

Comment Letter NA_Dane

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 14 2011

Dr. Frank Dane (P.H.D)
(Name: Please Print)

To: Jeane. Martini-Lamb

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

8796 Vila Rd.
(Street Address)

Forestville, 95436
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Dane-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 Meditation.

NA_Dane-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_Dane-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_Dane-4

NA_Dane-5

NA_Dane-6

NA_Dane-7

NA_Dane-8

NA_Dane-9

Sincerely,

Dr. Frank Dane
(Signature)

1/13/2011
(Date)

Frank Dane, January 13, 2011

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

COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIR FOR THE RUSSIAN RIVER ESTUARY PROJECT

I have lived in Forestville for 28 years. I am a homeowner and taxpayer. I've been an admirer and supporter of the river for a long time. I go for long swims in the river, mostly between Steelhead Beach and Sunset Beach in Forestville. (Near the Hacienda Bridge) Our family moved here in 1983. My kids have grown up and moved away, but they come back in the summer to go to the river. It has always been a favorite family activity. I have been following River issues since 1986, when hearings were held at the Luther Burbank Center following Santa Rosa's sewage spill into the river. My son was in kindergarten at the time. I went to the hearings in the morning by myself, got my son at school and let him play with toys on the floor of the LBC balcony while I listened to the hearings in the afternoon. My son is 29 years old now, pursuing a PhD in math at Berkeley. I help with river cleanups. Currently I'm volunteering on Wednesdays at the Riverkeeper Demonstration Stewardship Park in Guerneville. I am an artist and have several paintings of the river. I like to invite friends to come to the river to go swimming and picnic. It's one of the advantages of living here.

The item of greatest concern to me is that the Sonoma County Water Agency is proceeding with questionable policies without regard to consequences.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIOLOGICAL OPINION

The Water Agency says it must do what it is doing to comply with the Biological Opinion. The Water Agency has also said that the Biological Opinion is a narrowly focused document which does not take into account the well-being of other creatures besides the three listed salmon species, and does not consider human users of the river. The Biological Opinion completely leaves out any analysis of what would happen to the lower river (for fish or humans,) if the plan to change decision 1610 were carried out. Usually, when big changes are being considered, a comprehensive view of the whole situation is called for. But we have no comprehensive view. Yet we are told that the Water Agency is compelled to completely follow the recommendations of an incomplete non-comprehensive report. This does not make sense.

NA_Delon-1

Has the Biological Opinion been reviewed or certified by any other agencies?

Of particular concern to me is the recommendation that the flow of the entire river be lowered by 44%. In the lower river, in Forestville, where I live, this would be a disaster. I like to go swimming. Because of drought emergencies in 2004, 2007 and 2009, I've seen for myself, what the proposed water flow level is like. It makes the river more like a creek. Many places are too shallow for swimming or rafting. In reading through the DEIR for the estuary project, I don't see the justification for lowering the flow of the entire river. In 2009 when flows were very low, the mouth of the river was open. In 2010, the Water Agency was permitted to cut river flow, but it didn't work out because there was too much water. So, evidently, the estuary project does not and cannot depend on low inflow from the river. Therefore, there is no justification for the damaging effects on recreation and water quality that low flow would bring. Please save everyone's time and energy and drop "low flow" from the equation.

NA_Delon-2

This is from section 3.3 of the Draft EIR on the estuary project:

"During the lagoon management period, the outlet channel would be expected to perform over a range of flow conditions that could be experienced from May to October. As such, the Estuary Management Project is not reliant upon temporary or permanent changes to D1610 for its implementation."

NA_Delon-3

This contradicts the assertion in the Biological Opinion that changes to decision 1610 are needed for the estuary project. While I'm glad that half of the reason for the request to lower river flow has now been removed, the Water Agency is still requesting low flow, so it is still relevant.

THE "REASONABLE AND PRUDENT ALTERNATIVE"

The Biological Opinion calls the idea to lower the flow of the entire river, part of the "Reasonable and Prudent Alternative." Who decided that this was "reasonable?" Who decided that this was "prudent?" Based on what? This idea is presented as part of the Biological Opinion, but it is truly someone's opinion, and is not based on

NA_Delon-4

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science or study of the situation.

NA_Delon-4
cont.

I have lived near the Russian River for 28 years. There was swimming here for at least 70 years before I moved here. I feel that it is reasonable to expect to continue being able to go swimming at the river. It is therefore not “reasonable” to expect that the water necessary for swimming will be cut off by an act of the Water Agency.

NA_Delon-5

Decision 1610 determined what would be the minimum river flow for recreation, allowing that some years may be drought years. After experiencing conditions in the river and checking the Internet for information on river flow, I feel that D1610 is a reasonable and prudent law. 125 cfs at Hacienda Bridge provides a low but adequate amount of water for recreation. The conditions for recreation have not changed. It still requires the same amount of water to go swimming. The radical change proposed by the Biological Opinion is therefore not “reasonable and prudent.”

NA_Delon-6

The people of the lower Russian River depend on the river for recreation, relaxation, family togetherness, and cooling off. The river is already a shallow, gently flowing river. Take away 44% of the flow and you have a pathetic, anemic body of water for thousands of people to swim in. How is this “reasonable” or “prudent?”

NA_Delon-7

Many businesses along the river depend on the river for their success. There are canoe rentals, kayak rentals, sporting goods, vacation cottages, vacation homes, art galleries, craft stores and restaurants that depend on people coming out to the river. Would it be “reasonable” or “prudent” to eliminate the flow that has been determined to be necessary for recreation?

We have seen with the low flow experiments in recent years that low flow causes algae blooms and the growth of plants in the riverbed. Would it be “reasonable” or “prudent” to continue the conditions that cause this?

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Low flow in the lower river makes for increased water temperatures, while salmon prefer cool water. Is it “reasonable” and “prudent” to lower the flow of the river and allow the water temperature to rise?

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Low flow damages water quality. The lower river has had problems with high bacteria counts during low flow. Would it therefore be “reasonable” and “prudent” to continue with low flow permanently?

NA_Delon-10

With low flow, there is less velocity refuge for fish. The way most of the lower river is, there is current on one side and a puddled-out place on the other side. The puddled-out place with no current is bigger when there is more water. Deep cool pools, and all kinds of habitat are more abundant when there is more water. With low flow, the river narrows, and there is less choice about where fish or people can swim.

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From an observer’s point of view, the shallow waters of low flow seem to favor predators of fish. Fish have fewer places to hide. One can see right through the shallow water.

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Given all of these factors, it would seem more “reasonable” and “prudent” to keep flows as they are.

NA_Delon-13

Here is the only place I found in the Biological Opinion that related to the effects that “low flow” would have on recreation: (P.246, 247)

During summer 2007 when stream flows were in the vicinity of 80 to 100 cfs, depths and velocities in shallow riffles were lower than when flows are between 140 and 180 cfs (more typical, recent summer flows in the lower Russian River). Nevertheless, during summer 2007, observations by NMFS staff indicate that recreational canoeing and kayaking was feasible and viable throughout the lower river (W. Hearn, NMFS, personal communication). Effects of the lowered minimum flows in 2007 on recreational boating were negligible in the several miles of river impounded by county summer dams (i.e., Vacation Beach dam, Johnson Beach dam, and the SCWA dam at Mirabel). Therefore, although recreational boating may be affected by reduced summer flows, the effect is likely minor and insufficient to cause SWRCB to reject a change in the minimum flow requirements currently stipulated by D1610.

NA_Delon-14

There are a few things wrong with this analysis:

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1. "Recreational boating" is not the only activity on the river that requires water. In the 367 pages of the Biological Opinion, I couldn't find any mention of people using the river for swimming. NA_Delon-15
2. Because there was still enough water to navigate in areas behind the dams does not mean that there were not problems navigating in many areas that are not behind dams. Most people in canoes and kayaks are going for a trip down the river - which would include all river conditions. When the water is too low, they will scrape bottom or need to carry the canoe. NA_Delon-16
3. Most of the river beaches are not behind dams. NA_Delon-17
4. Some areas that are behind dams are not suitable for swimming. (Like the dam at Mirabel.) NA_Delon-18
5. Just because there is still enough water behind the dams for swimming doesn't mean there is enough room on the beach or in the parking lots at those places. We need all of the areas currently used for recreation - not just some of them. NA_Delon-19
6. *"Therefore, although recreational boating may be affected by reduced summer flows, the effect is likely minor and insufficient to cause SWRCB to reject a change in the minimum flow requirements currently stipulated by D1610."* NA_Delon-20
The statement that "the effect is likely minor" is again, someone's offhand, unsubstantiated opinion, and seems to dismiss our whole recreation scene with a surprising lack of study or input from those affected. (Whose opinion is this?)

OTHER QUESTIONS

DOES THE SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN LOWERING THE FLOW OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER?

Given that the Water Agency has been trying for the last 7 years to lower the flow of the river, I can't help but notice that the Biological Opinion conveniently mandates that the Water Agency do what it wanted to do anyway- lower the flow of the Russian River. The city of Santa Rosa wants more water from the river. There are thousands of acres of new irrigated vineyards that have been planted in recent years. If the Water Agency is concerned about water supply, I can see why. However, I feel that the cultural resource, the recreation, and the chance to do something in nature, provided by the recreation scene at the river are too valuable to be simply dismissed without a thought. To pretend that our communities do not exist, or will not be affected is insulting. The Sonoma County Water Agency petitioned the State to change the law without any regard for the human users, without any regard for the businesses and culture and housing that have grown up around the Russian River. It is not necessary for the estuary project to lower the flow of the entire river. If flows have been determined to be too high for good rearing habitat for salmon in the upper river and Dry Creek, why is the only solution mentioned the idea of lowering the flow of the entire river? Another solution would be to send some water through a pipeline to water users instead of sending all of the irrigation water down the river. Another solution would be to provide less water to vineyards. I recently learned that my grandfather farmed grapes using dry farming in southern California. Most grapes in this area were dry-farmed until the 1960's. Yet, instead of citing all of the possible alternatives, the Biological Opinion chose to isolate this one idea (lower the flow of the whole river,) and promote it, along with the Water Agency. All of the sacrifice is expected to come from the users of the lower Russian River. We are expected to accept lower water levels because the water in the river was lower in the 1800's. Well, a lot of things have changed since the 1800's. And we're not going back to the 1800's for any other factor.

WHY IS GRAVEL MINING BEING PERMITTED IN THE RUSSIAN RIVER?

I was surprised to see that the Board of Supervisors has issued permission for a large-scale gravel-mining project. Given that conditions for salmon are so serious that the SCWA/Board of Supervisors is seeking to lower the flow of the entire river, **damaging recreation for thousands of people**, why has the board approved a project?

that, according to the Riverkeeper, will definitely cause harm to salmon habitat? Is the SCWA really concerned about endangered species, or are the Biological Opinion and Endangered Species Act just being used as an excuse to ask again for "low flow" in the Russian River?

NA_Delon-24
cont.

THE ESTUARY PLAN

As far as the estuary plan itself, I'm not a scientist, but just as an observer, it doesn't seem very well researched. Are the river estuaries the scientists used as a model for this really enough like the Russian River to be meaningful? As someone who has raised animals, I am concerned that the breaching of the sandbar with a bulldozer is too disruptive to the seals and to the fish. It seems like too much of a sudden change of habitat for the fish. The Biological Opinion recommends a closed lagoon, with a freshwater stream running through it, not a lagoon that is breached with a bulldozer.

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Ideally, it seems like the estuary would be designed so that the overflow after a certain level would be conveyed to the ocean, making it mostly a freshwater lagoon with fresh water running through it, but ocean influence would still be allowed at times, allowing the fish to acclimate to salt water.

NA_Delon-29

So far, moving sand at the mouth of the river has not been successful in creating a perched lagoon. Is there any reason to believe that this will be successful in the future? If the outflow channel is made of sand, and water is running over that sand, isn't it inevitable that the channel will erode away?

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What about the other fish and creatures who share this area? Some people have mentioned that the Dungeness crab lives in the estuary and needs salt water. What about the seals? Some say they leave when the river mouth has closed. What about other species of fish? What about sea birds? Will the estuary plan harm the other creatures? What about the effect of backing up water in the river and holding it there for months? Will water quality be affected? So many things and creatures may be affected by closing the river mouth, that I see the possibility of spending a lot of resources studying these effects without helping salmon.

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NA_Delon-32

I am also concerned with river beaches being inundated. If we are wiping out recreation areas, the plan may need some adjustment. How much of these beaches will be covered with water? The section on recreation in the DEIR has so little information; it looks like an outline waiting to be filled in. Is there more information coming? I don't see how decision makers can make a decision with so little information. For example, there is no feedback from local people who own businesses or use the recreation in the area of study. Also, there is the issue that the effects of trying to keep the river mouth closed will go upriver beyond the area being studied.

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NA_Delon-35

There seems to be some consensus on the following issues:

- It would be better to work toward zero bulldozer breaches.
- It would be okay to let the estuary go higher than now, up to 8', without breaching, to allow for a lagoon for fish and no bulldozer action on the beach for seals.
- It would be worth studying removal of the jetty to allow for a more natural interaction between river flow and ocean waves to see if that creates beneficial conditions for fish.

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CONCLUSIONS

It seems that what environmentalists fear is that blocking the river's mouth may create a large stagnant lake, a water quality nightmare that would do more harm than good. I guess no one knows for sure what would happen. It seems highly experimental. I would be more comfortable with resources spent on things that we are more sure will benefit salmon- like restoration of tributaries, removing impediments to fish migration and making sure the tributaries have enough water. A recent article in the Bohemian (newspaper,) highlighted the case of Mark West Creek, which used to be a major spawning and rearing area. Apparently, it's been running dry in recent years in the summertime, probably because of a vineyard. Attention should also be given to the possibility of chemicals from the vineyards harming fish in the creeks. Things like this could turn out to be more important for fish than

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the estuary management. I feel that a comprehensive view of what is causing problems for salmon would be valuable, so that priorities can be set.

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cont.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIR for the Russian River Estuary Project.

Sincerely,

Barbara DeIonno

8175 Park Av

Forestville CA 95436

707-887-9565

Barbara Delonno, February 14, 2011

- NA_DeIon-1 Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, 16 USC Section 1536(a)(2), requires agencies to consult with NMFS regarding impacts to marine and anadromous species¹ under NMFS jurisdiction if they are proposing an "action" that may affect listed species or their designated habitat. The Russian River Biological Opinion is a federal mandate to implement measures to reduce or avoid impacts to listed salmonids. A Biological Opinion is the written opinion of the National Marine Fisheries Service and summarizes the information used and a detailed discussion of the effects of the action on the species or its critical habitat. The Biological Opinion only addresses species within NMFS jurisdiction. It is not intended to serve as a comprehensive environmental review document. California Department of Fish and Game has reviewed issued a Consistency Determination under the California Endangered Species Act, and concurring with the Biological Opinion, as described in Draft EIR Chapter 1.0, Introduction, on page 1-2. The Draft EIR examines impacts related to the Estuary Management Project. It does not analyze the Russian River Biological Opinion. 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_DeIon-2 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.** Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Projects, analyzes potential cumulative impacts associated with implementation of the Estuary Management Plan and other future, reasonably foreseeable and non-Russian River Instream Flows and Restoration Program (RRIFR) Projects, including the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project EIR.
- NA_DeIon-3 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.** The Draft EIR examines impacts related to the Estuary Management Project. It does not analyze the Russian River Biological Opinion.
- NA_DeIon-4 Please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.** The Biological Opinion recommends "reasonable and prudent alternatives" (RPAs) to the artificial breaching activities to avoid jeopardizing or adversely modifying critical habitat of the listed species. These reasonable and prudent alternatives are conditions of permit issuance.

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

- NA_DeIon-5 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**. As part of the Estuary Management Project, an analysis of potential direct impacts and cumulative impacts to recreational resources and opportunities are disclosed in Draft EIR Section 4.7, Recreation.
- NA_DeIon-6 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**. See response to NA_DeIon-5, above. Please also refer to **Master Response 2.6, Recreational Impacts, Socioeconomic Impacts, and Mitigation Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_DeIon-7 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**. See response to comment NA_DeIon-5, above. Please also refer to **Master Response 2.6, Recreational Impacts, Socioeconomic Impacts, and Mitigation Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_DeIon-8 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**. For a discussion regarding the invasive aquatic plant species, *Ludwigia*, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality in Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion of potential secondary biological effects related to water quality impacts.
- NA_DeIon-9 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**. Water quality parameters, including temperature, relative to the Estuary Management Plan are analyzed in Draft EIR Section 4.2, Impact 4.3.2 and project impacts related to temperature are determined to be less than significant. Potential water quality impacts of the Estuary Management Project on fisheries are analyzed in Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, Impact 4.5.2. For additional discussion related to Draft EIR analysis of Estuary Management Project impacts to water quality, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_DeIon-10 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**. Water quality constituents, including bacteria, relative to the Estuary

Management Plan are analyzed in Draft EIR Section 4.3, Water Quality, Impact 4.3.3 and project impacts related are determined to be potentially significant and unavoidable. For additional discussion related to Draft EIR analysis of Estuary Management Project impacts to water quality, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

- NA_DeIon-11 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**. The Estuary Management Project focuses on rearing habitat in the river's Estuary and does not impact availability of pool habitat upstream. Potential water quality impacts of the Estuary Management Project on fisheries habitat are analyzed in Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, Impact 4.5.2.
- NA_DeIon-12 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**. The Estuary Management Project focuses on rearing habitat at the mouth of the river and does not impact availability of refuge habitat upstream. Potential water quality impacts of the Estuary Management Project on fisheries habitat are analyzed in Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, Impact 4.5.2.
- NA_DeIon-13 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_DeIon-14 See response to comment NA_DeIon-5.
- NA_DeIon-15 See response to comment NA_DeIon-5.
- NA_DeIon-16 See response to comment NA_DeIon-5.
- NA_DeIon-17 See response to NA_DeIon-5. As discussed in Draft EIR Section 4.7, Recreation, the extent of river beaches (not restricted to those behind dams) that may be affected by the Estuary Management Project is quantified and determined to be significant and unavoidable.
- NA_DeIon-18 The Draft EIR does not recommend specific areas for swimming.
- NA_DeIon-19 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**. See response to NA_DeIon-5. The Draft EIR does not recommend

specific areas for swimming. Changes in availability and location for swimming opportunities are not anticipated.

- NA_DeIon-20 The comment quotes language from the Biological Opinion. The Draft EIR examines impacts related to the Estuary Management Project. It does not analyze the Russian River Biological Opinion.
- NA_DeIon-21 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**. The Draft EIR examines impacts related to the Estuary Management Project. It does not analyze the Russian River Biological Opinion.
- NA_DeIon-22 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**. The Draft EIR includes environmental analyses for potential effects of the Estuary Management Project to cultural and recreational resources (Draft EIR Sections 4.8 and 4.7, respectively).
- NA_DeIon-23 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**. The Draft EIR examines impacts related to the Estuary Management Project. It does not analyze the Russian River Biological Opinion.
- NA_DeIon-24 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**. The EIR for the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project will need to address the cumulative impact to recreation when considered with effects from gravel mining. This EIR does not analyze the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors' decision to approve gravel mining operations. 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_DeIon-25 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for discussion of adaptive management and project feasibility. The Draft EIR examines impacts related to the Estuary Management Project. It does not analyze the Russian River Biological Opinion.

NA_DeIon-26 Potential short term impacts associated with disturbance to seals and fish from machinery used to manage the barrier beach and create the lagoon outlet channel are disclosed in Impact 4.4.1, in Draft EIR Section 4.4, Biological Resources, and determined to be less than significant due to requirements stipulated in the Marine Mammal Protection Act IHA.

NA_DeIon-27 Sudden water quality changes for fish are considered in the Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, Impact 4.5.2. In some years, with low freshwater inflow, natural lagoons have been documented to remain stratified throughout the summer and fall, with denser saltwater on the bottom forming high temperature, low dissolved oxygen saltwater lenses and reduced invertebrate abundance (Smith, 1990). Similarly, the Navarro River Estuary, which is more similar in size and configuration to the Russian River Estuary did not always fully convert to freshwater after it closed, but remained stratified in some years (NMFS, 2008). Steelhead productivity in the Navarro remained high despite prolonged stratification due to abundant food and a stable surface freshwater layer (NMFS, 2008). Please refer to Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, for further discussion of this topic.

The adaptive management plan developed for the proposed project requires monitoring of biological productivity, water quality, and physical processes in the Estuary in response to changes in water surface elevations in the estuary-lagoon system; and refinement of management actions to achieve desired water levels to support biological productivity. As stated in the Draft EIR, impacts potentially resulting from the proposed management of the Estuary relating to habitat critical water quality conditions becoming stressful for rearing listed juvenile salmonids, special status, and other native fish species inhabiting the Estuary are considered less than significant.

NA_DeIon-28 This comment characterizes target conditions identified in the Biological Opinion related to creation of perched freshwater lagoon conditions. No response or revision of text necessary.

NA_DeIon-29 See Draft EIR Chapter 2, Project Description, beginning on page 2-14, for information regarding the design and function of the outlet channel and transition of the Estuary from tidal and saline to brackish/freshwater.

NA_DeIon-30 For a discussion regarding project feasibility, please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NA_DeIon-31 The focus of the Estuary Management Plan is federally listed salmonid species; however the Draft EIR recognizes a variety of aquatic and terrestrial species rely on estuarine habitat for some or all of their life phases. Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, includes analysis of other non-protected aquatic species, including Dungeness crab.

As described in the analysis discussion in Impact 4.5.2, impacts potentially resulting from the proposed management of the Estuary relating to habitat critical water quality conditions becoming stressful for special status and other native fish species inhabiting the Estuary are considered less than significant.

Draft EIR Section 4.4, Biological Resources, includes analysis of other common and special status amphibian, bird, and wildlife species, including harbor seals.

NA_DeIon-32 Refer to response to comment NA_Burge-4 for a discussion of estimated residence time of water in the Estuary. See Draft EIR Section 4.3, Water Quality, for a discussion of potential water quality impacts. For additional discussion related to Draft EIR analysis of Estuary Management Project impacts to water quality, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

NA_DeIon-33 Draft EIR Section 4.7, Recreation provides existing settings of private and public beach access. Impacts 4.7.1, beginning on page 4.7-8, quantifies and characterizes potential impacts to riverfront beaches associated with the Estuary Management Project.

NA_DeIon-34 Please refer to **Master Response 2.6, Recreational Impacts, Socioeconomic Impacts and Mitigation Feasibility, and Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

NA_DeIon-35 Please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

NA_DeIon-36 Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, Alternatives Analysis includes an alternative addressing the jetty removal study, as well as a Reduced Project Alternative (8-foot maximum). It should be noted that this alternative would still require creation of an outlet channel, and associated machinery on the beach during channel creation, to allow river outflow. The Estuary Management Plan was developed pursuant to the Russian River Biological Opinion, which determined the Water Agency's current management regime jeopardizes listed species. As described in Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, bulldozers are still required for project implementation. Temporary effects of equipment on beaches are disclosed in Draft EIR Chapter 4.0 Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures. Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, Alternative Analysis includes

consideration and evaluation of a Reduced Project Alternative (8-foot maximum) and study of jetty modification. Refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses** for additional information regarding alternative selections and analysis.

NA_DeIon-37 As identified in Draft EIR Chapter 1.0, Introduction, the Estuary Management Project would be implemented in accordance with an adaptive management plan. Please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas and Scope of Analysis, and Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**. Detailed analysis of non-point source pollutants affecting the Russian River and its tributaries are beyond the scope of analysis for this EIR.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB 10 2011

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

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

Russian River
Art Gallery

16200 First Street
on the Plaza
Guerneville, CA 95446

707-869-9099

Open
Winter/Spring:
Thurs-Mon: 11a-5p
Summer/Fall:
Mon-Sat: 10a-5p
Sundays: 11a-5p

www.russianriverartgallery.com

I strongly
oppose the
closed estuary
plan and low flow
on the Russian
River. This will cause
severe pollution
and algae growth
choke the river
it will not be good
for fish or people
Sheila Defoy
89-3552

to SCWA
Jessica
Martini-
Lamb
404 Aviation
Blvd.
Santa Rosa
ca. 95403

NA_Defoy-1

NA_Defoy-2

S. Defoy, February 10, 2011

NA_Defoy-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_Defoy-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**.

JAN 14 2011

DAVID & LISA DENT
(Name: Please Print)

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

21369 Monte Cristo Ave
(Street Address)

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

Monte Rio, CA 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_Dent-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_Dent-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_Dent-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_Dent-4

NA_Dent-5

NA_Dent-6

NA_Dent-7

NA_Dent-8

NA_Dent-9

Sincerely,

(Signature)

1/13/11
(Date)

David & Lisa Dent, January 13, 2011

- NA_Dent-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Dent-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Dent-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_Dent-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_Dent-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_Dent-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_Dent-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_Dent-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_Dent-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_Donat

EUGENE DONATELLI
(Name: Please Print)

10225 1st
(Street Address)

Nella Grande
(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_Donat-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_Donat-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_Donat-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_Donat-4

NA_Donat-5

NA_Donat-6

NA_Donat-7

NA_Donat-8

NA_Donat-9

Sincerely,

Eugene M Donatelli 2-2-11
(Signature) (Date)

Eugene Donatelli, February 2, 2011

- NA_Donat-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Donat-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Donat-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_Donat-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_Donat-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_Donat-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_Donat-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_Donat-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_Donat-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_Douga

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 24 2011

GARY L. DOUGAN
(Name: Please Print)

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

5278 MANILA AVE
(Street Address)

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

OAKLAND, CA 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_Douga-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, hiking.

NA_Douga-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_Douga-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.
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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_Douga-4

NA_Douga-5

NA_Douga-6

NA_Douga-7

NA_Douga-8

NA_Douga-9

Sincerely,

Gary L. Dougan
(Signature)

1/18/11
(Date)

Gary Dougan, January 18, 2011

- NA_Douga-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Douga-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Douga-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_Douga-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_Douga-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_Douga-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_Douga-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_Douga-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_Douga-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_Ege

Gilbert Ege
(Name: Please Print)

20196 River Blvd
(Street Address)

Manteo 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_Ege-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_Ege-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_Ege-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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- 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_Ege-4
NA_Ege-5
NA_Ege-6
NA_Ege-7
NA_Ege-8
NA_Ege-9

Sincerely, Gilbert Ege 1-12-11
(Signature) (Date)

Gilbert Ege, January 12, 2011

- NA_Ege-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Ege-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Ege-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_Ege-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_Ege-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_Ege-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_Ege-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_Ege-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_Ege-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_Ehrha

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

ANN EHRHARDT
(Name: Please Print)

14230 LAUREL
(Street Address)

GUERNEVILLE, 95546
(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_Ehrha-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 Weekend retreat.

NA_Ehrha-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_Ehrha-3

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NA_Ehrha-4

NA_Ehrha-5

NA_Ehrha-6

NA_Ehrha-7

NA_Ehrha-8

NA_Ehrha-9

Sincerely,

Ann Ehrhardt 1-12-11
(Signature) (Date)

Ann Ehrhardt, January 12, 2011

- NA_Ehrha-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Ehrha-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Ehrha-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_Ehrha-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_Ehrha-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_Ehrha-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_Ehrha-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_Ehrha-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_Ehrha-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_Elbe

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 26 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

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

Kathleen Elbe
(Name: Please Print)

016367 NO Point Way
(Street Address) 29536 Goat Hill Rd

① Sacramento 95831
(Town) (Zip Code)

② Jenner

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_Elbe-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_Elbe-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_Elbe-3

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NA_Elbe-4

NA_Elbe-5

NA_Elbe-6

NA_Elbe-7

NA_Elbe-8

NA_Elbe-9

Sincerely,
Kathleen Elbe
(Signature)

January 21, 2011
(Date)

Kathleen Elbe, January 21, 2011

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

COPY

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 25 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

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

Richard Eliason
(Name: Please Print)

20395 Railroad Ave.
(Street Address)

Monte Rio, CA 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_Elias-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_Elias-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_Elias-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_Elias-4.

NA_Elias-5

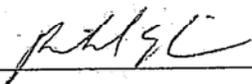
NA_Elias-6

NA_Elias-7

NA_Elias-8

NA_Elias-9

Sincerely,


(Signature)

24 Jan 2011
(Date)

Richard Eliason, January 24, 2011

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

Margaret Elizabeths
(Name: Please Print)

14181 Woodland Dr.
(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_Eliza-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_Eliza-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_Eliza-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_Eliza-4

NA_Eliza-5

NA_Eliza-6

NA_Eliza-7

NA_Eliza-8

NA_Eliza-9

Sincerely,

Margaret Elizabeths
(Signature)

1/14/11
(Date)

Margaret Elizares, January 14, 2011

- NA_Eliza-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Eliza-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Eliza-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_Eliza-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**.
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- NA_Eliza-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_Eliza-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_Eliza-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_Enoch

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

MIKE ENOCHS
(Name: Please Print)

21541 STARRETT HILL DR (P.O. Box 102)
(Street Address)

Monte Rio, CA 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_Enoch-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 CRUISING.

NA_Enoch-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_Enoch-3

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NA_Enoch-4

NA_Enoch-5

NA_Enoch-6

NA_Enoch-7

NA_Enoch-8

NA_Enoch-9

Sincerely,

Mike Enoch
(Signature)

JAN 13, 2011
(Date)

Mike Enochs, January 13, 2011

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

NOELLE FAHLEN
(Name: Please Print)

15450 DRAKE RD.
(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_Fahle-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_Fahle-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_Fahle-3

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NA_Fahle-4

NA_Fahle-5

NA_Fahle-6

NA_Fahle-7

NA_Fahle-8

NA_Fahle-9

Sincerely,

Noelle Fahle
(Signature)

1/12/11
(Date)

Noelle Fahlen, January 12, 2011

- NA_Fahle-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Fahle-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Fahle-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_Fahle-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_Fahle-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_Faulk

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 26 2011

(Name: Please Print)

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

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

(Str  ELEANOR M. FAULKNER
281 Gerry Ct.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5824

(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_Faulk-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_Faulk-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_Faulk-3

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NA_Faulk-4

NA_Faulk-5

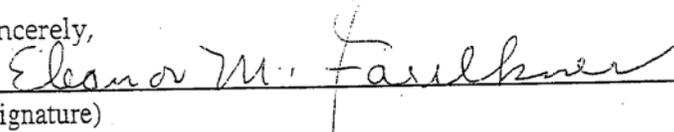
NA_Faulk-6

NA_Faulk-7

NA_Faulk-8

NA_Faulk-9

Sincerely,


(Signature)

1-21-2011
(Date)

Eleanor Faulkner, January 21, 2011

- NA_Faulk-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Faulk-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Faulk-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_Faulk-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**.
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- NA_Faulk-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_Faulk-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_Faulk-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_Felci

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 19 2011

Celeste Felciano
(Name: Please Print)

P.O. box 863 / 2001 Adobe Canyon Rd.
(Street Address)

Menlo Park Ca. 95442
(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_Felci-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_Felci-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_Felci-3

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NA_Felci-4

NA_Felci-5

NA_Felci-6

NA_Felci-7

NA_Felci-8

NA_Felci-9

Sincerely,

C. Felciano
(Signature)

1-15-11
(Date)

Celeste Felciano, January 15, 2011

- NA_Felici-1 The comment is consistent with other form letter comments, but strikes the request to include contact information in the project distribution list. Pursuant to CEQA procedures, as a commenter to the Draft EIR, participant will receive a copy of the Final EIR and Responses to Comments document.
- NA_Felici-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Felici-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_Felici-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_Fento1

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

Kate Fenton
(Name: Please Print)

29001 Willow Creek Rd.
(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_Fento1-1

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_Fento1-2

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_Fento1-3

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NA_Fento1-4
NA_Fento1-5
NA_Fento1-6
NA_Fento1-7
NA_Fento1-8
NA_Fento1-9

Sincerely,

Kate Fenton
(Signature)

1/7/11
(Date)

Kate Fenton, January 7, 2011

- NA_Fento1-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Fento1-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Fento1-3 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_Fento1-5 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_Fento1-6 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_Fento1-7 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_Fento1-8 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_Fento1-9 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_Fento2



Kate Fenton
P.O. Box 86
Jenner, CA 95450
kafenton@sonic.net

Lenny Weinstein
P.O. Box 526
Monte Rio, CA 95462
lweinsign@yahoo.com

February 8, 2011

Jessica Martini Lamb
Sonoma Count Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Estuary Project DEIR

Dear Ms Lamb:

Enclosed are our comments for the Board.

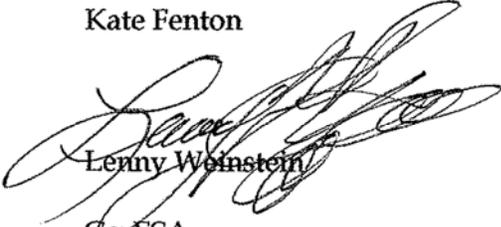
1. Have you considered and thoroughly examined the possibility of taking out the jetty at the River mouth now, rather than in the future, including the fact that it would be more cost-effective? Don Martin, who has surfed the River mouth for 30 years, has submitted his ideas with drawings. NA_Fento2-1
2. Why are Low Flow and the Estuary not being studied together? Is this not illegal piecemealing according to CEQA? NA_Fento2-2
3. If the quantity of water in the River is reduced, will it be enough to dilute the toxins that would kill migrating salmonids? NA_Fento2-3
4. When will the results of water quality studies be available to the public? NA_Fento2-4
5. Why is water quality only being studied as far upstream as Duncans Mills? NA_Fento2-5
6. Where can one view a graphic image of the planned outlet channel? NA_Fento2-6
7. Since the project is likely not to work for many reasons (difficulty of manipulating the River mouth, predation and the rest of the hazards that await the salmonids – toxics including sewage, algae, pesticides, herbicides, and pharmaceuticals, siltation in the pools, temperature that is too warm because of reduced flows), why destroy the lower River's economy by making fishing, boating and surfing all but impossible? NA_Fento2-7

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Kate Fenton



Lenny Weinstein

Cc: ESA

Kate Fenton & Lenny Weinstein, February 8, 2011

NA_Fento2-1 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 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_Fento2-2 For a detailed discussion on the relationship between the Estuary Management Project and 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_Fento2-3 For a discussion on the relationship between the Estuary Management Project and 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.** Potential water quality impacts of the Estuary Management Project on fisheries are analyzed in Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, Impact 4.5.2.

NA_Fento2-4 Please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses** for discussion of availability of water quality data.

NA_Fento2-5 For a discussion regarding geographic extent of the project area analyzed under the Estuary Management Plan, please refer to **Master Response 2.2, Project Description, Impact Areas, and Scope of Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

The Water Agency will continue its current Estuary water quality monitoring program, and will modify that program to gather appropriate water quality information required under the Russian River Biological Opinion, in consultation with regulatory agencies, as appropriate. 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_Fento2-6 Photographs of the lagoon outlet channel, as implemented in July 2010, are included in the Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, page 2-20.

NA_Fento2-7 For a discussion regarding project feasibility, please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. For a discussion regarding CEQA requirements related to socioeconomic impacts, refer to **Master Response 2.6, Recreational Impacts, Socioeconomic Impacts, and Mitigation Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

Megan Steer

From: Deborah Filipelli [dfilipelli@mcn.org]
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2011 10:57 AM
To: estuaryproject
Subject: Russian River Estuary Management Project DEIR

To: Jessica Martini-Lamb

Re: Russian River Estuary Management Project DEIR

The health of the Russian River Estuary is important to me as it enhances the quality of my life.

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_Filip-1

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_Filip-2

NA_Filip-3

NA_Filip-4

NA_Filip-5

NA_Filip-6

NA_Filip-7

Sincerely,

Deborah Filipelli, Ph.D.

P.O. Box 341, The Sea Ranch, CA 95497

Deborah Filipelli, February 12, 2011

- NA_Filip-1 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_Filip-2 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Filip-3 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_Filip-4 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_Filip-5 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_Filip-6 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_Filip-7 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_Fiore

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

Richard A Fiore
(Name: Please Print)

510 Mission St.
(Street Address)

SF, CA 94105
(Town) (Zip Code)

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

OWN 2022 c Breen January, 2011
Monte Rio, CA

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_Fiore-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_Fiore-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_Fiore-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_Fiore-4

NA_Fiore-5

NA_Fiore-6

NA_Fiore-7

NA_Fiore-8

NA_Fiore-9

Sincerely,

Richard A. Fiore
(Signature)

1/11/11
(Date)

Richard Fiore, January 11, 2011

- NA_Fiore-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Fiore-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Fiore-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_Fiore-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**.
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- NA_Fiore-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_Fiore-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_Fiore-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 19 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

Barbara Ann Flynn
(Name: Please Print)

8290 Appian Way
(Street Address)

Sebastopol 95472
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Flynn-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_Flynn-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_Flynn-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_Flynn-4

NA_Flynn-5

NA_Flynn-6

NA_Flynn-7

NA_Flynn-8

NA_Flynn-9

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Flynn
(Signature)

1-10-2011
(Date)

Having been part of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica in Orange County, which has successfully restored fish + wildlife habitat in the estuary here, I was appalled to learn, when I moved here, that this area mistreats the Russian River so badly.

NA_Flynn-10

Barbara Flynn, January 10, 2011

- NA_Flynn-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Flynn-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Flynn-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_Flynn-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_Flynn-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_Flynn-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_Flynn-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_Flynn-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_Flynn-10 Refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion on other river and lagoon systems in California and the relationship to the Russian River.

Comment Letter NA_Fox

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 24 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

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

Mary W Fox
(Name: Please Print)

1253 Glenn St.
(Street Address)

Santa Rosa CA 95401
(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_Fox-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 concerned county citizen.

NA_Fox-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_Fox-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_Fox-4

NA_Fox-5

NA_Fox-6

NA_Fox-7

NA_Fox-8

NA_Fox-9

Sincerely,

Mary W Fox
(Signature)

1/21/11
(Date)

Mary Fox, January 21, 2011

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

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB - 4 2011

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

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

CAREN FRANCIS
(Name: Please Print)
6026 FREDRICKS Rd
(Street Address)
Sebastopol, Ca
(Town) (Zip Code)
95472

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_Franc-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_Franc-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_Franc-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_Franc-4
NA_Franc-5
NA_Franc-6
NA_Franc-7
NA_Franc-8
NA_Franc-9

Sincerely,

Caren Francis
(Signature)

2-2-2011
(Date)

Caren Franci, February 2, 2011

- NA_Franci-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Franci-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Franci-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_Franci-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**.
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- NA_Franci-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_Franci-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_Franci-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_Franci-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_Gallo

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 13 2011

GARY W. GALLOWAY
(Name: Please Print)

38 LULUY DR
(Street Address)

GREENBAYE, CA. 94904
(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

*R/R ADDRESS
19467 REDWOOD DR
MOLITE RIV. CA*

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_Gallo-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 TUBING.

NA_Gallo-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_Gallo-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_Gallo-4

NA_Gallo-5

NA_Gallo-6

NA_Gallo-7

NA_Gallo-8

NA_Gallo-9

Sincerely
(Signature)

Gary W. Galloway

1-11-11

(Date)

Gary Galloway, January 11, 2011

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

Y903

Comment Letter NA_Getch

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

Gary Getchell

(Name: Please Print)

21301 Monte Cristo Ave

(Street Address)

PO Box 159

Monte Rio

(Town)

95462

(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_Getch-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 domestic water supply.

NA_Getch-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_Getch-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_Getch-4

NA_Getch-5

NA_Getch-6

NA_Getch-7

NA_Getch-8

NA_Getch-9

Sincerely

Gary Getchell

(Signature)

2-1-11

(Date)

Gary Getchell, February 1, 2011

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

CARLA D. GRADY
(Name: Please Print)

8166 Park Ave.
(Street Address)

Forestville, CA 95436
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Grady-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_Grady-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_Grady-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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NA_Grady-4

NA_Grady-5

NA_Grady-6

NA_Grady-7

NA_Grady-8

NA_Grady-9

Sincerely,

Carla D. Grady
(Signature)

1/13/2011
(Date)

Carla Grady, January 13, 2011

- NA_Grady-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Grady-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Grady-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_Grady-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_Grady-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_Grady-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_Grady-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 Letters NA_Grady

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

CARLA D. GRADY

(Name: Please Print)

8166 Park Ave.

(Street Address)

Forestville, CA 95436

(Town)

(Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Grady-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_Grady-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_Grady-3

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NA_Grady-4

NA_Grady-5

NA_Grady-6

NA_Grady-7

NA_Grady-8

NA_Grady-9

Sincerely,

Carla D. Grady

(Signature)

1/13/2011

(Date)

Barbara Greco Stephens, January 15, 2011

- NA_Greco-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Greco-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Greco-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_Greco-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_Greco-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_Greco-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_Greco-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_Greco-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_Greco-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_Greig

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

Eleanor Greig
(Name: Please Print)

2441 Carriage Place
(Street Address)

Napa, CA 94558
(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_Greig-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 grandchildren recreation

NA_Greig-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_Greig-3

Please address the issues below:

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NA_Greig-4

NA_Greig-5

NA_Greig-6

NA_Greig-7

NA_Greig-8

NA_Greig-9

Sincerely,

Eleanor Greig 1/12/11
(Signature) (Date)

Eleanor Greig, January 12, 2011

- NA_Greig-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Greig-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Greig-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_Greig-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_Greig-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_Guast

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

Robert C. Guastucci
(Name: Please Print)

14837 Cayon 7 Rd
(Street Address)

Rio Nido 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_Guast-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_Guast-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_Guast-3

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NA_Guast-4

NA_Guast-5

NA_Guast-6

NA_Guast-7

NA_Guast-8

NA_Guast-9

Sincerely,

Robert Camille Guastucci (Signature) 1-11-11 (Date)

Robert Guastucci, January 11, 2011

- NA_Guast-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Guast-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Guast-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_Guast-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_Guast-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_Guido

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

TELEPHONE 869-2770

PHILIP E. GUIDOTTI

(Name: Please Print)

P.O. Box 256

(Street Address)

GUERNEVILLE, CA 95446-0256

(Town)

(Zip Code)

13. 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_Guido-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 RETIRED WATER UTILITY OWNER

NA_Guido-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_Guido-3

Please address the issues below:

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NA_Guido-4

NA_Guido-5

NA_Guido-6

NA_Enoch-7

NA_Guido-8

NA_Guido-9

Sincerely,

Philip E. Guidotti

(Signature)

1/13/11

(Date)

27 YRS. FORMER CHAIRMAN OF RUSSIAN RIVER REC. DISTRICT
5 YRS FORMER MEMBER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DIST.

Phillip Guidotti, January 13, 2011

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