

### **3.3 Responses to Individual (No Affiliation) Comments**

This section includes copies of comment letters from individual commenters and corresponding responses. Comment letters are arranged alphabetically by commenter last name.

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Comment Letter NA\_Ahlba

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 21 2011

CLARA A AHLBACH  
(Name: Please Print) PROPERTY ADDRESS: RIO NIDO, CA

MAILING: 33 WAKEFIELD AV  
(Street Address)

DALY CITY, CA 94015  
(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\_Ahlba-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 *to enjoy the beauty of the Redwoods when*

NA\_Ahlba-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\_Ahlba-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\_Ahlba-4

NA\_Ahlba-5

NA\_Ahlba-6

NA\_Ahlba-7

NA\_Ahlba-8

NA\_Ahlba-9

Sincerely,

Clara A Ahlbach Jan 18 2011  
(Signature) (Date)

## Clara A. Ahlbaach, January 18, 2011

- NA\_Ahlba-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Ahlba-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Ahlba-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\_Ahlba-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\_Ahlba-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\_Ahlba-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\_Ahlba-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**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Ahlba-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\_Ahlba-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA\_Ahlvi

Bruce Ahlvi

(Name: Please Print)

12160 JAMNETHOME PARK 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

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NA\_Ahlvi-1

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NA\_Ahlvi-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\_Ahlvi-3

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NA\_Ahlvi-4

NA\_Ahlvi-5

NA\_Ahlvi-6

NA\_Ahlvi-7

NA\_Ahlvi-8

NA\_Ahlvi-9

Sincerely,

Bruce Ahlvi (Signature)

1.11.11 (Date)

## Bruce Ahlvin, January 11, 2011

- NA\_Ahlvi-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Ahlvi-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
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- NA\_Ahlvi-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

JAN 21 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

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

Sherrrie Althouse & John Obertelli Jr.  
(Name: Please Print)

15326 Willow Rd (PO Box 195)  
(Street Address)

Pinonido CA 95471  
(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\_Altho1-1

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 recreation & drinking water.

NA\_Altho1-2

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\_Altho1-3

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NA\_Altho1-4

NA\_Altho1-5

NA\_Altho1-6

NA\_Altho1-7

NA\_Altho1-8

NA\_Altho1-9

Sincerely,

Sherrrie Althouse & John Obertelli Jr. 1-19-11  
(Signature) (Date)

## Sherrie Althouse & John Obertelli Jr., January 19, 2011

- NA\_Altho1-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Altho1-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Altho1-3 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\_Altho1-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Altho1-5 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\_Altho1-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Altho1-7 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\_Altho1-8 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\_Altho1-9 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

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**From:** Sherrie [sherandj@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 6:58 AM  
**To:** estuaryproject  
**Cc:** Jessica.Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Russian River Estuary Management Project: DEIR

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the Russian River Estuary Project DEIR. We have lived along the lower Russian River for 35 years where we own our home. The river is part of our life, the source of our drinking water and a place for recreation and reflection. We are deeply concerned about the state of the river and the many threats that effect the quality and health of this important resource.

NA\_Altho2-1

We have tried to understand how closing the mouth to create an estuary lagoon is going to improve the situation. We feel the low flow project must be considered in one environmental document rather than studied separately from the estuary plan. CEQA requires that the project be considered in one environmental document. It seems very likely we could end up with a lagoon of toxic water which will certainly defeat the purpose of improving habitat for threatened fish. We would like to see a broad range of water quality issues addressed in the DEIR and their effect on the proposed estuary management project.

INA\_Altho2-2  
INA\_Altho2-3  
INA\_Altho2-4  
INA\_Altho2-5

The river's health needs to be studied and managed by considering the entire watershed and not just one little piece of the picture. The loss of riparian woodland, gravel mining, water diversions, pollution and sedimentation must all be considered. We would like to see continued environmental monitoring and analysis, including recreational, public health and economic impacts of the project. We would like assurance that this report will mitigate all potential impacts from this project.

INA\_Altho2-6  
INA\_Altho2-7

Please add our name and address to your notification list for meetings and documents related to this project.

INA\_Altho2-8

Sincerely,  
Sherrie Althouse and John Obertelli Jr.  
15326 Willow Road  
P.O.Box 195  
Rio Nido,CA. 95471

## Sherrie Althouse & John Obertelli Jr., February 14, 2011

- NA\_Altho2-1 Draft EIR Chapter 4.0, Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures, considers potential impacts to quality of the river from an environmental resource perspective, and analyzed resources including geology, hydrology, water quality, biological resources, fisheries, land use, recreation, cultural resources, noise, air quality, hazards and hazardous materials, public services and utilities, and aesthetics.
- NA\_Altho2-2 As discussed in Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, the purpose of the proposed Estuary Management Plan is to comply with the requirements of the Russian River Biological Opinion to adaptively manage the Estuary with the primary objectives of enhancing rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids, particularly steelhead, and managing Estuary water levels to minimize flood hazard. The proposed project does not include “closure” of the Russian River mouth to create lagoon conditions; rather the lagoon outlet channel would be implemented after barrier beach formation.
- NA\_Altho2-3 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\_Altho2-4 For a discussion regarding potential impacts to water quality, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. As raised by the commenter, many species aside from salmon may be affected by the dynamics of lagoon formation and breaching within the Russian River. Draft EIR Section 4.5.2 describes the various aquatic species and habitat within the project area. Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, specifically outlines the benefits to salmonids of lagoon rearing and Impacts 4.5-1 and 4.5-2 specifically address the likely effects of the proposed management action on salmonids. Water quality impacts relating to the proposed management of the Estuary and lagoon are addressed in detail in Draft EIR Section 4.3, Water Quality. As described in the analysis discussion in Impact 4.5.2, impacts potentially resulting from the proposed management of the Estuary relating to water quality conditions becoming stressful for special status and other native fish species inhabiting the Estuary are considered less than significant.
- NA\_Altho2-5 For additional discussion regarding potential impacts to water quality, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Altho2-6 Please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas, and Scope of Analysis**. The purpose of a Draft EIR is to disclose potential direct and secondary environmental impacts associated with a proposed project. While

holistic management of a watershed is important for resource planning and management, the Draft EIR does not propose watershed management techniques or studies; rather it is intended to function as a disclosure document for decision makers to consider the impacts related implementation of the Estuary Management Project.

NA\_Altho2-7 With respect to recreational and socioeconomic impacts, please refer to **Master Response 2.6, Recreational Impacts, Socioeconomic Impacts, and Mitigation Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. As discussed in Draft EIR Chapter 3.0, Project Background and Environmental Setting, the Water Agency has ongoing monitoring programs for water quality, fisheries, macroinvertebrates, and pinnipeds. The Water Agency will continue these programs, and this information will be used to update the adaptive management plan as appropriate.

The Water Agency will continue its Estuary water quality monitoring program as required under the Biological Opinion, and will modify that program to gather appropriate water quality information, in consultation with regulatory agencies, as needed. For a discussion related to water quality and subsequent monitoring requirements, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NA\_Altho2-8 Commenter's name and address were added to distribution list.

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Nature knows best how to make a river,  
let's return it in as many ways as we can  
to its natural  
flow.

MAGICK ALTMAN  
(Name: Please Print)

7602 Huntley St.  
(Street Address)

Schaghtopol CA 95472  
(Town) (Zip Code)

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB 10 2011

February, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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NA\_Altma-1

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NA\_Altma-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\_Altma-3

Please address the issues below:

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NA\_Altma-4

NA\_Altma-5

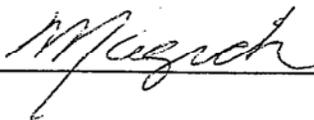
NA\_Altma-6

NA\_Altma-7

NA\_Altma-8

NA\_Altma-9

Sincerely,



(Signature)

2-10-11

(Date)

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

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

## Magick Altman, February 10, 2011

- NA\_Altma-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Altma-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Altma-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\_Altma-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to response to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
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- NA\_Altma-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\_Altma-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.
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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** *NO to a closed*  
**Art Gallery** *estuary and*  
 16200 First Street *low flow on the*  
 on the Plaza *Russian River!*  
 Guerneville, CA 94946  
*BAD SCIENCE, BAD algae*  
 707-869-9099 *and pollution. BAD*  
*FOR FISH. PEOPLE*  
**Open** *TOWNS. where*  
 Winter/Spring: *do these people*  
 Thurs-Mon: 11a-5p *come from?*

[www.russianriverartgallery.com](http://www.russianriverartgallery.com)

*to SCWA*  
*Jessica*  
*Martini -*  
*Lamb*  
*44 Aviation*  
*Blvd*  
*Santa*  
*Rosa*  
*95403*

NA\_Anonymous-1

NA\_Anonymous-2

## Anonymous, February 10, 2011

- NA\_Anony-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\_Anony-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

JAN 18 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

Evelyn Elizabeth Ashley  
(Name: Please Print)

P.O. Box 14  
(Street Address)

Kaaawa HI 96730  
(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\_Ashle-1

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NA\_Ashle-2

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NA\_Ashle-3

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NA\_Ashle-4

NA\_Ashle-5

NA\_Ashle-6

NA\_Ashle-7

NA\_Ashle-8

NA\_Ashle-9

Sincerely,

Evelyn Elizabeth Ashley  
(Signature)

1/13/11  
(Date)

## Evelyn Elizabeth Ashley, February 13, 2011

- NA\_Ashle-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Ashle-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Ashle-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**.
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- NA\_Ashle-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 AtkinA

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB - 3 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

Amanda Atkinson  
(Name: Please Print)

20145 Beech Ave.  
(Street Address)

Monte Rio 95462  
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

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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\_AtkinA-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 my two young boys are in the river

NA\_AtkinA-2

summer

I am concerned about the bifurcation (separation) of the Estuary Project from the "Fish and 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.

long  
NA\_AtkinA-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\_AtkinA-4

NA\_AtkinA-5

NA\_AtkinA-6

NA\_AtkinA-7

NA\_AtkinA-8

NA\_AtkinA-9

Sincerely,

Amanda Atkinson  
(Signature)

1-28-2011  
(Date)

## Amanda Atkinson, January 28, 2011

- NA\_AtkinA-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_AtkinA-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_AtkinA-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\_AtkinA-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_AtkinA-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\_AtkinA-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_AtkinA-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\_AtkinA-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\_AtkinA-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: doreen atkinson [datkinson2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2011 9:36 AM
To: fishflow@scwa.ca.gov; Jessica Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov; estuaryproject
Cc: Estuary Project Group; Valerie Brown 1st Dist Sup.; David Rabbitt 2nd Dist. Supe; Shirlee Zane 3rd Dist. Sup.; Mike McGuire 4th Dist. Sup.; Efren Carrillo 5th Dist. Sup.; Amanda Atkinson; John Bauer; Barbara DeCarly; Elise; Rue Furch; Tia G; Gary Getchell; peter or vicki halstead; Laura Harris; Johanna Lynch; Suzanne Marr; Betsy McConnell; Linda Schmidt; Elise Sokolay; Matt St. John; Suzi; Todd Thompson; John Uniack; Pam Vale; Vesta; Christy Cowley; Carol Cowley; Patty
Subject: Re:Addendum Comment Submission--Fish Flow Project/extended Deadline 2/14/11

2/12/11

Dear Ms Martini-Lamb: RE: Addendum Comment Submission
Opposition to LOW FLOW

I would like to add a few more questions to my previously sent e-mail dated November 9, 2010, copy below.

NA\_AtkinD-1

6. Does the Low Flow Project (Fish Flow) EIR include qualitative and statistical assessment in whether the project will violate water quality in the upper, middle and lower portions of the Russian River? In other words, does the EIR look at the Russian River as a whole?

NA\_AtkinD-2

7. Is the Biological Opinion (BO) which was submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) a mandate that must be enforced or is it an opinion that has been submitted to the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) to either embrace or reject?

NA\_AtkinD-3

8. Why isn't SCWA waiting on enforcing a permanent Low Flow until the North Coast Water Quality Control Boards completes it's comprehensive monitoring program, scheduled to begin in Spring 2011?

NA\_AtkinD-4

9. Does the Counties contractual selling of water to various communities and agricultural needs have anything to do with the seemingly rush to a permanent Low Flow on the Russian River? Is this more about the selling of water rather than the saving of fish?

NA\_AtkinD-5

I'll end here and hope that your agency will taken into consideration my concerns for our beautiful Russian River and that those that haven't yet submitted a comment via e-mail do so by this Monday 5:00PM.

Sincerely,
Doreen Atkinson
18962 Upper Terrace
Monte Rio, CA 95462

--- Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2010, 2:23 PM

The following letter to be mailed to Ms Martini-Lamb, SCWA in opposition to "Low Flow".

Jessica Martini-Lamb
SCWA/ Fishflow@scwa.ca.gov
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Ms Martini-Lamb:                    Re: Comment Submission—Fish Flow Project

I'm responding with comment to the Sonoma County Water Agency regarding "low flow" during the summer months, specifically the lower portion of the Russian River. A public seminar, a requirement by law in order for the SCWA to petition from the State Water Board the permanently lowering of water flows from 125 cf to 70 cf during the summer months, was just conducted in Monte Rio on November 5<sup>th</sup>. There were a lot of colorful hand outs, maps, and charts at various stations with each station staffed by water agency employees, all of whom suggested filling out "comment cards" and returning them by the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. The project, once referred to as "Low Flow", has now been renamed to "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project" or "Fish Flow" for short. I was told it was easier for people to remember, but I assume it was changed to shed a more positive spin within the general public. In a very simplistic explanation, the reason for the "lower flow" is to save the salmon, or at least that's what it's being billed as but at what cost to others?

It was very obvious that this past summer's water flow was much better than last year's due to the wet winter and late spring. From what I've read, the average flow this past summer at the Hacienda Bridge was 263 cfs as compared to 70 cfs in the summer of 2009 when algae blooms were at the highest levels I've ever observed. I've lived along the Russian River in Monte Rio for over 60 years and have witnessed many changes in the River. In the 1950's and 1960's the River at Monte Rio's public beach was at least 12 feet deep in the middle of the channel between the beach and the Highland Dell Hotel. There were two docks that you could dive from and a rope strung from one dock to the other to warn of deep waters. Now, that same public beach is called the "Monte Rio Kiddy Beach" because of its shallowness—no docks, no ropes, but lots of moss and algae! People can be seen ankle, knee or waist deep in places that once was over one's head! This change is mainly due in part to the buildup of silt from various negative conditions going on up stream, (i.e. gravel mining, bottom release from dams, agriculture, etc.). Certainly the River wasn't completely healthy back in the 50's. It was muddy, smelled of dead eels, and void of any wildlife as compared to that of today. Mistakes in the past have been made. One that I recently learned of was when the Department of Fish and Game began a "trash" fish eradication program in 1954 from the East Fork above Ukiah down to Healdsburg. Rotenone poison was sprayed and suffocated the fish by damaging their gills. According to an article dated November 12, 1956 in the Ukiah Daily Journal this was an experiment done to kill off all the undesirable non-game fish but nearly all the fish in the River were killed! With the completion of the Coyote Dam in 1959, (and by various accounts the beginning of the end of Salmon in the Russian River) the State asked Sonoma and Mendocino counties to specify what water flows they wanted and according to the Ukiah Daily Journals article, "Water Releases From Coyote Dam for Fish Asked by State", the answer, "**Guerneville needed 125 cfs to maintain its fishery.**" Came the late 1970's, 80's and 90's when osprey, ducks, turtles, otters, among others seem to have proliferated to the enjoyment of many. But, in the past few years, when kayaking from Guerneville to Monte Rio one is forced to get out and walk through blooms of algae, thick moss and an invasive plant called Ludwigia in various places because the River has become so shallow.

**So, my questions:**

- 1. How will the "low flow" affect the temperature of the River?**

2. Will “low flow” contribute to more algae blooms?
3. Will the River be in danger of drying up due to the buildup of sediment and “Low Flow”?
4. What about the other aquatic animals and wildlife upstream from the Estuary, what affects will “low flow” have on them?
5. The Russian River has had a rich history of tourism during the summer months. What will be the affect on businesses and water recreation use if and when beaches are closed because of algae blooms and high bacteria counts?

The Biological Opinion does not address these questions nor does the SCWA which has remained focused on “low flows” benefitting the salmon. While SCWA continues to meet the needs of its water contractors, what environmental considerations has the Russian River as a whole been given in return? There is no simple answer, water is a valuable commodity and will be getting even more valuable in the future—what will our priorities be? Until these questions can be answered I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to the “low flow” objective of the Sonoma County Water Agency. Mistakes have been made in the past, let’s learn from them and move in a more responsible manner towards saving our most valuable resource in Sonoma County, the **RUSSIAN RIVER!**

Sincerely yours,

Doreen Atkinson  
Monte Rio, CA

## Doreen Atkinson, February 2, 2011

- NA\_AtkinD-1 Commenter is adding to comments to the Fish Habitat Flow and Water Rights Project Notice of Preparation, submitted on November 9, 2011. The previously submitted comment letter is included in the record. However it is directly related to the Fish Habitat Flow and Water Rights Project Notice of Preparation. Please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA\_AtkinD-2 This comment is directly related to the Fish Habitat Flow and Water Rights Project Notice of Preparation. Please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA\_AtkinD-3 Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, 16 USC Section 1536(a)(2), requires agencies to consult with NMFS regarding potential impacts to marine and anadromous species<sup>1</sup> under NMFS jurisdiction if they are proposing an “action” that may affect listed species or their designated habitat. Each federal agency is to insure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. If a listed species may be present, the local agency conducts a biological assessment to analyze potential effects of the project on listed species and critical habitat in order to establish and justify a determination of the level of potential effect. The Russian River Biological Opinion concluded that the continued operations of Coyote Valley Dam and Warm Springs Dam by USACE and the Water Agency in a manner similar to recent historic practices, together with the Water Agency’s stream channel maintenance activities and Estuary management, are likely to jeopardize and adversely modify critical habitat for endangered coho salmon and threatened steelhead. The Biological Opinion recommends “reasonable and prudent alternatives” (RPAs) to artificial breaching activities to avoid jeopardizing or adversely modifying habitat. The Estuary Management Project is proposed to implement the requirements of the Biological Opinion. By complying with the Biological Opinion, the Water Agency may continue to carry out its water supply, stream channel maintenance, and Estuary management activities without risking potential criminal and civil liability under the federal Endangered Species Act for the incidental “take” of listed fish species. Moreover, compliance with the Biological Opinion requirements is necessary for the Water Agency to obtain the permits and approvals from other agencies necessary for the Water Agency to carry out its activities. Thus as a practical matter the Water Agency does not have an opportunity to “reject” the directives of the Biological Opinion and still

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<sup>1</sup> United States Fish and Wildlife Services is the federal agency for fresh-water and wildlife species.

continue its operations. The Draft EIR examines impacts related to the Estuary Management Project. It does not analyze the Russian River Biological Opinion.

NA\_AtkinD-4 Under the Biological Opinion, the Water Agency is required to modify current estuary management activities. The Water Agency will review and incorporate information generated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board's monitoring program as it becomes available within the context of the adaptive management plan under the Estuary Management Project. 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**.

NA\_AtkinD-5 Commenter questions whether the project is proposed in order to sustain or meet water contracts. The Biological Opinion analyzed the impacts of the Water Agency's water supply, flood channel maintenance, and Estuary management activities on listed salmonid species, and the incidental take statement in the Biological Opinion covers all such activities. The specific project objectives of driving the proposed Estuary Management Project are established in Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, and include providing enhanced rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids within the Russian River Estuary and minimization of flood hazard.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB 15 2011

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

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

BARBARA JEAN AVERY

(Name: Please Print)

16235 RIO NIÑO ROAD

(Street Address)

GUERNEVILLE

(Town)

95446

(Zip Code)

February, 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\_Avery-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 bringing friends & family for their enjoyment

NA\_Avery-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\_Avery-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\_Avery-4

NA\_Avery-5

NA\_Avery-6

NA\_Avery-7

NA\_Avery-8

NA\_Avery-9

Sincerely

Barbara Jean Avery  
(Signature)

2.14.11

(Date)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS & QUESTIONS -

WITH CONCERN FOR SURVIVAL ENBANGERED FISH,  
WHY IS GRAVEL MINING ALLOWED TO  
CONTINUE ON THE RUSSIAN RIVER?

NA\_Avery-10

ENGINEERS SUSPECT CLOSING THE MOUTH OF  
THE RIVER WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL,  
WITH THIS IN MIND WHY DO YOU  
THINK IT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL?

NA\_Avery-11

WITH THE DOWNTURN IN THE ECONOMY,  
WHAT YOU PROPOSE WILL HARM LOCAL  
BUSINESSES? HOW DO YOU PROPOSE  
TO MAKE UP LOSS TAX REVENUES  
WITH BUSINESSES THAT HAVE HAD TO  
CLOSE DUE TO TOURIST REDUCTION?

NA\_Avery-12

PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

---

THANK YOU.

## Barbara Avery, February 14, 2011

- NA\_Avery-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Avery-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Avery-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\_Avery-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Avery-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\_Avery-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Avery-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\_Avery-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\_Avery-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Avery-10 Gravel mining is authorized for certain areas along the river through specific federal, state and local permitting. The Water Agency is not a regulatory agency and has no authority over or jurisdiction to regulate gravel mining and it is beyond the Water Agency's jurisdiction. The proposed Estuary Management Project does not include gravel mining operations, nor does it create a need for gravel mining. As disclosed in Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis, although the mining operations governed by the Aggregate Resources Mining Plan are located within the Russian River Watershed, the Estuary Management

Project would not contribute to erosion/sedimentation, channel incision, or resource extraction impacts generally associated with mining operations, and therefore would not be cumulatively considerable when implemented in conjunction with gravel mining operations. The Estuary Management Project is intended to enhance fisheries habitat; it does not involve any mineral or aggregate mining. Therefore, the Estuary Management Project's contribution to these types of impacts would be less than cumulatively considerable.

NA\_Avery-11 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

NA\_Avery-12 For discussion regarding CEQA requirements relevant to socioeconomic impacts, please refer to **Master Response 2.6, Recreational Impacts, Socioeconomic Impacts and Mitigation Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

Comment Letter NA\_Banch

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

Mrs. & Mr. Daniel L. Banchero  
(Name: Please Print)

130 Madrone Ave.  
(Street Address)

San Francisco CA 94127-1318  
(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\_Banch-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 the love of a beautiful place on the river which has been owned by our family for 50 years. 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\_Banch-2

NA\_Banch-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\_Banch-4

NA\_Banch-5

NA\_Banch-6

NA\_Banch-7

NA\_Banch-8

NA\_Banch-9

Sincerely,

Daniel Banchero  
(Signature)

1-12-11  
(Date)

Daniel Banchero

## Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Banchemo, February 12, 2011

- NA\_Banch-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Banch-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Banch-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\_Banch-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Banch-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\_Banch-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Banch-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\_Banch-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\_Banch-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:** Philip J.Barlow [pjarlow@sonic.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2011 11:32 PM  
**To:** estuaryproject  
**Subject:** DEIR Russian River Estuary Management plan

**Attachments:** Russian River mouth 3Feb'111.JPG



Russian River mouth 3Feb'111.J...

Dear Ms.Martini-Lamb, DEIR - - Russian R. Estuary M. Project

My understanding is that the recently completed biological opinion on the Russian River requires that the " Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project ", together with the abovementioned Estuary Management project are reviewed together. Will this be done.?

NA\_Barlo-1

As to the proposed channel to be cut across the bar to relieve high water levels - - has any consideration been given to the idea of making a spillway across the existing railroad bedding south of the concrete jetty ? This bedding is occasionally exposed in big storms & although probably capped to provide rail tie stabilization, it's most likely compacted rocks ( blasted from the east face of Goat Rock ). If, in a proscribed area, whatever necessary rubble is removed down to the agreed outflow level, remaining rubble still in the beach will maintain that level, preventing outflow from cutting a deeper channel. This would at least remove an awkward variable by establishing a constant outflow level - - a valued constant as the months and years go by and the project's effectiveness is evaluated. Even when high seas closes a surface channel, the river could at least overflow this area to deliver river water onto uncompacted beach sand, allowing filtration.

NA\_Barlo-2

My understanding is that there is no clear consensus as to why the Russian River estuary ( unlike some others -eg. the Gualala River ) does not enjoy the ability to lose water directly into the ocean by way of filtration through the sand bar when the mouth is closed. Some suggest blockage by the rail bed below the beach surface : others refer to that bottom section of the river having developed a clay pan.

Either way, a channel crossing above the old rail bedding would trump both of the primary arguments as to the reason why this river doesn't lose water through a closed beach. Has a channel cut in this location been considered ?

I look forward to your answering this question.  
Thank you.  
Philip Barlow

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Russian River mouth 3Feb'11.JPG

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

**Comment Letter NA\_Barlo  
Attachment 1**



## Philip Barlow, February 13, 2011

- NA\_Barlow-1 Please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. The Draft EIR examines impacts related to the Estuary Management Project. It does not analyze the Russian River Biological Opinion.
- NA\_Barlow-2 The scenario described by the commenter is a variation of the Jetty Removal Alternative identified and evaluated in Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, Alternatives Analysis. 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.

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Comment Letter NA\_BenzW

Fulltime address: (Name: Please Print) Sandie Benz-Williams  
6240 Empire Grade. Summer address:  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 11057 Sunset Avenue  
(Street Address)  
Fresnoville CA 95736  
(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\_BenzW-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): property owner, ~~business owner~~, recreationist and ~~for tourist~~, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and our family summer home for the past 73 years

NA\_BenzW-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\_BenzW-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.
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NA\_BenzW-4

NA\_BenzW-5

NA\_BenzW-6

NA\_BenzW-7

NA\_BenzW-8

NA\_BenzW-9

Sincerely,

Sandie Benz-Williams 1/13/2011  
(Signature) (Date)

## Sandie Benz-Williams, January 13, 2011

- NA\_BenzW-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_BenzW-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_BenzW-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\_BenzW-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_BenzW-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\_BenzW-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_BenzW-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\_BenzW-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\_BenzW-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

JAN 18 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

BRAD BETTENCOURT

(Name: Please Print)

P.O. Box 1927

(Street Address)

TRACY CA 95378

(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\_Bette-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\_Bette-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\_Bette-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\_Bette-4

NA\_Bette-5

NA\_Bette-6

NA\_Bette-7

NA\_Bette-8

NA\_Bette-9

Sincerely,

Brad Bettencourt  
(Signature)

1-13-2011

(Date)

## Brad Bettencourt, January 13, 2011

- NA\_Bette-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Bette-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Bette-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\_Bette-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Bette-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\_Bette-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Bette-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\_Bette-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\_Bette-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\_Birkh

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 20 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

Karen Birkhofer

(Name: Please Print)

16376 Melody Ln

(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\_Birkh-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\_Birkh-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\_Birkh-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\_Birkh-4  
NA\_Birkh-5  
NA\_Birkh-6  
NA\_Birkh-7  
NA\_Birkh-8  
NA\_Birkh-9

Sincerely,

Karen Birkhofer  
(Signature)

1-19-11

(Date)

## Karen Birkhofer, January 19, 2011

- NA\_Birkh-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Birkh-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Birkh-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\_Birkh-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Birkh-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\_Birkh-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Birkh-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\_Birkh-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\_Birkh-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.



## Donna Bley, January 13, 2011

- NA\_Bley-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Bley-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Bley-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\_Bley-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Bley-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\_Bley-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Bley-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\_Bley-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\_Bley-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\_Blume

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

Nichae Blume  
(Name: Please Print)

P.O. Box 47  
(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\_Blume-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\_Blume-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\_Blume-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\_Blume-4

NA\_Blume-5

NA\_Blume-6

NA\_Blume-7

NA\_Blume-8

NA\_Blume-9

Sincerely,

Nichae Blume  
(Signature)

1-12-2011  
(Date)

## Nichae Blume, January 12, 2011

- NA\_Blume-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Blume-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Blume-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\_Blume-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Blume-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\_Blume-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Blume-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\_Blume-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\_Blume-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\_Boddu

CHRIS BODDUM

(Name: Please Print)

6051 MADROE AVE.

(Street Address)

OAKLAND, CAL. 94618

(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\_Boddu-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\_Boddu-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.

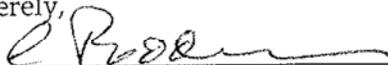
NA\_Boddu-3

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.
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- 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\_Boddu-4  
NA\_Boddu-5  
NA\_Boddu-6  
NA\_Boddu-7  
NA\_Boddu-8  
NA\_Boddu-9

Sincerely,



(Signature)

2-9-11

(Date)

## Chris Boddum, February 9, 2011

- NA\_Boddo-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Boddo-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Boddo-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\_Boddo-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Boddo-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\_Boddo-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Boddo-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\_Boddo-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\_Boddo-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

JAN 18 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

Karen Boyle  
(Name: Please Print)  
182 Westbrook K  
(Street Address)  
Daly City CA 94015  
(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\_BoyleK-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\_BoyleK-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\_BoyleK-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.
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- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
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NA\_BoyleK-4

NA\_BoyleK-5

NA\_BoyleK-6

NA\_BoyleK-7

NA\_BoyleK-8

NA\_BoyleK-9

Sincerely,

Karen Boyle  
(Signature)

1/13/11

(Date)

## Karen Boyle, January 13, 2011

- NA\_BoyleK-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_BoyleK-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_BoyleK-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\_BoyleK-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_BoyleK-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\_BoyleK-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_BoyleK-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\_BoyleK-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\_BoyleK-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.



## Marg Boyle, January 14, 2011

NA\_BoyleM-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.

NA\_BoyleM-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.

NA\_BoyleM-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\_BoyleM-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NA\_BoyleM-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\_BoyleM-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NA\_BoyleM-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\_BoyleM-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\_BoyleM-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\_Brand

PATRICIA BRANDT  
(Name: Please Print)

1621 FURLONG RD  
(Street Address)

SEBASTOPOL CA 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\_Brand-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\_Brand-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\_Brand-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.
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- 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\_Brand-4

NA\_Brand-5

NA\_Brand-6

NA\_Brand-7

NA\_Brand-8

NA\_Brand-9

Sincerely,

Patricia A Brandt 1-16-2011  
(Signature) (Date)

## Patricia Brandt, January 16, 2011

- NA\_Brand-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Brand-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Brand-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\_Brand-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Brand-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\_Brand-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Brand-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**.
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- NA\_Brand-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\_Bruni

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

WALTER BRUNICK  
(Name: Please Print)

1928 DIAMOND CT.  
(Street Address)

SANTA ROSA 95404  
(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\_Bruni-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\_Bruni-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\_Bruni-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\_Bruni-4

NA\_Bruni-5

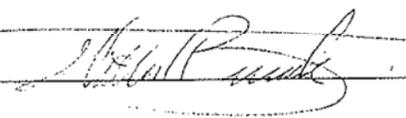
NA\_Bruni-6

NA\_Bruni-7

NA\_Bruni-8

NA\_Bruni-9

Sincerely,

  
(Signature)

1/12/11  
(Date)

## Walter Brunick, January 12, 2011

- NA\_Bruni-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Bruni-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Bruni-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\_Bruni-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Bruni-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**.
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- NA\_Bruni-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\_Burge

From: newmanfoto [mailto:newmanfoto@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Fri 2/11/2011 4:19 PM  
To: estuaryproject  
Cc: Katie Blank  
Subject: MERMAID///// EIR letter/Deadline Feb. 14th

to:Estuary project ESA  
1425 N.McDowell Blvd.  
Suite 200  
Petaluma ,Calif. 94954

And

to: Jessica Martini Lamb  
Sonoma Coast Water Agency  
404 Aviation blvd.  
Santa Rosa, Calif. 95403

To whom it may concern,  
Enclosed are my comments ,questions to the board,

- #1. Why is there silt a foot deep along the edges of the river at Hacienda Bridge?
- #2 With the proposed project of closing the mouth of the river, will the silt no longer be able to be flushed out to sea?
- #3 How much silt is normal ? ((looking back 50 to 100yrs.))
- #4 Where is the silt documented as being along the Russian River?
- #5 Has anyone ever documented all the areas of salt run-off?
- #6 Has anyone ever documented why each area with silt run-off has silt run-off?
- #7 Are the silt run-off areas able to be inspected?If so who does the inspection? Are these run-offs included in the DEIR?
- #8 Is it being considered that silt run-off causes the bottom of the river to come up?
- #9 If silt clogs the river,raising up the bottom of the river, Is there a plan t flush and or dredge it out?
- #10 How will this silt build-up effect spawning habitat for Steel-head and Coho Salmon and now California King Salmon?
- #11 Is ludwegia being considered and its potential worsening as the invasive plant it is. What is your plan to eradicate Ludwegia ,so to not trap more silt and amongst other things deplete oxygen from the river?
- #12 Has Micheal Cohen , (Sonoma State University) who invented the process of Ludwegia Digesting and his studies on Ludwegia been considered in your DEIR? If not, Why not?
- #13 Are studies done on Ludwegias absorption of fungicides, herbicides and pesticides being considered? What amounts of any of the above has Ludwegia been filtering from the Russian River? How do these amounts differ from Ludwegia in the Northern rivers?
- #14 Is Ludwegia fungicide ,pesticide, and herbicide worse in area's where agriculture run-off is prevalent?
- #15 If Ludwegia is being eradicated ,what will be the method used to eradicate it and why? Will your proposed project block the Ludwegia from being washed out or flushed out to sea in winter months ? If Ludwegia is washed out to sea threw the mouth of the Russian River,What happens to the Ludwegia once it gets washed out to sea?
- #16 What are the effects of Ludwegias oxygen absorption?
- #17 Is Ludwegia omitting Nitrogen , Harmful to fish and other aquatic life in living in the Russian River?

NA\_Burge-1

NA\_Burge-2

# Comment Letter NA\_Burge

#18 Is Ludwiegia growing in the tributaries such as Jenner Creek, Sheephouse Creek, Slaughterhouse Creek, Austin Creek, Willow Creek and Dutch Bill Creek? Will Ludwiegia grow in these creeks as a result of this project? How will this be studied?

NA\_Burge-2  
cont.

#19 Has all River Restoration groups been contacted for their input on the effects of this project? If so which groups and entities? Can you list them?

NA\_Burge-3

#20 Did you contact groups such as, Community Clean Water Institute, out of Sebastopol who have monitored the Russian River and its tributaries for their input on the changes, if this project at the mouth of the river is implemented? Have you examined and considered all their information? [www.communitycleanwaterinstitute.com](http://www.communitycleanwaterinstitute.com)

#21 How is the Russian River going to flush out silt, Ludwiegia, toxins, herbicides, and pesticides with lower flow, less velocity past the dams in place, then threw your proposed estuary (rearing habitat) Will the new estuary trap all the build-up creating a cesspool that will harm or kill fish and other aquatic life?

NA\_Burge-4

#22 Have the crabs (Dungenous Crabs for one) I'm informed by fisherman, this is their rearing habitat. Has this been studied or considered at the mouth of the Russian River? Will the crab have the ability to get in and out of the mouth of the Russian River? Will the crabs get enough oxygen to survive, with the mouth of the Russian River closed or controlled? What studies have been done on these crabs? By whom were these studies of crab done?

NA\_Burge-5

#23 Have you contacted local commercial and sport fisherman as to the effects of this project on their fisheries? If so which fisherman? Have you asked any fisherman for historical data? If so which fisherman?

NA\_Burge-6

#24 What is happening with the recent release of Wild King and Coho salmonoids, that made it up the Russian River to spawn, Oct 24th, 2010. Are they being monitored? Who is recording their survival and where they are now?

NA\_Burge-7

#25 What aquatic life is in the river and its tributaries each day of the year? Who determines this?

NA\_Burge-8

#26 Are river turtles being studied?  
#27 Has the gravel mining at Monte Rio Beach and Casini Beach and the effects from their recent gravel mining been taken into regard with the proposed project?

NA\_Burge-9

#28 What will be done if a major or even minor septic or toxic spill, gets into the river and the mouth of the river is closed?

NA\_Burge-10

#29 With this proposed project (low flow), will we have enough waters to fight fires as they've had to do, with buckets and a helicopter.

NA\_Burge-11

I appreciate your time reading and answering these questions and comments.

Sincerely Vira Burgerman

aka: The California Mermaid (R)

po box 1733

Guerneville, California

95446

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Now that's room service! Choose from over 150,000 hotels  
in 45,000 destinations on Yahoo! Travel

<[http://travel.yahoo.com/hotelsearchpage;\\_ylc=X3oDMTFtaTlzNXVjBF9TAzk3NDA3NTg5BF9zAzl3MTk0ODEEcG9zAzlEc2VjA21haWx0YWdsaW5lBHNsawNxMS0wNw--](http://travel.yahoo.com/hotelsearchpage;_ylc=X3oDMTFtaTlzNXVjBF9TAzk3NDA3NTg5BF9zAzl3MTk0ODEEcG9zAzlEc2VjA21haWx0YWdsaW5lBHNsawNxMS0wNw--)> to  
find your fit.

## Vira Burgerman, February 11, 2011

NA\_Burge-1 Sedimentation and siltation<sup>2</sup> are parameters considered when regulators evaluate whether water quality is impaired. Siltation occurs throughout the Russian River system, including the Lower and Middle Russian River and the area near the Hacienda Bridge, Guerneville. Sedimentation and siltation may be accelerated from natural levels due to land use practices, including agriculture and grazing, construction (grading) or land development, logging, streambank modification, channelization, or destabilization, and riparian vegetation removal, that contribute to excess sediment loads. As discussed in the Draft EIR, Section 4.2, Hydrology and Flooding, Impact 4.2.1, the project does not have an adverse impact on sedimentation and siltation because it is carried out during periods when flows are usually low and very little sediment is being carried in the water.

A Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Policy completed on November 29, 2004, and adopted by Resolution R1-2004-0087, directed NCRWQCB staff to control sediment pollution by using existing permitting and enforcement tools. The policy's goals are to control sediment waste discharges to impaired water bodies so that the TMDLs are met, sediment water quality objectives are attained, and beneficial uses are no longer adversely affected by sediment. The Sediment TMDL Implementation Policy also directs the NCRWQCB staff to develop: a Work Plan that describes how and when permitting and enforcement tools are to be used; the Guidance Document on Sediment Waste Discharge Control; the Sediment TMDL Implementation Monitoring Strategy; and the Desired Conditions Report.

The documented sediment impairment of rivers in the North Coast Region is evidence that existing programs to control anthropogenic sediment waste discharges have not been able to control the cumulative impacts of sediment waste discharges on such watersheds. A TMDL for sedimentation/siltation is currently under development by NCRQWCB staff (see comment letter S\_NCRWQCB). Similarly, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has established sediment quality criteria for enclosed bays and estuaries.

As described in Draft EIR Section 4.2, Hydrology and Flooding, page 4.2-15, the lagoon management period generally coincides with the dry-season and, as a result, there is very little sediment input from upstream during this period. From water year 1984 through 2009, during the Lagoon Management Period, the mean daily flow in the Russian River at Guerneville (USGS gage) was approximately 263 cfs, which is less than 6 percent of the mean daily flow value outside of the Lagoon Management Period (3,000 cfs). Because there is a non-linear

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<sup>2</sup> Sedimentation is the deposition of suspended solids or particles in water. Siltation is the accumulation and deposition of fine mineral particles (silt) on the beds of streams or lakes. Lower flow velocities result in settling and deposition.

relationship between sediment transport and flow (i.e., a flow of 1,000 cfs carries more than twice the amount of sediment than a flow of 500 cfs), it is expected that less than one percent of the annual sediment yield at Guerneville is transported during the Lagoon Management Period. In most alluvial rivers draining the north coast of California, the vast majority of the annual sediment load is carried by a few, large flood events (e.g., by flows that occur less than 5 percent of the time, on a daily average basis).

On average, little or no sediment would be transported into the Estuary during the lagoon management period. Consequently, the proposed change in the base-level of the water surface would have little or no impact upon the rate of sediment transport through, or deposition within, the Estuary, and the potential impact of the project upon sedimentation would be less than significant.

NA\_Burge-2 This comment includes a series of questions regarding the invasive aquatic plant species, *Ludwigia*. Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NA\_Burge-3 The Biological Opinion represents over 10 years of collaboration during the consultation process by federal nexus under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, involving USACE, Water Agency, NMFS and CDFG. The Section 7 consultation process under the Endangered Species Act formally includes regulatory agencies; however additional outreach to collaborate with the public and local agencies has been conducted over the past fourteen years. Please refer to **Master Response 2.8, Public Review Process**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for discussion of scoping and public review processes implemented for the Estuary Management Project EIR.

The Community Clean Water Institute, located in Sebastopol, was notified at the release of the Notice of Preparation. The public meeting dates, times, and locations and solicitation for input during the scoping process was provided directly to the organization. Similarly, the organization was notified of the release of the Draft EIR and provided with the date, time, and location of the Public Hearing and contact information and instructions for submitting comments on the Draft EIR. This organization will continue to be included on the distribution list for project related notifications.

The data results prepared by Community Clean Water Institute were reviewed and considered by Water Agency specialists and consultants relative to the data analyzed in the Draft EIR. The Community Clean Water Institute library of data includes results from citizen monitoring efforts in areas proximate to the study area including Jenner Creek, Austin Creek, and the Lower Russian River. There is no data specific to the Estuary. While this information is useful and germane to the project area, the results are from 2004 and more recent and more extensive data is available to the Water Agency to establish baseline conditions as the basis

for analysis. Similarly, the Draft EIR includes an analysis of a broader range of constituents, including salinity, nutrients, pathogens, beyond those presented for dissolved oxygen and temperature in the 2004 Community Clean Water Institute Reports.

NA\_Burge-4 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**. To address the concern about potential for the Estuary to convert to “a cesspool,” the Draft EIR includes a discussion of residence time, or how long the water remains within the Estuary Study Area (Draft EIR Section 4.3, Water Quality, page 4.3-22). In 2009, the Water Agency contracted with Bodega Marine Laboratory (U.C. Davis) to provide a view of circulation, stratification, residence and salinity in the Russian River Estuary over summer and fall months of 2009. Residence time is a function of river flows into the Estuary, discharge at the river mouth, seepage through the barrier beach, and other losses, such as evaporation and groundwater infiltration. Under current conditions, the estimated residence time in the Estuary ranges from approximately one day, during open tidal conditions, to approximately 27 days, under full closure conditions. With artificial breaching under existing conditions, the actual residence time within the Estuary during closure events is the time period between barrier beach formation and the implementation of artificial breaching by the Water Agency. This time period is typically between five and 14 days. The fill rate of the estuary is approximately 0.5 feet per day at a flow of 185 cfs. This closed condition is the time between closure and Water Agency artificial breaching. Implementation of the Estuary Management Project would not alter the rate of inflow into the Estuary, or the fill rate of the Estuary. Under the Estuary Management Plan, creation of the outlet channel to support water elevations of 7 to 9 feet would not alter the duration of fully-closed estuary conditions. Rather, it would establish an outlet channel that would result in “steady-state” conditions within the same approximately timeframe (defined as the continuous outflow condition after the outlet channel is established).

As presented in the Draft EIR Section 4.3, Water Quality (page 4.3-23), based upon the lowest observed flows of 70-85 cfs, and stratified conditions observed during the 2009 closure, residence time for the proposed project is estimated to range between 14 days and 22 days, depending upon the depth of the freshwater layer that is established. This represents an increase in estimated residence time of approximately one week, compared to the typical residence time of between five and 14 days associated with artificial breaching under existing conditions. It should be noted that during the extended closure in October 2009, residence time was extended to the duration of the 29-day closure. During that time period, no nuisance conditions were observed. That is to say, inflow to the estuary would be matched primarily by outflow conveyed by the channel and seepage through the barrier beach. Other natural losses, such as evaporation, would provide additional,

but minor losses. Therefore, establishment of the outlet channel would include flow through the Estuary towards the outlet channel, as opposed to full closure conditions, when output is limited to seepage through the barrier beach (Draft EIR Section 4.3 Water Quality, page 4.3-22 and -23). For additional information regarding fish and wildlife, refer to Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries.

NA\_Burge-5 Dungeness crab, macro-invertebrates, and other marine species and their habitat are considered in the Draft EIR in Section 4.5, Fisheries. The commenter is correct that the Estuary is a nursery for juvenile Dungeness crab. Historical data is included in the Water Agency's annual Biological Monitoring Reports. The proposed project would manage the Estuary so that the naturally formed barrier beach persists for a longer duration during the Lagoon Management Period to either enable a full transition from tidally influenced marine habitat to productive freshwater estuarine lagoon habitat, or maintained stratified conditions with increased stable freshwater habitat in the upper portion of the water column. The Water Agency has surveyed macro-invertebrates in the Estuary annually since 2004 (SCWA, 2010a; SCWA, unpublished data). Although breaching permits do not require this monitoring, the purpose of the surveys is to determine the relative abundance and distribution of macro-invertebrates in the Estuary. Refer to Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, Impact 4.5.3 beginning on page 4.5-25, for discussion regarding local effects on distribution of marine species within the Estuary during the lagoon management period due to prolonged closure and conversion to freshwater lagoon conditions.

NA\_Burge-6 As part of the Draft EIR, no local fishermen were directly contacted for historical data. The analysis relies on published available data including annual report prepared by Merritt Smith Consulting, *Biological and Water Quality Monitoring in the Russian River Estuary*, 1996 through 2000, and the Russian River Biological Opinion. Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, includes an analysis of potential impacts to fish species besides protected salmonids, and found that localized effects from the Estuary Management Plan to fish managed under the Coastal Pelagic, and Pacific Groundfish FMPs, as well as other marine fish species and macroinvertebrates that use portions of the Estuary are unlikely to represent a substantial adverse affect and impacts are considered less than significant.

NA\_Burge-7 There are many species in the Russian River which are studied by various resource agencies, including NOAA Fisheries (fisheries), US Fish and Wildlife Service (terrestrial species) California Department of Fish and Game (aquatic and terrestrial State species of concern), and the Water Agency. The Draft EIR focuses on sensitive species in the potentially affected area in the Estuary Study Area and maximum backwater area. Monitoring is one way to inventory the types, populations, location, and health of species.

Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, includes a description of the common and special status aquatic species found in 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 Endangered Species Act-listed salmonids (NMFS, 2008). The Water Agency conducts annual biological monitoring within the lower Russian River. Fish, macroinvertebrate, and plankton monitoring evaluates the distribution and abundance of aquatic species in the Russian River Estuary during late spring through early fall. The Water Agency is currently conducting outmigration monitoring on salmonid species, including coho salmon.

NA\_Burge-8 This response assumes that the commenter is referring to California species of concern, western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), the federally threatened Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and federally threatened Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), which are turtles with ranges potentially extending into the Estuary Study Area. Draft EIR Table 4.4-3 summarizes the special-status species with potential to occur in the Estuary Study Area. As disclosed in the Draft EIR (page 4.4-46) western pond turtle is known to occur in multiple locations within the Estuary Study Area.

NA\_Burge-9 Gravel mining is authorized for certain areas along the river through specific federal, state and local permitting. The Water Agency is not a regulatory agency and has no authority over or jurisdiction to regulate gravel mining and is beyond the Water Agency's jurisdiction. The proposed Estuary Management Project does not include gravel mining operations, nor does it create a need for gravel mining. In the event gravel mining is occurring at Monte Rio Beach and Casini Beach, this response is intended to clarify these are private operations and are not authorized or carried out by the Water Agency. As disclosed in Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis, although the mining operations governed by the Aggregate Resources Mining Plan are located within the Russian River Watershed, the Estuary Management Project would not contribute to erosion/sedimentation, channel incision, or resource extraction impacts generally associated with mining operations, and therefore would not be cumulatively considerable when implemented in conjunction with gravel mining operations. The Estuary Management Project is intended to enhance fisheries habitat; it does not involve any mineral or aggregate mining. Therefore, the Estuary Management Project's contribution to these types of impacts would be less than cumulatively considerable. Since this comment does not affect the environmental analysis in the Draft EIR, no changes in the Final EIR are required.

NA\_Burge-10 As noted in Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, page 2-22, certain conditions during the Lagoon Management Period, such as water quality degradation<sup>3</sup> or imminent flooding to properties and structures adjacent to the Estuary, could require a change in management, and may result in the Water Agency breaching the barrier beach during the Lagoon Management Period. Therefore, in the unlikely event that septic or toxic releases by a third party into the Estuary or Russian River result in nuisance conditions, the Water Agency would consult with NMFS and CDFG regarding artificial breaching during the Lagoon Management Period. For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NA\_Burge-11 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. The Estuary Management Project does not propose lower flows, and would not affect river flow conditions, or the potential to use the river channel as a water supply for aerial fire suppression.

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<sup>3</sup> Water Quality parameters are defined in the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Plan and would be further defined in consultation with NMFS and RWQCB.

Comment Letter NA\_Burke

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 13 2011

James T. Burke  
(Name: Please Print)

617-Monterey Boulevard  
(Street Address)

San Francisco, CA., 94127-2346  
(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\_Burke-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 peace of mind!

NA\_Burke-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\_Burke-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.
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NA\_Burke-4

NA\_Burke-5

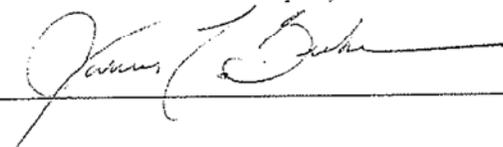
NA\_Burke-6

NA\_Burke-7

NA\_Burke-8

NA\_Burke-9

Sincerely,



(Signature)

01/11/11

(Date)

## James Burke, January 11, 2011

- NA\_Burke-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Burke-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
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February 14, 2011

Grant Davis, General Manager  
Sonoma County Water Agency

COMMENTS - ESTUARY DEIR

Please place these comments in the administrative record for the Sonoma County Water Agency's Draft Environmental Impact Report for the "Russian River Estuary Management Project."

Coho Salmon

The DEIR is required as a result of the Biological Opinion on the Russian River 2008. The B.O. describes the scope of the problems facing the protected species at risk of extinction.

"Coho salmon are at very high risk of extinction." (Biological Opinion page 76). Preliminary data from adult return counts and estimations in 2007/08 indicates a **severe decline** in returning adults across the range of coho salmon on the coast of California and Oregon compared to the same cohort in 2004/05. (Biological Opinion pg 87, emphasis added).

The populations in this ESU suffer from extremely low contemporary abundance compared to historical abundance, widespread local extinctions, clear downward trends in abundance, extensive habitat degradation, and associated decreases in carrying capacity (Good *et al.* 2005). (BO Pg. 87).

The Russian River population alone was once the largest and most dominant source population in the ESU. The fact that it is now on the verge of extirpation suggests not only a high risk of extinction for this population, but for other nearby populations in this ESU. The historical role of the Russian River population highlights the importance of this population to the survival and recovery of the species. (B.O. page 90)

NA\_Burr-1

Scope of DEIR is Improper

The Russian River estuary is inextricably linked to the activities that occur upstream. The scope of the DEIR, therefore necessarily includes legal and illegal diversions, impoundments, and dam operations upstream. The DEIR fails, however, to adequately address the upstream factors. The Biological Opinion itself describes the interconnectedness of the dam operations on the estuary. "Proposed project operations will likely have significant effects on the PCE of estuarine critical habitat for each salmonid species because flow management at WSD [Warm Springs Dam] and CVD [Coyote Valley Dam] will create high inflows to the estuary during the low flow season and the sandbar breaching activities at the mouth will significantly affect water quality in the lowermost segment of the river. (B.O.)

NA\_Burr-2

Listed salmonids are adversely affected by operations for flood control at the two project dams, by project flow releases for water supply, by the management of estuary water levels, by the project related hatchery operations, and by channel maintenance activities in both the mainstem and Russian River tributaries“ (B.O.. page 11)

NA\_Burr-2  
cont.

Proper evaluation of dam operations is necessary in the DEIR on estuary management, yet no meaningful analysis of dam operations is included.

Water Budget

A credible water budget is necessary for proper estuarian management for the benefit of the Chinook, steelhead, and coho fish species. A credible water budget must include estimates of freshwater inputs and outputs, to the River including activities that affect freshwater supply in the tributaries. This variable, though critical to understanding and maintaining freshwater to the lower river, is absent in the DEIR.

One example of where the lead agency improperly left out important stream flow information is the reliance on inferior modeling. “Habitat modeling to address instream flow needs for fishes is often accomplished using the Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) (Bovee 1982). In a letter dated January 2, 2001 to the Corps, NMFS specifically recommended that the IFIM be employed to address habitat flow relations in stream segments affected by project water releases. However, SCWA declined to use this highly quantitative method for addressing this issue. “(B.O. page 184).

NA\_Burr-3

In addition, the DEIR makes no attempt to address the take of freshwater from the system at different river segments in critical tributaries, or major river reaches. This is a fatal flaw. “Water diversions needed for agriculture have altered flow regimes in the Russian River and its tributaries. (B.O. page 158). Although agriculture demands are substantial and coincide with critical times for recovery of the listed salmonids, these demands were not quantified nor evaluated for their timing, location, or volume with respect to increased legal and unauthorized diversions during low flow periods.

In the absence of a credible water budget analysis, the conclusions in the DEIR, are not based upon substantial evidence.

Project Description

The Project Description fails to adequately describe the affects and importance of upstream conditions. Although the Biological Opinion repeatedly links the estuary problems with dam operations, the DEIR fails to describe and address these significant parts of the Estuary Project.

NA\_Burr-4

“The combination of artificially high flows entering the estuary during summer months and the proposed plan for breaching the estuary mouth is likely to result in the loss of productive freshwater rearing habitat at the mouth of the Russian River. (B.O)

As the Biological Opinion states, “[t]he Project includes operation of two dams and appurtenant

# Comment Letter NA\_Burr

facilities in the Russian River watershed.” (B.O.)

↑NA\_Burr-4  
↓cont.

## Conclusion

“[T]he central location of the Russian River in the range of CCC coho and that the watershed represents a third of the ESU by area, the survival and recovery of CCC coho salmon will likely depend on a substantial positive trend in the growth rate and abundance of coho salmon in the Russian River. (B.O. page 16).

The DEIR is inadequate because it fails to properly evaluate the dam releases, fails to properly describe the project, and fails to include a credible estimate of all freshwater inputs and diversions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important project. I reserve the right to add to these comments when data requested from the lead agency in November 2010 is received and reviewed.

NA\_Burr-5

Sincerely,

*Kimberly Burr*

Kimberly Burr  
Post Office Box 1246  
Forestville, CA 95436

## Kimberly Burr, February 14, 2011

- NA\_Burr-1 Comment reiterates the language in the Russian River Biological Opinion emphasizing the importance of coho salmon and the challenges affecting successful fisheries populations in the Russian River. No changes in the Final EIR are required.
- NA\_Burr-2 See **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.** The Estuary Management Project would not affect dam operations or flow conditions in the Russian River; analysis of these conditions are beyond the scope of this EIR.
- NA\_Burr-3 See **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.** The Estuary Management Project would not alter flows or diversions, therefore Instream Flow Incremental Methodology to model streamflow modeling is not relevant to the Estuary Management Project and therefore not included.
- NA\_Burr-4 See **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.** The Estuary Management Project would not affect dam operations or flow conditions in the Russian River; analysis of these conditions are beyond the scope of this EIR.
- NA\_Burr-5 Refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, and 2.7, CEQA Status: Adequacy of EIR Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.** The Estuary Management Project does not affect dam releases. Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, was prepared in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Article 9, Section 15124. The Draft EIR includes information related to historic flow data (“freshwater inputs”) and explains that the Estuary Management Project is intended to function over a range of flows.

Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, includes information on the timing of closures and subsequent natural and artificial breaching events during the Lagoon Management Period. As noted in **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, the Estuary Management Project has been developed to adaptively manage the Estuary under the range of observed flow conditions following barrier beach formation under varying hydrologic year types and conditions. As noted in Draft EIR Chapter 3.0, Project Background and Environmental Setting (page 3-3), River flows typically decline rapidly over the five month lagoon management period. Flows in May averaged 767 cfs for the years 1939 to 2009, and averaged 178 cfs in September for the same time period.

Comment Letter NA\_Campb

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 27 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

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

JAMES CAMPBELL

(Name: Please Print)

10299 SUNSET AVE

(Street Address)

GUERNEVILLE 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\_Campb-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 scientific study.

NA\_Campb-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\_Campb-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\_Campb-4

NA\_Campb-5

NA\_Campb-6

NA\_Campb-7

NA\_Campb-8

NA\_Campb-9

Sincerely,

2011-01-22

(Signature)

(Date)

## James Campbell, January 22, 2011

- NA\_Campb-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Campb-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Campb-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\_Campb-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Campb-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\_Campb-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Campb-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\_Campb-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\_Campb-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\_Charl

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 14 2011

A. R. CHARLTON  
(Name: Please Print)

414 BOND WINE DRIVE  
(Street Address)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94131  
(Town) (Zip Code)

*VACATION HOME - WINE RIVER*

January, 2011

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\_Charl-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\_Charl-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\_Charl-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.
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- 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\_Charl-4  
NA\_Charl-5  
NA\_Charl-6  
NA\_Charl-7  
NA\_Charl-8  
NA\_Charl-9

Sincerely,

Allen R. Charlton  
(Signature)

January 12, 2011  
(Date)

## Allen Charlton, January 19, 2011

- NA\_Charl-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Charl-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Charl-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\_Charl-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Charl-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\_Charl-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Charl-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\_Charl-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\_Charl-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\_Chyle

John J. Chyle  
(Name: Please Print)

10705 Hwy #1  
(Street Address)

Jenner, 95450  
(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\_Chyle-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\_Chyle-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\_Chyle-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.
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- 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\_Chyle-4

NA\_Chyle-5

NA\_Chyle-6

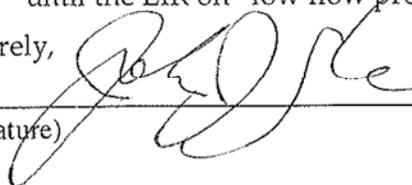
NA\_Chyle-7

NA\_Chyle-8

NA\_Chyle-9

Sincerely,

(Signature)



1-12-2011

(Date)

## John Chyle, January 19, 2011

- NA\_Chyle-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Chyle-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Chyle-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\_Chyle-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
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- NA\_Chyle-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\_Chyle-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\_Coate

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 20 2011

Rick Coates

(Name: Please Print)

P.O. Box 195

(Street Address)

CAZADERO CA 95421

(Town)

(Zip Code)

January, 2011

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\_Coate-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\_Coate-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\_Coate-3

Please address the issues below:

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NA\_Coate-4

NA\_Coate-5

NA\_Coate-6

NA\_Coate-7

NA\_Coate-8

NA\_Coate-9

Sincerely,

Rick Coates

(Signature)

1-19-11

(Date)

## Rick Coates, January 19, 2011

- NA\_Coate-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Coate-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Coate-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\_Coate-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
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- NA\_Coate-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\_Coate-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\_Conle

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

Pamela Conley  
(Name: Please Print)

59 Silvia Dr.  
(Street Address)

Cazadero, CA 95421  
(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\_Conle-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 Bird Watching.

NA\_Conle-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\_Conle-3

Please address the issues below:

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NA\_Conle-4

NA\_Conle-5

NA\_Conle-6

NA\_Conle-7

NA\_Conle-8

NA\_Conle-9

Sincerely,

Pamela Conley  
(Signature)

16 JAN 2011  
(Date)

## Pamela Conley, January 16, 2011

- NA\_Conle-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Conle-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Conle-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\_Conle-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Conle-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\_Conle-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Conle-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\_Conle-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\_Conle-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

FEB - 3 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

Edward + Eileen Copeland  
(Name: Please Print)

14969 Melody 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\_Copel-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\_Copel-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\_Copel-3

Please address the issues below:

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- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
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- 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\_Copel-4

NA\_Copel-5

NA\_Copel-6

NA\_Copel-7

NA\_Copel-8

NA\_Copel-9

Sincerely,

Edward R. Copeland Eileen Copeland Feb 1, 2011  
(Signature) (Date)

## Edward & Eileen Copeland, February 1, 2011

- NA\_Copel-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Copel-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Copel-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\_Copel-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Copel-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\_Copel-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Copel-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\_Copel-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\_Copel-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\_Copes

**From:** Vesta Copestakes [vesta@sonic.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 10:14 PM  
**To:** estuaryproject  
**Cc:** Jessica.Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov; governor@governor.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Russian River Estuary Project

Dear Decision-makers,

The Russian River area has provided home for me for many decades. I've watch the river rise and fall with the seasons and known it's waters to go from so polluted no one could swim in it, to watching fish return with cleaner water. I'm proud of what everyone has done to make the river healthier for every living being that depends upon its life-force.

I'm also impressed that government agencies are paying attention to our river down to the most minute detail and statistic. I believe that's what it will take to keep making the river healthy for people, plants, animals and fish. We still have more to do.

Although I applaud the **Biological Opinion** for its intent, I still have concerns that the aspect of the BO that includes the **Russian River Estuary Project at Jenner**, is too focused on lowering river flow to mimic ancient history, believing that will solve problems for our fish. It is early February and Ludwegia blooms are already crowding the Laguna de Santa Rosa to the extent that a morning kayak trip sponsored by the Laguna Foundation had to be canceled because the waterways are choked with this invasive plant. We were hoping winter cold had killed enough plants to clear our path, but not so. This plant is our Canary in the Coal Mine.

NA\_Copes-1

NA\_Copes-2

If I am correct, there are two reasons to lower the flow of the Russian River:

1 - to allow the mouth of the river at Jenner to close and create an fresh-water condition that provides a nursery for young fish.

2 - to keep the estuary from rising high enough to flood adjacent properties.

NA\_Copes-3

I'm OK with #1 and not OK with #2. If homes and buildings are too close to the water, they can be moved, raised or demolished. We have been doing this for many years along the flood zone of the Russian River. These property owners should not have more privilege than others along the river.

There is no way to return our river to its pre-human influence state. Therefore we must work with what we have - pollution from roads, homes, vineyards, etc. that enter the Russian River all year long. Pollutants need to be diluted with sufficient river flow to keep the water clean for life. At this point, there is no other option. That means monitoring river flow to maintain a level of clean water that sustains life...not just at a few locations, but all along the river from headwaters to sea.

NA\_Copes-4

## Comment Letter NA\_Copes

There is one condition I would like to see returned to its original state, because it can be. The artificial jetty buried in the sand at Jenner needs to be removed so that river/ocean conditions can return to whatever they will create on their own. Once the expense and disturbance of removing the jetty is accomplished, these two water entities will find a natural balance. Once they do, there will be no more need for heavy machinery at the mouth.

NA\_Copes-5

I understand that the river flow is not natural. But I refer, again, to a flow that is sufficient to keep the water clean for life. As far as I'm concerned - that's the top priority - keep this river clean for life, and all else will fall into place.

NA\_Copes-6

It sounds so simple, yet I know it is complicated. But I believe in setting goals, as all these agencies have done. I just want to see the goals include the entire river system - including tributaries, so that this system is taken care of in its entirety, not just pieces and sections.

NA\_Copes-7

Our Russian River Watershed is a whole body - not just parts. It requires the skills of a General Practitioner to oversee the entire system, not just specialists concentrating on sections. We can tell by algae blooms, Ludwegia and other indicators, that the system is suffering. Please pay attention to all these indicators and monitor this water system to maintain its health. It's not just the fish who will benefit.

NA\_Copes-8

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

--

Vesta Copestakes, Publisher, etc.

### **Sonoma County Gazette**

*Written by Readers - Connecting Sonoma County Communities*

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Forestville, CA 95436

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FAX 707-887-0249

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**27,000 copies distributed!** The Sonoma County Gazette is FREE for readers seeking Local Community News, Issues, Opinion & Calendars. MAILED to Forestville, Graton, Sebastopol, Occidental, Guerneville, Monte Rio, Villa Grande and Rio Nido, and distributed to 420 NEWSSTAND LOCATIONS from from Petaluma to Cloverdale and Santa Rosa to Bodega Bay, including Healdsburg, Geyserville, Windsor, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol & Graton - the Russian River towns of Forestville, Rio Nido, Guerneville, Monte Rio, Duncans Mills, Cazadero & Jenner - and to Bodega Bay, Bodega, Freestone & Valley Ford - **most of Sonoma County!** The Gazette is also published on the web at <http://www.sonomacountygazette.com/> with our comprehensive on-line Sonoma County Calendar all-month-long: **CLICK on SCG EXTRA! for new updates** <http://www.sonomacountygazette.com/blog/index.html>

## Vesta Copestakes Publishers, January 18, 2011

- NA\_Copes-1 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.**
- NA\_Copes-2 The Draft EIR considers potential impacts to recreation and water quality in Sections 4.7, Recreation, and 4.3, Water Quality, respectively. Please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses** for discussion regarding *Ludwigia*.
- NA\_Copes-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\_Copes-4 The Draft EIR provides analysis and disclosure of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. The Estuary Management Project would not create or contribute to new or more severe sources of pollution; additionally, the Water Agency does not have the authority to control input from other dischargers. Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA\_Copes-5 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. 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\_Copes-6 For a discussion of Draft EIR analysis of potential water quality impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**
- NA\_Copes-7 No response or revision of text is necessary.

NA\_Copes-8 The Estuary Management Project is proposed to meet the project objectives of enhancing juvenile salmonid habitat within the Russian River Estuary. For a discussion of Draft EIR analysis of potential water quality impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Comment Letter NA\_Cottr

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 20 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

SHARON COTTRELL

(Name: Please Print)

19585 CRESCENT AVE

(Street Address)

MONTE RIO 95462

(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\_Cottr-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\_Cottr-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\_Cottr-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\_Cottr-4

NA\_Cottr-5

NA\_Cottr-6

NA\_Cottr-7

NA\_Cottr-8

NA\_Cottr-9

Sincerely,

Sharon Cottrell  
(Signature)

1/18/11  
(Date)

mailing address is P.O. Box 973  
Sausalito CA 94966

NA\_Cottr-1

Final EIR page 3.3-87

(no mailbox at home)

## Sharon Cottrell, January 18, 2011

- NA\_Cottr-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Cottr-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Cottr-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\_Cottr-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Cottr-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\_Cottr-6 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**, and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA\_Cottr-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\_Cottr-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\_Cottr-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\_Cough

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

BEVERLY COUGHLIN  
(Name: Please Print)

428 G Camino Del Mar  
(Street Address)

San Francisco Ca 94121  
(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\_Cough-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 get-togethers.

NA\_Coug-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\_Coug-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.
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NA\_Coug-4

NA\_Coug-5

NA\_Coug-6

NA\_Coug-7

NA\_Coug-8

NA\_Coug-9

Sincerely,

Beverly C. Coughlin  
(Signature)

1/15/11  
(Date)

Russian River address:

15960 Riverlands Rd  
Guerneville, Ca 95446  
NA\_Cough-1

## Beverly Coughlin, January 15, 2011

- NA\_Cough-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Cough-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Cough-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\_Cough-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
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- NA\_Cough-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\_Cough-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\_Cough-9 For a discussion of potential impacts to water quality, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.



## Curtis Cournale, January 18, 2011

- NA\_Courn-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Courn-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Courn-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\_Courn-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
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- NA\_Courn-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\_Courn-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\_Courn-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\_Culp

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 31 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

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

Thomas F. Culp  
(Name: Please Print)  
15837 Wright Dr.  
(Street Address)  
Guernerille 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\_Culp-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\_Culp-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\_Culp-3

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NA\_Culp-4

NA\_Culp-5

NA\_Culp-6

NA\_Culp-7

NA\_Culp-8

NA\_Culp-9

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Culp  
(Signature)

1/28/2010  
(Date)

## Thomas Culp, January 28, 2011

- NA\_Culp-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA\_Culp-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA\_Culp-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\_Culp-4 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
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- NA\_Culp-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.
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