, CA 95405

(Town)

(Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Johns-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise, and personal health, fishing, swimming, and as part of a Pioneer (1852) family.

NA_Johns-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Johns-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Johns-4

NA_Johns-5

NA_Johns-6

NA_Johns-7

NA_Johns-8

NA_Johns-9

Sincerely,

Diane Johnson
(Signature)

January 11, 2011
(Date)

Diane Johnson, January 11, 2011

- NA_Johns-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Johns-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Johns-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Johns-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Johns-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Johns-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Johns-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Johns-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Johns-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Jones

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 13 2011

To: Jeane Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

Arlene H. Jones
(Name: Please Print)

15935 Birkhofer Ct.
(Street Address)

Guerneville, CA, 95446
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Jones-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and _____.

NA_Jones-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Jones-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Jones-4

NA_Jones-5

NA_Jones-6

NA_Jones-7

NA_Jones-8

NA_Jones-9

Sincerely,

Arlene H. Jones
(Signature)

1/12/11
(Date)

Arline Jones, January 12, 2011

- NA_Jones-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Jones-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Jones-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jones-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jones-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jones-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jones-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Jones-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Jones-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB 10 2011

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

Russian River Please do not
Art Gallery go for this
 16200 First Street closed ESTUARY
 on the Plaza Plan! Get the
 Guerneville, CA 95446
 KID another job!!
 707-869-9099
 Open It will choke the river
 Winter/Spring with algae and
 Thurs-Mon: 11a-5p pollution. The fish
 Summer/Fall: the towns the people
 Mon-Sat: 11a-6p will all SUFFER!
 Sundays: 11a-5p
 www.russianriverartgallery.com

andrew karciA
 869-5615

to SCWA
 Jessica
 Martini
 Lamb
 you aviation
 Blvd.
 Santa Rosa
 ca.
 95403

NA_KarciA-1

Andrew Karcie, February 10, 2011

NA_KarciA-1 For a discussion regarding water quality relative to pollutant levels, health of fish and humans, and invasive plants, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB 10 2011

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

**Russian River
Art Gallery**

16200 First Street
on the Plaza
Guerneville, CA 95446

707-869-9099

Open

Winter/Spring:
Thurs-Mon: 11a-5p

Summer/Fall:
Mon-Sat: 10a-6p
Sundays: 11a-5p

www.russianriverartgallery.com

**I strongly
OPPOSE**

**the closed
Estuary
Plan and**

**Low Flow on the
Russian River!**

**it will cause severe
Algae Growth,**

**choke this River
and make it**

very unhealthy for

**Fish: People! P. KarciP
41500.com**

**to
Jessica
Martini-Lamb
404 Aviation Blvd
Santa
Rosa
CA 95403**

NA_KarciP-1

NA_KarciP-2

P. Karcie, February 10, 2011

NA_KarciP-1 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, see **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NA_KarciP-2 For a discussion regarding water quality relative to pollutant levels, health of fish and humans, and invasive plants, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB 10 2011

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

Russian River
Art Gallery
16200 First Street
on the Plaza
Guerneville, CA 95446
707-869-1299
Open
Winter/Spring:
Thurs-Mon: 11a-5p
Summer/Fall:
Mon-Sat: 10a-6p
Sundays: 11a-5p
www.russianriverartgallery.com

*I strongly
oppose the
closed Estuary
Plan and low
flow on the Russian
River. This will
cause severe algae
growth and
pollution - it will be
bad for fish and
people.*
*.902
Karcic
804 3552*

*to
Jessica
Martini-Lamb
404 Aviation
Blvd
Santa Rosa
Ca. 95403*

NA_KarciZ-1

NA_KarciZ-2

Karcie, February 10, 2011

NA_KarciZ-1 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, see **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

NA_KarciZ-2 For a discussion regarding water quality relative to pollutant levels, health of fish and humans, and invasive plants, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

Comment Letter NA_Kaufm

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 14 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

Andrea Kaufman
(Name: Please Print)

14529 Redwood Lane
(Street Address)

Guerneville CA 95446
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Kaufm-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, ~~business owner~~, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and spending time with my grand children

NA_Kaufm-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Kaufm-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Kaufm-4

NA_Kaufm-5

NA_Kaufm-6

NA_Kaufm-7

NA_Kaufm-8

NA_Kaufm-9

Sincerely,

Andrea Kaufman
(Signature)

1/13/11
(Date)

Andrea Kaufman, January 13, 2011

- NA_Kaufm-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Kaufm-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Kaufm-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kaufm-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kaufm-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kaufm-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kaufm-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kaufm-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Kaufm-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Kelle

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 21 2011

VIRGINIA KELLEY
(Name: Please Print)

19515 REDWOOD DRIVE
(Street Address)

MONTE RIO 95462
(Town) (Zip Code)

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Kelle-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and _____.

NA_Kelle-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Kelle-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Kelle-4

NA_Kelle-5

NA_Kelle-6

NA_Kelle-7

NA_Kelle-8

NA_Kelle-9

Sincerely,

(Signature)

TIM SCHWARZER, POA'S TRUSTEE FOR VIRGINIA KELLEY

(Date)

18 JAN 2011

Virgina Kelley, January 12, 2011

- NA_Kelle-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Kelle-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Kelle-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kelle-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kelle-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kelle-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kelle-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kelle-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Kelle-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Megan Steer

From: Jay K. [jayskennedy@live.com]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 9:17 PM
To: estuaryproject; mannesob@gmail.com
Subject: No on bio project/cespool

Attention:

After reading a number of these documents it is obvious that they all say the same thing and were prepared by educated fools. The river is close to dead as is and why would poking at it like a science experiment help when it has been proven by Northern Counties, Oregon and Washington what actions it takes to restore a damaged river system.

NA_Kenne-1

For the russian to recover it is simple and doesn't cost a billion dollars. There are organizatios like Wild Steelhead and Trout Unlimited that do this work for free or non-profit funded

NA_Kenne-2

If we REMOVE THE CONCRETE WALL AT THE MOUTH and let the river return to a natural state of its own on its own and restore all major and small creeks that have been full of crap for over 30 years now. Then wild and hatchery fish would actually have a chance.

NA_Kenne-3

This plan you guys are proposing will do nothing but help invasive species thrive in a slow water crap lagoon, All the hatchery smolts will be eaten by birds and carp before the ever get close to the ocean. This is ridiculous and embarrassing that someone would actually think this is a good idea. This is a waste of time and money and will do nothing but cause more damage.

NA_Kenne-3

Compare the science of this plan to the restoration plans of the Klamath, Trinity, Smith, Chetco, Eel, Mad, Elk, Sixes, Rouque, Umpqua, Trask, Kilchis, Tillamook, Nehalem, and Nestucca Rivers etc. All coastal rivers that have a had thriving returns of fish just from cleaning out the creek beds that were damaged from development or logging. The examples are right in your face, whats the problem!!!

NA_Kenne-4

This is a waste of time and money and will do nothing but cause more damage.
This is a waste of time and money and will do nothing but cause more damage.
This is a waste of time and money and will do nothing but cause more damage.
This is a waste of time and money and will do nothing but cause more damage.

Sicerely,
Jay S. Kennedy
Resident of Cazadero Ca. and Austin Creek

Jay Kennedy, February 14, 2011

- NA_Kenne-1 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**. The Draft EIR includes the Russian River Biological Opinion by reference; the other estuary studies and examples are presented in research as part of the Biological Opinion.
- NA_Kenne-2 No response or text revision necessary.
- NA_Kenne-3 Study of jetty removal is considered as an alternative to the Estuary Management Project, as discussed in Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, The Draft EIR includes a comparison of alternatives to the proposed Estuary Management Project, as discussed in Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, Alternatives Analysis. It should be noted that the Water Agency is currently implementing a series of fish passage and habitat enhancement projects in several tributaries, as identified in Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis in Table 5-2, page 5-21. It is determined that the beneficial effects to fisheries associated with the Estuary Management Project, considered in conjunction with beneficial effects to fisheries resulting from the fish passage and restoration projects, would be cumulatively beneficial effect to fisheries habitat.
- NA_Kenne-4 Refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion on management of other river and lagoon systems in California.

Comment Letter NA_Kersn

From: Scott Kersnar [wskersnar@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 9:53 AM
To: Jessica.Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov
Cc: estuaryproject

Subject: QUESTIONS RE: PROPOSED RUSSIAN RIVER ESTUARY PROJECT

estuaryproject@esassoc.com

Jessica.Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov

Sonoma County Water Agency

Attention; Jessica Martin-Lamb

PROPOSED RUSSIAN RIVER ESTUARY PROJECT

To Whom It May Concern,

I am concerned about the effect of the proposed Estuary Project mandated by the Biological Opinion (BO) issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Because the resulting draft EIR for the project focuses only on the mouth of the River and not on the overall health of the stream, I question whether the project will have much success in attaining the beneficial affects envisioned by the BO. By narrowing the focus down to three fish species and drawing on experience with estuaries in streams that don't have the same physical conditions and water quality challenges, as the Russian River, the premises of the project are open to serious challenge. Below are some of my questions:

NA_Kersn-1

1. Do the other streams cited as examples of successful estuary enhancement contain the significant upstream wastewater discharges released into the Russian River? If so, to what level is the wastewater in those cited streams treated? To what extent has the "fresh" water in the estuaries of those streams been impacted by insiltation and upstream damming? What tests have shown that the water in those estuaries provide a beneficial environment for juvenile salmonids that will can be replicated in a stream with significant upstream insiltation and wastewater discharges? What verification has been made that the proposed Russian River estuary can be expected to have a similarly beneficial environment at 70 cfs? Where toxicity from upstream sourced are anticipated from lower flows, how can the objectives of the BO be reconciled with that increased toxicity?
2. Many questions have been raised about the engineering for the project, specifically as to the integrity of the proposed uncompacted sand barrier tasked with sustaining the estuary at the target depth while preventing flooding of low-lying Jenner dwellings. What

NA_Kersn-2

NA_Kersn-3

Comment Letter NA_Kersn

- assurances do you have that the proposed barrier will maintain sufficient integrity to maintain the desired salinity and water temperature to support juvenile salmonids? ↑ NA_Kersn-3
| cont.
3. Why does the project not require removal of the existing jetty in order to reestablish the natural course of the river and thus of the natural structure of the estuary in a manner consistent with the stated rationale for the BO? | NA_Kersn-4
4. Why does the project not consider raising flood-threatened Jenner dwellings? How does the project justify saving the unpermitted portions of those dwellings built on the lower portions of the river bank from flooding? | NA_Kersn-5
5. Where the proposed project is in conflict with California Coastal Commission regulations -- as with the expected negative influence on recreational activities such as surfing -- what mitigation does the project envision to avoid flagrant violation of Coastal Commission protections? | NA_Kersn-6
6. What is the justification for placing the welfare of juvenile salmonids in direct conflict with the preservation of the Jenner Harbor Seal haul-outs? | NA_Kersn-7
7. Why does the project not require the Sonoma County Water Agency to actively cooperate with efforts to restore the Russian River tributaries that serve as the spawning grounds for salmonids? | NA_Kersn-8
8. Why does the project do nothing to address negative impacts such as flooding, increased algae and health hazards on upstream beaches, -- Vacation Beach , for example? What studies have been done to verify that upstream degradation due to flow reduction will not undermine the project itself by ultimately reducing water quality in the proposed estuary? | NA_Kersn-9
9. Where does NMFS show that its biological opinion was not shaped, driven and possibly invalidated by its own jurisdictional constraints and those of the SCWA? In other words, where do you demonstrate that the estuary project with all its “significant and unavoidable” negative impacts will have a net positive effect on juvenile salmonid survival absent also addressing such key issues as upstream insiltation and tributary restoration that require enlisting the active and complementary participation of other agencies and jurisdictions? | NA_Kersn-10
- It is a mistake to enact a project that ignores the overall health of the Russian River in pursuit of an estuary solution that fails to encompass all the contributing upstream issues that must be addressed if the project’s objectives are to be sustained over time. Simply labeling likely negative outcomes “significant and unavoidable” does not excuse dismissing them when they point to flaws that invalidate key premises of the proposed project. | NA_Kersn-11

Sincerely,

Comment Letter NA_Kersn

Scott Kersnar

17300 Watson Road

Guerneville CA 95446

Scott Kersnar, February 11, 2011

- NA_Kersn-1 The Draft EIR includes the Russian River Biological Opinion by reference; other estuary studies and examples are presented in research as part of the Biological Opinion. Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion on management of other river and lagoon systems in California.
- NA_Kersn-2 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion on management of other river and lagoon systems in California. The Draft EIR Section 4.5, Impact 4.5.1, Habitat Availability, quantifies the expected increase in potential rearing habitat that would be made available through implementation of the Estuary Management Project. Impact 4.5.2, Habitat Quality, describes expected habitat conditions that would be made available through implementation of the Estuary Management Project. Discharge of treated wastewater is a component of almost every major tributary in California. For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kersn-3 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of project design and the adaptive management process.
- NA_Kersn-4 The Estuary Management Project does not include a specific component for jetty removal. As described in Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, Alternatives Analysis, the Water Agency does not own, maintain, operate, or have jurisdiction over the jetty structure, and is therefore not authorized to make policy decisions for action to remove the jetty. However, the Water Agency is required by the Russian River Biological Opinion to develop a jetty study plan to analyze the effects of the Russian River Estuary jetty on Estuary water levels and on beach morphology, as well as evaluate alternatives that modify the jetty to achieve target estuarine water levels. For additional discussion regarding feasibility and uncertainty of outcomes of jetty removal, refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kersn-5 An Alternative Flood Management Alternative is presented and evaluated in Draft EIR Chapter 6.0 (Section 6.4.6), Alternatives Analysis. Additional analysis would be required if this alternative is pursued to determine the permit status of the structures, as well as potential physical environmental effects associated with raising or modifying the structures. For additional discussion regarding feasibility and uncertainty of outcomes of this alternative, refer **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

- NA_Kersn-6 Please refer **Master Response 2.6, Recreational Impacts, Socioeconomic Impacts and Mitigation Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of Coastal Act consistency and potential mitigation scenarios for recreational impacts.
- NA_Kersn-7 Draft EIR Chapter 1.0, Introduction, provides a summary of the Russian River Biological Opinion and its requirements for the Water Agency to modify its estuary management activities to avoid jeopardizing salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act. Harbor seals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, although they are not listed under the Endangered Species Act. Refer to responses to comments NA_Jelli-8 for a discussion of potential impacts that are disclosed in the Draft EIR relevant to the harbor seal colony and applicability of IHA measures.
- NA_Kersn-8 Comment does not indicate specific efforts the Draft EIR should consider. The project presented in the Draft EIR is based on requirements in the Biological Opinion, which specifically address juvenile salmonid rearing habitat in the Estuary. The Estuary Management Project is proposed in parallel to a series of other restoration projects that collectively address issues challenging various life cycle phases of salmonids. It should be noted that the Water Agency is currently implementing a series of fish passage projects in several tributaries, as identified in Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis in Table 5-2, page 5-21. It is determined that the beneficial effects to fisheries associated with the Estuary Management Project, considered in conjunction with beneficial effects to fisheries resulting from the fish passage and restoration projects, would be cumulatively beneficial effect to fisheries habitat.
- NA_Kersn-9 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. For a discussion regarding water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kersn-10 The Draft EIR examines impacts related to the Estuary Management Project. It does not analyze the Russian River Biological Opinion. The Draft EIR Section 4.5, Impact 4.5.1, Habitat Availability, quantifies the expected increase in potential rearing habitat that would be made available through implementation of the Estuary Management Project. Impact 4.5.2, Habitat Quality, describes expected habitat conditions through implementation of the Estuary Management Project.

The Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis, addresses upstream tributary restoration projects. It should be noted that the Water Agency is currently implementing a series of fish passage projects in several tributaries, as identified in Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis in Table 5-2, page 5-21. It is determined that the beneficial effects to fisheries associated with the Estuary Management Project, considered in conjunction with beneficial effects to fisheries resulting from the fish passage and restoration projects, would be cumulatively beneficial effect to fisheries habitat. The Estuary Management Project is proposed in parallel to a series of other restoration projects that collectively address issues challenging various life cycle phases of salmonids.

The Draft EIR considers water quality within the Estuary, and the project's potential contribution to water quality degradation. The Estuary Management Project would not result in increased siltation upstream. The Draft EIR recognizes that siltation and sedimentation impair the Russian River. Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

NA_Kersn-11 Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis evaluates the potential impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project in conjunction with impacts from other projects in the watershed that were recently completed or will occur in the foreseeable future. The purpose of the Draft EIR is to identify significant effects on the environment to enable decision makers to consider impacts in the decision-making process.

Comment Letter NA_Kolka

Carolyn Kolka
(Name: Please Print)

2331 Derby
(Street Address)

Berkeley 94705
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Kolka-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and a wonderful area to relax.

NA_Kolka-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Kolka-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Kolka-4

NA_Kolka-5

NA_Kolka-6

NA_Kolka-7

NA_Kolka-8

NA_Kolka-9

Sincerely,

Carolyn Kolka
(Signature)

Jan. 31, 2011
(Date)

Carolyn Kolka, January 31, 2011

- NA_Kolka-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Kolka-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Kolka-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kolka-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kolka-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kolka-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kolka-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Kolka-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Kolka-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Krame

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 21 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

JOHN F. KRAMER

(Name: Please Print)

1256 RIM OF THE REDWOODS RD

(Street Address)

SEBASTOPOL 95472

(Town)

(Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Krame-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and love of Sonoma County.

NA_Krame-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Krame-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncan's Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Krame-4

NA_Krame-5

NA_Krame-6

NA_Krame-7

NA_Krame-8

NA_Krame-9

Sincerely,

John F. Kramer

(Signature)

1/11/2011
(Date)

John Kramer, January 11, 2011

- NA_Krame-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Krame-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Krame-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krame-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krame-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krame-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krame-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krame-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Krame-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Krisk

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 18 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

Steven Kriske
(Name: Please Print)
25 West Summit Drive
Emerald Hills, CA 94062
(Street Address)

(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Krisk-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and canoeing.

NA_Krisk-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Krisk-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Krisk-4

NA_Krisk-5

NA_Krisk-6

NA_Krisk-7

NA_Krisk-8

NA_Krisk-9

Sincerely,

7-14-11

(Signature)

(Date)

Steven Kriske, January 14, 2011

- NA_Krisk-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Krisk-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Krisk-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krisk-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krisk-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krisk-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krisk-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krisk-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Krisk-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

FEB 14 2011

Cary Krueger
16200 Rio Nido Rd
Guerneville, CA 95446

Feb 11, 2011

Sonoma County Water Agency
Attn: Jessica Martini-Lamb
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb
CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concern about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on Dec 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Krueg-1

I utilize the Russian River as a property owner, recreationist, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, and for swimming and fishing.

NA_Krueg-2

I am concerned about the separation of the Estuary project from the "Fish Habitat flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Krueg-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. Don't you think it is wrong to divide the process?
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects the river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through Sept. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. Don't you think this should be analyzed in light of BO requirements?
- The dungeous crab start their life in the estuary. Wouldn't the closing of the river mouth devastate this important resource & industry?
- Isn't there a contradiction in trying to do something for the steelhead & coho in the Jenner estuary and allowing gravel mining in the middle reach Russian River, which impairs the fishes spawning grounds?
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5yrs. Don't you think this is unacceptable.

NA_Krueg-4

NA_Krueg-5

NA_Krueg-6

NA_Krueg-7

NA_Krueg-8

NA_Krueg-9

Sincerely,

Cary Krueger

NA_Krueg-1

2-11-'11

Cary Krueger, February 11, 2011

- NA_Krueg-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Krueg-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Krueg-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krueg-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krueg-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krueg-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krueg-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Krueg-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Krueg-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_LaGra

Y900

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 25 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

Pat LaGrave
(Name: Please Print)
10849 Buena Vista Lane
(Street Address)
Forestville, CA 95436
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_LaGra-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and _____.

NA_LaGra-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_LaGra-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_LaGra-4

NA_LaGra-5

NA_LaGra-6

NA_LaGra-7

NA_LaGra-8

NA_LaGra-9

Sincerely,

P. M. LaGrave 1/22/11
(Signature) (Date)

Pat LaGrave, January 22, 2011

- NA_LaGra-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_LaGra-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_LaGra-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_LaGra-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_LaGra-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_LaGra-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_LaGra-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_LaGra-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_LaGra-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Larso

ROBERT E. LARSON
(Name: Please Print)

5623 DUPONT DRIVE
(Street Address)

SANTA ROSA, CA. 95407
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Larso-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and _____.

NA_Larso-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Larso-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Larso-4

NA_Larso-5

NA_Larso-6

NA_Larso-7

NA_Larso-8

NA_Larso-9

Sincerely,
Robert E. Larson
(Signature)

1/11/11
(Date)

Robert Larson, January 11, 2011

- NA_Larso-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Larso-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Larso-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Larso-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Larso-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Larso-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Larso-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Larso-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Larso-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Leer

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 19 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

Daniel J. Leer
(Name: Please Print)

201 Ridgewood Lane
(Street Address)

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Leer-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): ~~property owner, business owner,~~ recreationist and/or tourist, ~~for artistic expression,~~ for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and Kayaking.

NA_Leer-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Leer-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Leer-4

NA_Leer-5

NA_Leer-6

NA_Leer-7

NA_Leer-8

NA_Leer-9

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Leer
(Signature)

Jan 14 2011
(Date)

Daniel Leer, January 14, 2011

- NA_Leer-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Leer-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Leer-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Leer-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Leer-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Leer-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Leer-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Leer-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Leer-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB - 7 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

Jack Long V.M.D.
(Name: Please Print)
5953 Russell Lane
(Street Address)
Forestville 95436
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Long1-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and Boating.

NA_Long1-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Long1-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Long1-4

NA_Long1-5

NA_Long1-6

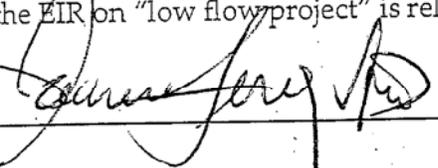
NA_Long1-7

NA_Long1-8

NA_Long1-9

Sincerely,

(Signature)



(Date)

2/11/11

Jack Long, February 1, 2011

- NA_Long1-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Long1-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Long1-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Long1-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Long1-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2 Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Long1-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Long1-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Long1-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Long1-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Long2



Joseph Long
PO Box 334
Monte Rio, CA 95462

(Name: Please Print)

20355 FOOTHILL DR.
(Street Address)

(Town)

(Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Long2-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and Canoeing.

NA_Long2-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Long2-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Long2-4

NA_Long2-5

NA_Long2-6

NA_Long2-7

NA_Long2-8

NA_Long2-9

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Long Jr.
(Signature)

1-17-11
(Date)

Joseph Long, January 17, 2011

- NA_Long2-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Long2-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Long2-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Long2-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Long2-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Long2-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Long2-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Long2-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Long2-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Lowe

I own 2 properties:

14555 Canyon One
Rio Nido

+

15550 Canyon Three
Rio Nido

Lori & Stephen Lowe

(Name: Please Print)

P.O. Box 444

(Street Address)

NEWARK CA 94560

(Town)

(Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Lowe-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and _____.

NA_Lowe-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Lowe-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Lowe-4

NA_Lowe-5

NA_Lowe-6

NA_Lowe-7

NA_Lowe-8

NA_Lowe-9

Sincerely,

Lori Lowe

(Signature)

1/12/2011

(Date)

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

JAN 13 2011

NA_Lowe-1

Final EIR page 3.3-243

Lori & Stephen Lowe, January 19, 2011

- NA_Lowe-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Lowe-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Lowe-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lowe-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lowe-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lowe-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lowe-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lowe-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Lowe-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Lubbe

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 19 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

FLOYD AND JOANNE LUBBERS
(Name: Please Print)

54 RIO VISTA WAY
(Street Address)

Petaluma CA 94952
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Lubbe-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and just enjoying the area

NA_Lubbe-2

(since 1927)

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Lubbe-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Lubbe-4

NA_Lubbe-5

NA_Lubbe-6

NA_Lubbe-7

NA_Lubbe-8

NA_Lubbe-9

Sincerely,

Floyd and Joanne Lubbers
(Signature) (Date)

4th generation at the cottage
We are really concerned (these last years)
about the Russian River cutting the #
Final EIR page 3.3-245

NA_Lubbe-1

Floyd & Joanne Lubbers, January 18, 2011

- NA_Lubbe-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Lubbe-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Lubbe-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lubbe-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lubbe-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lubbe-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lubbe-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lubbe-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Lubbe-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Lumga

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 18 2011

Douglas Lumga Jr

(Name: Please Print)

17569 Orchard Ave

(Street Address)

Guerneville 95446

(Town)

(Zip Code)

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

CF/45-5.1-2.1 Russian River Estuary Management Project -
Correspondence

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Lumga-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and _____.

NA_Lumga-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Lumga-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Lumga-4

NA_Lumga-5

NA_Lumga-6

NA_Lumga-7

NA_Lumga-8

NA_Lumga-9

Sincerely,


(Signature)

1/8/11

(Date)

Douglas Lumgair, January 8, 2011

- NA_Lumga-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Lumga-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Lumga-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lumga-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lumga-5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lumga-6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lumga-7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lumga-8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Lumga-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA_Lundq

Stella Lundquist
(Name: Please Print)

17455 Orchard Ave
(Street Address)

Guerneville CA 95446
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
ATTN: JESSICA MARTINI-LAMB
404 AVIATION BLVD.
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

I wish to express my concerns about the "Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report" released on December 15, 2010. Please put my name and address on your notification list for all meetings and documents related to this project.

NA_Lundq-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and relaxing on my air mattress - it's the best!

NA_Lundq-2

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project". The stated purposes of both projects is to fulfill requirements of the Biological Opinion (BO), which assumes that river flows must be managed to allow formation of an estuary lagoon to provide habitat for threatened fish.

NA_Lundq-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
- SCWA can't control flows at Hacienda during wet years as evidenced in 2010 when dam releases were reduced and flows averaged 260 cfs from June through September. This project is only viable during drought years when water quality impacts would be greatest. This should be analyzed in light of BO requirements.
- When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Lundq-4

NA_Lundq-5

NA_Lundq-6

NA_Lundq-7

NA_Lundq-8

NA_Lundq-9

Sincerely,

Stella Lundquist
(Signature)

1-12-11
(Date)

Stella Lundquist, January 12, 2011

- NA_Lundq -1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Lundq -2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Lundq -3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lundq -4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lundq -5 For a discussion of the geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Project, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lundq -6 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lundq -7 For discussion of the relationship between barrier beach closures and flow, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Lundq -8 Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of alternatives, including the Reduced Project Alternative, considered in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Lundq-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.