

Comment Letter NA_Randa

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

Mark Randall
(Name: Please Print)

172 Museum Way
(Street Address)

San Francisco, CA 94114
(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_Randa-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 and Kayaking.

NA_Randa-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_Randa-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.
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NA_Randa-4

NA_Randa-5

NA_Randa-6

NA_Randa-7

NA_Randa-8

NA_Randa-9

Sincerely,
[Signature]
(Signature)

1-12-11
(Date)

Mark Randall, January 12, 2011

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

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 20 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

Elizabeth Reyna
(Name: Please Print)

7572 Blair Ave.
(Street Address)

Robnert Park 94928
(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_Reyna-1

I utilize the Russian River in the following way(s): ^{Cabin} property owner, business owner, recreationist and/or tourist, for artistic expression, for spiritual well being, for exercise and personal health, fishing, swimming, and Connection to my "roots"

NA_Reyna-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_Reyna-3

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NA_Reyna-4

NA_Reyna-5

NA_Reyna-6

NA_Reyna-7

NA_Reyna-8

NA_Reyna-9

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Reyna
(Signature)

1-19-11
(Date)

Elizabeth Reyna, January 19, 2011

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

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB 14 2011

Dr. Peter RIABOFF

(Name: Please Print)

99 Keats Dr.

(Street Address)

Mill Valley CA 94941

(Town)

(Zip Code)

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Riabo-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_Riabo-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_Riabo-3

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NA_Riabo-4

NA_Riabo-5

NA_Riabo-6

NA_Riabo-7

NA_Riabo-8

NA_Riabo-9

Sincerely,

Peter Riaboff

2/3/11

(Signature)

(Date)

Peter Riaboff, February 3, 2011

- NA_Riabo-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
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- NA_Riabo-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_Rose

SHARLENE ROSE

(Name: Please Print)

20196 ALDER RD

(Street Address)

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_Rose-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_Rose-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_Rose-3

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NA_Rose-4

NA_Rose-5

NA_Rose-6

NA_Rose-7

NA_Rose-8

NA_Rose-9

Sincerely,

(Signature)

(Date)

Sharlene Rose, January 16, 2011

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

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

BEV ROWE
(Name: Please Print)

19104 CHURCH ST
(Street Address)

MONTE RIO 95402
(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_Rowe-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_Rowe-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_Rowe-3

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NA_Rowe-4

NA_Rowe-5

NA_Rowe-6

NA_Rowe-7

NA_Rowe-8

NA_Rowe-9

Sincerely,

Bev Rowe
(Signature)

1/14/11
(Date)

Bev Rowe, January 14, 2011

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

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 19 2011

DOROTHY RUPPERT
WILLIAM RUPPERT
(Name: Please Print)

16024 FIFE CT
(Street Address)

GUERNEVILLE, CA 95446
(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_Ruppe-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_Ruppe-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_Ruppe-3

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NA_Ruppe-4

NA_Ruppe-5

NA_Ruppe-6

NA_Ruppe-7

NA_Ruppe-8

NA_Ruppe-9

Sincerely,

Dorothy A. Ruppert 01-17-11
(Signature) (Date)

William Ruppert 01-17-2011
(Signature) (Date)

Dorothy & William Ruppert, January 17, 2011

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

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

George Rush
(Name: Please Print)
16046 RIVERLANDS RD.
(Street Address)
GUNNVILLE, CA.
(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_Rush-1

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

NA_Rush-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_Rush-3

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NA_Rush-4

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NA_Rush-6

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Sincerely,

George Rush
(Signature) 1-12-11
(Date)

George Rush, January 12, 2011

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COPY

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB - 1 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

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

(N

Luann Schend
10507 Chalk Hill Rd
Healdsburg, CA 95448-9501



(St

(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_Schen-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_Schen-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_Schen-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_Schen-4

NA_Schen-5

NA_Schen-6

NA_Schen-7

NA_Schen-8

NA_Schen-9

Sincerely,

1/30/11

(Signature)

(Date)

Luann Schend, January 30, 2011

- NA_Schen-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Schen-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Schen-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_Schen-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_Schen-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_Schen-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_Schen-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_Schen-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_Schen-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 14 2011

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

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

Linda Schmidt
(Name: Please Print)

P.O. Box 384
22936 Conifer
(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_Schmi-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_Schmi-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_Schmi-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
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- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
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NA_Schmi-4

NA_Schmi-5

NA_Schmi-6

NA_Schmi-7

NA_Schmi-8

NA_Schmi-9

Sincerely,



(Signature)

1/12/11

(Date)

Linda Schmidt, January 12, 2011

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

Y900

Comment Letter NA_Schub

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 27 2011

To: Jeane: Martini-Lamb

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

JOHN C. SCHUBERT
(Name: Please Print)

P.O. Box 2037
(Street Address)

GUERNEVILLE CA 95446
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Schub-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 HISTORICAL RESOURCE.

NA_Schub-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_Schub-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_Schub-4

NA_Schub-5

NA_Schub-6

NA_Schub-7

NA_Schub-8

NA_Schub-9

Sincerely,

John C Schubert 25 Jan 2011
(Signature) (Date)

John Schubert, January 25, 2011

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

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB 10 2011

E. Shen

(Name: Please Print)

21854 Russian River Ave

(Street Address)

Villa Grande

(Town)

(Zip Code)

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

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

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Shen-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_Shen-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_Shen-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_Shen-4

NA_Shen-5

NA_Shen-6

NA_Shen-7

NA_Shen-8

NA_Shen-9

Sincerely,

E. Shen

2/5/2011

(Signature)

(Date)

E. Shen, February 5, 2011

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

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

Charles & Lindsey Shere
(Name: Please Print)

7500 Eastside Rd.
(Street Address)

Healdsburg 95448
(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_Shere-1

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

NA_Shere-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_Shere-3

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- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
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NA_Shere-4

NA_Shere-5

NA_Shere-6

NA_Shere-7

NA_Shere-8

NA_Shere-9

Sincerely, Lindsey & Charles Shere
(Signature)

1/12/11
(Date)

Charles & Lindsey Shere, January 12, 2011

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

MERCY SIDBURY

(Name: Please Print)

4998 Vine Hill Rd

(Street Address)

Sebastopol CA 95472

(Town)

(Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Sidbu-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_Sidbu-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_Sidbu-3

Please address the issues below:

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• When flows are lowered in dry years, the river mouth usually stays open anyway as evidenced in August, 2009 when flows averaged 63 cfs all month.
• The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
• I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Sidbu-4

NA_Sidbu-5

NA_Sidbu-6

NA_Sidbu-7

NA_Sidbu-8

NA_Sidbu-9

Sincerely,

Mercy Sidbury

(Signature)

1/13/11

(Date)

Mercy Sidbury, January 13, 2011

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

Megan Steer

From: Carol Sklenicka [sklenicka.carol@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 4:31 PM
To: estuaryproject
Cc: Jessica
Subject: Comment on Estuary Project DEIR
Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green
Attachments: Comment on Estuary Project DEIR; ATT1570522.htm

Subject: Comment on Estuary Project addressed to:

To: estuaryproject@esassoc.com

Jessica.Martini.Lamb@scwa.ca.gov

From: Carol Sklenicka, PO Box 21, Duncans Mills, CA 95430

Sklenicka.carol@gmail.com

Please let me know you have received this comment.

Date: February 11, 2011

I am writing to comment on the Draft EIR recently issued by the Sonoma County Water Agency. As a resident of the lower river, I have watched with great curiosity as SCWA has attempted to manage the river mouth and estuary for the past several summers. What I have seen so far has every appearance of being nothing more than a trial-and-error experiment, with emphasis on the error. I believe the goal of creating a semi-fresh water estuary for the rearing of salmonids is and will be severely compromised by the failure of SCWA and other agencies and the general population to deal with the myriad other factors that have already harmed the health of the Russian River watershed.

NA_Sklen-1

I am particularly concerned that the DEIR for the Estuary Project does not consider the impact of temporarily or permanently lowering river flows (D1610). There are several problems here. The need for low-flow to protect buildings in Jenner is not proven: the Estuary EIR states that water will not rise above 8 feet, which is not high enough to affect the lowest building in Jenner. (It is in fact absolutely absurd to think that the entire flow of a river might be adjusted to protect a handful of buildings in Jenner, but that is a side issue). The separation of the Estuary modification EIR from the low-flow EIR ignores abundant evidence that lowered river flow is destructive to the river's habitat for fish and other species as well as for recreation. The Regional Water Board has recently noted that there is inadequate data about water quality in the lower river; the EPA has also recently commented on the need for more

NA_Sklen-2
NA_Sklen-3
NA_Sklen-4
NA_Sklen-5

specific water-quality data regarding the impact of urban run-off on California rivers in the delta watershed.

↑NA_Sklen-5
↓ cont.

To draft an EIR for modifications of the mouth of the river without considering the overall impact of raising the estuary level and of lowering flows in the middle river above Vacation Beach is a completely futile effort, potentially a harmful one. I urge you to start over from scratch with a full evaluation of all factors in the Russian River Watershed – including urban pollution, agriculture runoff and water use, silt, sediment, and stream alterations – that may have led to the demise of the salmon population. This expensive piecemeal effort -- could be far worse than doing nothing. It's unlikely to save salmon and it will have a negative impact on many other species as well as human enjoyment of the river above the estuary.

↑NA_Sklen-6
↓NA_Sklen-7

Sincerely,

Carol Sklenicka

Carol Sklenicka, February 11, 2011

- NA_Sklen-1 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses** for a discussion regarding the adaptive management process.
- NA_Sklen-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**.
- NA_Sklen-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, and a discussion relevant to the comment's assertion that the change in minimum flows is intended to prevent flooding, refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_Sklen-4 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**. Potential water quality impacts of the Estuary Management Project on fisheries are analyzed in Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, Impact 4.5.2. (beginning on page 4.5-22).
- NA_Sklen-5 The comment states that the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Environmental Protection Agency have commented on the need for more water quality data for the lower Russian River and the impact of urban run-off on California rivers in the delta watershed, respectively. These comments are not directed to the Draft EIR for the Estuary Management Project. The letter from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, dated November 15, 2011, as letter referenced in the comment is directed toward the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, not the Draft EIR for the Estuary Management Project. The Draft EIR does not include an analysis of potential violation of water quality objectives associated with the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project because it is a separate project. For additional discussion, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. As noted in Draft EIR Chapter 3.0, Project Background and Environmental Setting, the Water Agency implements biological and water quality monitoring as required by the Biological Opinion, and will continue to make this information available.
- NA_Sklen-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**.

NA_Sklen-7 The Draft EIR analyzes the effects of the proposed Estuary Management Project as required by CEQA. Analysis of all factors affecting fisheries within the watershed is beyond the scope of analysis for this EIR. The Water Agency does not have decision-making authority over logging, gravel mining, vineyard conversion, or chemical pollutant discharge.

Comment Letter NA_Sobie1

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

MaryAnne Sobieraj
(Name: Please Print)
90 Sequoia Ridge
(Street Address)
Cazadero 95421
(Town) (Zip Code)

// January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Sobie1-1

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_Sobie1-2

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_Sobie1-3

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_Sobie1-4

NA_Sobie1-5

NA_Sobie1-6

NA_Sobie1-7

NA_Sobie1-8

NA_Sobie1-9

Sincerely,
MaryAnne Sobieraj
(Signature)
Austin Creek Alliance
Jan 11, 2011
(Date)

Mary Anne Sobieraj, January 11, 2011

- NA_Sobie1-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Sobie1-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Sobie1-3 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_Sobie1-4 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_Sobie1-5 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_Sobie1-6 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_Sobie1-7 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_Sobie1-8 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_Sobie1-9 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_Sobie2

Mary Anne Sobieraj
90 Sequoia Ridge
Cazadero, CA 95421
February 5, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb,

This is regarding the Russian River Estuary Management Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report released on December 15, 2010.

The National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Russian River Biological Opinion (BO) mandated that the Water Agency should change its management of the estuary. Underlying, the BO are assumptions based on studies that indicate that coastal freshwater lagoons are optimal habitat for juvenile salmonids. "According to NMFS, fresh or brackish water lagoons at the mouths of many streams in central and southern California often provide depths and water quality that are highly favorable to the survival of rearing salmon and steelhead." The DEIR specifically cites studies by J. J. Smith on lagoons in Soquel, Pescadero, Pomponio, and Wadell Creeks. All of these have watersheds very unlike that of the Russian: They are much shorter and do not have the extensive agricultural and urban influence characteristic of the Russian. The DEIR then cites a NMFS study done on the Navarro River in 1998 that showed favorable estuary conditions for juvenile salmonids and mentions that both the Russian and Navarro estuaries are similar in size. Nowhere does it mention that the Navarro River has a very different watershed than that of the Russian: It is one fourth the length of the Russian; it does not have the urban influence nor the extensive agricultural influence and it does not have the influence of artificial management that is characteristic of the Russian.

NA_Sobie2-1

Please answer the following questions:

- How can the SCWA justify a DEIR that is based on a faulty premise, i.e., that the SCWA can create a freshwater lagoon at the mouth of the Russian similar to that of other freshwater lagoons on the California coast?
- What metrics will the SCWA use to determine the success or failure of this proposed management system? Or will this system be continued in perpetuity?
- The DEIR indicates an expected increase of bacteria and pathogen levels. Beach closures on the lower Russian during the low flows in 2009 indicate a positive correlation between elevated levels of *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* and low flows. Shouldn't the SCWA determine what the effect of expected high levels of bacteria and pathogens will be on the juvenile salmonids that are expected to thrive in the proposed lagoon before they attempt this extensive project?
- The DEIR states that surface temperatures above 20°C were measured in the lagoon in 2009 during the 29 day closure. Barnhart, in his article referenced in the DEIR (Barnhart, R.A., Species profiles: life histories and environmental requirements of coastal fishes and invertebrates (Pacific Southwest) - steelhead., U.S. Fish Wildl. Serv., Biol. Rep.82(11.60)), cites a study that indicates "a productive steelhead stream should have summer temperatures in the range of 10 to 15°C and an upper limit of 20°C." Another of his citations indicates an "upper lethal limit of 23.9°C." In light of these studies, how can the SCWA justify listing an expected increased temperature in the proposed lagoon as a "less than Significant" impact?

NA_Sobie2-2

NA_Sobie2-3

NA_Sobie2-4

NA_Sobie2-5

- In the DEIR, page. 5-39: “Long-term implementation and increased duration of the freshwater lagoon may have significant adverse effects that, considered concurrently with other projects in the Russian River Watershed, may be cumulatively considerable.” What are the possible cumulative effects referred to in the DEIR? Why aren’t these cumulative effects discussed and evaluated? Why is this estuary management project being studied separately from other proposed projects upstream? | NA_Sobie2-6
| NA_Sobie2-7

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Sobieraj
Austin Creek Alliance

Mary Anne Sobieraj, February 5, 2011

- NA_Sobie2-1 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses** for a discussion on management of other river and lagoon systems in California. The Draft EIR includes the Russian River Biological Opinion by reference; other estuary studies and examples are presented in research as part of the Biological Opinion.
- NA_Sobie2-2 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**, for a discussion on management of other river and lagoon systems in California. The Draft EIR includes the Russian River Biological Opinion by reference; other estuary studies and examples are presented in research as part of the Biological Opinion.
- NA_Sobie2-3 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Responses** for a discussion regarding the adaptive management process as it relates to success criteria. Draft EIR Chapter 2, Project Description, describes the project purpose and objectives, including the Estuary water level management targets identified in the Russian River Biological Opinion.
- NA_Sobie2-4 Please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses** for discussion on the effects of bacteria on fish health.
- NA_Sobie2-5 Please refer to the discussion of water quality parameters, including temperature, considered for fish habitat in Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, Impact 4.5.2. (beginning on page 4.5-22).
- NA_Sobie2-6 Comment cites statement on Draft EIR page 5-39, “Long-term implementation and increased duration of the freshwater lagoon may have significant adverse effects that, considered concurrently with other projects in the Russian River Watershed, may be cumulatively considerable.” This statement appears under the Impact 5.2.7 heading as part of an analysis of the cumulative long-term impacts to biological resources and is intended as an introductory statement leading into a more detailed discussion of cumulatively considerable impacts related to natural vegetative communities, plants, amphibians, reptiles, marine mammals, jurisdictional waters and wetland habitat, and nursery sites and migratory corridors (Draft EIR pages 3-40 through 3-42).
- NA_Sobie2-7 The cumulative analysis in Draft EIR Chapter 5.0 analyzed potential contribution of Estuary Management Project impacts considered cumulatively with other related projects. The projects considered are presented in Draft EIR Chapter 5.0 Cumulative Analysis, Table 5.1, page 5-5, and include other Russian River Instream Flow and Restoration Program elements and other projects within the watershed. For additional discussion of the relationship of the Estuary

Management Project to river flows, please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

Comment Letter NA_SobieS

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 20 2011

Stephen Sobieraj
(Name: Please Print)

90 SEQUOIA Ridge Rd.
(Street Address)

CAZADERO 95421
(Town) (Zip Code)

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_SobieS-1

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

NA_SobieS-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_SobieS-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_SobieS-4

NA_SobieS-5

NA_SobieS-6

NA_SobieS-7

NA_SobieS-8

NA_SobieS-9

Sincerely,

Stephen Sobieraj Jan. 17, 2011
(Signature) (Date)

Stephen Sobieraj, January 17, 2011

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

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 21 2011

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

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

SORACCO

(Name: Please Print)

PO 127

(Street Address)

VILLA GRANDE

95480

(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_Sorac-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_Sorac-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_Sorac-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_Sorac-4
NA_Sorac-5
NA_Sorac-6
NA_Sorac-7
NA_Sorac-8
NA_Sorac-9

Sincerely,

SORACCO

(Signature)

20 JAN 2011

(Date)

Soracco, January 20, 2011

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



**The Tree Climber
Darrell B. Sukovitz**

P.O. Box 849
Guerneville, CA 95446
(707) 887-1017

www.thetreeclimber.net—CCL #909691

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 my comments for the Board.

- 1. Who will be responsible for monitoring any changes to the wave action at the mouth of the Russian River as a result of this project? | NA_Sukov-1
- 2. What actions will be taken to avoid changes to the configuration of submerged sand and subsurface gravel, leading to changes in wave action? | NA_Sukov-2
- 3. How frequent is the presence of surfers, human as well as in marine mammal form? | NA_Sukov-3
- 4. Why has the pinniped monitoring done by Agency staff or by contract with Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, including during the presence of sand-moving equipment, not been made available for public review prior to the close of public comment on the DEIR? | NA_Sukov-4
- 5. Under contract, Joseph Mortenson, Ph.D. will be developing data on the pinniped population. Why will his data not be available for public review prior to the close of public comment on the DEIR? | NA_Sukov-5
- 6. What studies have been done and what will be the effect on all sea life and bird populations as a result of this project? | NA_Sukov-6
- 7. What studies have been done and what will be the effect on all land and aquatic plant life as a result of this project? | NA_Sukov-7
- 8. What effects will this project have on the migratory cetacean population at the mouth of the River? | NA_Sukov-8
- 9. Were the seals at the River mouth chased into the River by the equipment going past them? | NA_Sukov-9
- 10. What studies have been done and what will be the effect on ebb and flow around Penny Island and on its full spectrum of habitat as a result of this project? | NA_Sukov-10

Comment Letter NA_Sukov

11. What studies have been done and what will be the effect on salmonids and all sea populations migrating up Jenner Creek, Sheephouse Creek, Slaughterhouse Creek, Austin Creek, Willow Creek and Dutch Bill Creek as a result of this project? NA_Sukov-11
12. There are several islands in the River upstream from the mouth. What studies have been done and what will be the effect on these islands as a result of this project? NA_Sukov-12
13. Have you provided a complete list of all plant, bird and aquatic life in and around Jenner Marsh? What will be the effect on them as a result of this project? NA_Sukov-13
14. What is the current effect of intrusive predation on salmonid and other sea life in the estuary and upstream? What will the level of predation be as a result of this project, now and in the future? NA_Sukov-14
15. Silt runoff from vineyard production, and from other developments such as logging roads, over time makes its way to the estuary. Why has this not been included as part of the scenario addressed in this EIR? NA_Sukov-15
16. Many of the fertilizers and chemicals used by the public and the agriculture industry state on their material data sheets and risk assessment labels that they are harmful to aquatic life when they enter any stream. Why has this fact not been addressed in this EIR? What are the effects of these substances on salmonids? Why have you not, and will you, list all such chemicals in this EIR? NA_Sukov-16
17. If the jetty at the River mouth is removed or altered, how will this alter the proposed project? NA_Sukov-17
18. What will be the effect on red tides as a result of this project? How will the project be affected by red tides? NA_Sukov-18
19. What will be the effect on fluorescent algae as a result of this project? INA_Sukov-19
20. Has analysis been done of still water as part of the "mill pond" effect vs. cooler, rippling water and the effect on salmonids in the estuary and all the way to Vacation Beach? NA_Sukov-20
21. Has the effect of this project on summer dams and fish ladders been studied? INA_Sukov-21
22. What will be the effect of this project on proliferating invasive aquatic plant species? INA_Sukov-22
23. Why has the EIR not addressed the Alternatives Analysis regarding the introduction of fungicides, herbicides, and pesticides into the Russian River? NA_Sukov-23
24. In the 1980s. cinnabar tailings from the Sweetwater Springs mercury mine were used as backfill in the Russian River sewer project pipeline. Have there been any studies on the level of mercury possibly accumulating in the estuary? NA_Sukov-24
25. Has there been an analysis of the potential effect on this project of a chemical spill into the River? NA_Sukov-25
26. Has County/SCWA Counsel advised you that to do two separate EIRs on the River flow is called "piecemealing" and is illegal under CEQA? NA_Sukov-26

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Darrell B. Sukovitz, Consulting Arborist
DS:kf

 Darrell B. Sukovitzien
P.O. Box 849
Guerneville, CA 95446

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE
10 FEB 23 2011 PM 3 L



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 • Senator Dianne Feinstein
 361 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-3841 -

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 pitol, • President Barack H. Obama
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
 Washington, D.C. 20500 White House
 Switchboard (202) 456-1111

*Sonoma
 West
 5/4/2010*

ERS POLICY

ers to the editor, but reserves the right to
 not exceed 300 words in length and type-
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 ber. Send letters to: Editor, Sonoma West
 bastopol, CA 95473. The e-mail address is
 telephone number is 823-7845, fax: 823-

chemicals use
 clearly state in their risk assessment
 labels and material safety data that they
 are toxic to fish and should not be used
 where drift and/or runoff would cause
 them to enter any stream. Sewage releases
 include pharmaceuticals and hazardous
 chemicals. Generations of improper
 logging operations have caused massive
 siltation issues; and there has been
 inflated development adjacent to these
 streams and tributaries, which in any case
 are currently too impaired to become
 salmon runs again. To focus on restoration
 of these waterways would be a better
 approach to bringing back to salmon.

At a recent scoping session in Jenner
 sponsored by SCWA, 5th District
 Supervisor Efren Carrillo seemed
 reluctant to discuss the question of what
 happens to the water that will not be going
 down the Russian River during the
 summer once the permanent low flow is
 established. The answer, of course, is that
 SCWA has oversold its contractual
 allotments for water to the cities and
 northern Marin. In turn the cities have
 issued building permits based on these
 assumptions.

One could extrapolate that endangering
 the harbor seals and their pups is good for
 business for SCWA, allowing them to sell
 yet more water.

*Darrell B. Sukovitzten is a Forestville
 resident and award-winning
 environmentalist. To find out more, go to
 thetreeclimber.net.*

It still takes almost a day to get from
 Sebastopol to France and I look forward to
 that delightful moment after flying all night
 when you push up the window shade and
 the sun is coming up over what must be
 Ireland and then England and then there's
 the English Channel and a swath of green
 farmland and brown and white cows and
 stone farmhouses with blue shutters.
 I'm still in love with foreign travel. I

**ire a global village
 orld economy. We
 space, cyberspace
 other's bad days.**

know people whose
 long careers had them
 flying so much that
 once they retire they
 are thrilled to hang
 out in their own home.
 Not me. I get giddy
 just thinking about
 going to another part
 of the world. We're
 traveling with another
 couple and we've been playing at going to
 France since winter, munching on brie and
 poring over maps. If you only have two
 weeks to actually be there, you want to
 stretch it out with a long countdown. We
 have French radio streaming from our
 laptops, Paris weather on the Google map.

Stein, MFK Fisher and Julia Child.
 The world has shrunk since those
 Americans discovered France as a second
 home. Travel was more exotic and
 distancing then. Now we are a global village
 with a world economy. We share airspace,
 cyberspace and each other's bad days. Each
 of us is only a ripple away from another part
 of the world's failed economy, earthquake,
 oil spills, violence, corruption, wars and
 retaliatory attacks.

We may be separated by culture and
 language — my French, as they say, (heh,
 heh) est pathetique — but we know each
 other. The storybook farmers we will pass in
 the Dordogne worry about holding on to
 their fields just like California farmers. The
 chic people we will ogle on the Right Bank
 likely fret over cutbacks at work and how to
 keep their apartment.
 To them we will bring our tourist dollars,
 affection and empathy.

*Susan Swartz is an author and journalist
 in Sebastopol. You can also read her at
 www.juicytomatoes.com and hear her
 Another Voice commentary on KRCB-FM
 radio on Fridays. Email is
 susan@juicytomatoes.com.*

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Sonoma West Times & News

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THE EDITOR

Rosa POA, Santa Rosa PMA, Rohnert Park POA, Petaluma POA, Cotati PMA, Cotati POA and the Latino Peace Officers Association in supporting Jill Ravitch for D.A. We are the "cops" that provide law enforcement services to the citizens of Sonoma County. We are the law enforcement officers who have a solid understanding of what we need in a District Attorney to keep our county safe. We see that is Jill Ravitch.

Please join me and the other "cops" of Sonoma County in voting for Jill Ravitch for District Attorney on June 8.

Bill Focha
President
Sonoma County Deputy
Sheriffs' Association

Critical D.A.

EDITOR: I am a retired Deputy District Attorney. During my 20 year career, I was honored for winning cases involving sex crimes, domestic violence and homicides against women and children. I have worked with both D.A. candidates. They are both my friends.

It is critically important that the District Attorney have the support and respect of the law enforcement agencies. Jill Ravitch has that respect. A good D.A. can inspire police officers to do their best work for vulnerable victims. Jill knows that the search for truth and justice does not end when a case is filed. She can also tell the sheep from the goats, which is important in an era of crashing budgets.

I have supported Stephan Passalacqua in the last two elections. He is an amiable public servant and he has always treated me with respect. But the D.A. cannot be a mere politician. Jill Ravitch has the courage, wisdom, intelligence and experience needed to face the future challenges. It is time for a change.

Donna Lee Ryan
Santa Rosa

Farmers markets

EDITOR: We have just returned from Santa Barbara for a few days of sun and beach time to celebrate my birthday. As always, we took in the Saturday downtown farmers market. What a delight as usual. There is just fresh vegetables and fruits and berries from the farmers and wonderful flowers, as well. No arts and crafts booths, no prepared food booths, no toy booths, just an array of fabulously fresh food to prepare and eat at home. How refreshing to communicate with the farmers, feel their connection with Mother Earth and enjoy choosing produce reflecting this reciprocal nurturing/nurtured connection. Perhaps, our local farmers markets could use this gem of a market from the Los Angeles

GUEST COMMENTARY

SCWA vs. harbor seal pups:

The water grab

by Darrell B. Sukovitz

Once again the Sonoma County Water Agency has come up with a boondoggle of a venture that entails harassment and perhaps "incidental" kills of harbor seals at the mouth of the Russian River. The impetus for this proposal is a mandate called the Biological Opinion produced by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The project is intended to create a rearing ground in the estuary for threatened salmonid species. It involves dramatically dropping the river flow in summer to create a millpond of the estuary; heavy equipment on the beach (chasing the seals away) will create a sandbar with a small V-shaped outlet for overspill. According to Bill Hearn, primary author of the Biological Opinion, "We expect some toxic waters to form." Does this mean that a "take" permit must also be required for steelhead die-off as it has been for harassment and take of marine mammals and their pups?

The proposal completely overlooks the rest of the estuary's forms of life. According to Dian Hardy, founder of SealWatch, "In what I'm learning to call the Humpty Dumpty School of Resource Management, in order to save three salmonid runs, agencies — federal, state and county — appear willing to overlook the totality of the ecology found at the mouth of the Russian: the harbor seal haulout, a resting and foraging site for migratory birds and a fishery that includes Dungeness crabs, amongst other species."

It is interesting to me that the data collected from the \$90,000 contract between SCWA and Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods for monitoring the seals will not be available for public review in time for comment during the EIR process. Also in this contract, it is stated that in the event of disturbance or harm to harbor seals or pups during heavy equipment use on the beach, Stewards is only to report in writing to SCWA, who in turn will report in writing to NOAA, for input on what to do. This is not a satisfactory method of dealing with what could be urgent situations.

Some of the real causes of salmonid demise are decidedly not being addressed by this Biological Opinion, such as vineyard production next to streams, tributaries and the main stem of the river and drift.

Darrell Sukovitzen, February 8, 2011

- NA_Sukov-1 The Water Agency will be responsible for most monitoring efforts associated with the Estuary Management Project. Formal monitoring requirements related to wave action at the mouth of the river during the Lagoon Management Period is not required. As noted in Draft EIR Section 3.2, Estuary Management, wave and tidal action is dynamic and influenced by a number of variables. Average monthly wave energy changes with the seasons; wave energy is greatest in winter, reduces over spring, and is minimal from July to September. However, late spring storms, early fall storms and Southern Hemisphere storms can occasionally produce waves exceeding 10 feet in the vicinity of the river mouth during the Lagoon Management Period. Swell waves with periods longer than 10 seconds from either the northwest or south are often the cause of closure during the management period. Large wave events are particularly likely to cause closure when they coincide with the reduced tidal exchange that occurs approximately every two weeks during neap tides.
- NA_Sukov-2 For a discussion related to mitigation for recreation refer to **Master Response 2.6 Recreational Impacts, Socioeconomic Impacts and Mitigation Feasibility, in Chapter 2, Master Response**. It should be noted that wave and tidal action is dynamic and influenced by other forces aside from the Estuary Management Project. Please refer to response to comment NA_Sukov-1, above.
- NA_Sukov-3 The Water Agency does not have formal data regarding surfer (human) use at the Russian River mouth. Marine mammal data, specifically harbor seals, is collected through the Water Agency's annual biological and water quality monitoring effort. Draft EIR Chapter 3.0, Project Background and Environmental Setting summarizes the active Estuary monitoring programs (page 3-8). Draft EIR Section 4.5, Biological Resources provides additional baseline information about seal presence at the various haulouts in the project area (page 4.4-16 through 4.4-20). The potential for occurrence of listed marine mammals was addressed in Table 4.4-3. The comment does not indicate any deficiency or question about the adequacy of the analysis or mitigation measures contained in the Draft EIR.
- NA_Sukov-4 The Water Agency annual biological and water quality monitoring reports, 1996 through 2000, prepared by Merritt Smith Consulting, have been published and are part of the Agency's administrative record (as listed below). The Water Agency and Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods partnered in 2009 to develop monitoring data to comprise the Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) application and permit. The IHA, as well as all other monitoring data and reports are publicly available and part of the Water Agency's administrative record. The following documents relating to pinniped monitoring were included in References Section 4.4.5.

- Merritt Smith Consulting, *Biological and Water Quality Monitoring in the Russian River Estuary, 1996*, Annual Report, February 21, 1997.
- Merritt Smith Consulting, *Biological and Water Quality Monitoring in the Russian River Estuary, 1997*, Second Annual Report, February 5, 1998.
- Merritt Smith Consulting, *Biological and Water Quality Monitoring in the Russian River Estuary, 1998*, Third Annual Report, March 15, 1999.
- Merritt Smith Consulting, *Biological and Water Quality Monitoring in the Russian River Estuary, 1999*, Fourth Annual Report, March 24, 2000.
- Mortenson, J. 1996. Human interference with harbor seals at Jenner, California, 1994-1995. Prepared for Stewards of Slavianka and Sonoma Coast State Beaches, Russian River/Mendocino Park District. July 11. 1996.
- Mortenson, J. and E. Twohy. 1994. Harbor seals at Jenner, California, 1974-1993. Prepared for Prepared for Stewards of Slavianka and Sonoma Coast State Beach, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Duncans Mills, CA.
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), *Biological Opinion for Water Supply, Flood Control Operations, and Channel Maintenance conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Sonoma County Water Agency, and the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation District in the Russian River Watershed*, September 24, 2008.
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), *Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA)*, March 30, 2010. 2010c.
- Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) and Merritt Smith Consulting, *Biological and Water Quality Monitoring in the Russian River Estuary, 2000*, Fifth Annual Report, June 12, 2001.
- Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) and Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, *Russian River Estuary Management Activities – Pinniped Monitoring Plan*, prepared by Jessica Martini-Lamb, Sonoma County Water Agency, and Michele Luna and Joe Mortenson, Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, September 9, 2009a.
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) and Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), Harbor Seals at Jenner and at Peripheral Sites, Presentation, April 2010a.
- Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), *Request for Marine Mammal Protection Act Incidental Harassment Authorization: Russian River Estuary Management Activities*, July 2009.
- Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), Russian River Estuary Management Activities, Pinniped Monitoring at Jenner Haulout Counts, unpublished data and photographs, July 1, 2010b.

Data provided in these documents were considered in the biological resources analysis. These documents were available during the Draft EIR comment period by request as part of the administrative record, and are still available, by request, at the Sonoma County Water Agency.

NA_Sukov-5 The Draft EIR uses the best available information at the time the Draft EIR was written. Several documents, listed in response to comment NA_Sukov-4 prepared on pinniped populations in the Russian River Estuary were reviewed and discussed in the Draft EIR. Please refer to **Master Response 2.7, CEQA Statutes: Adequacy of EIR Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

NA_Sukov-6 Potential effects to biological resources, including sea life and bird populations, including review of available information, is provided in Draft EIR, 4.4, Biological Resources. As discussed in Draft EIR Section 4.4.1, Introduction, on page 4.4-1 of the Draft EIR, several sources of information were used to assess the existing conditions and potential impacts that could occur on biological resources, focusing on terrestrial, aquatic, and wetland resources, with implementation of the project. These sources included resource studies and reports prepared for the Estuary, as well as information obtained from conservation and planning documents prepared for lands within the vicinity of the Estuary, and presented the methods and results of vegetation classification and mapping and terrestrial and wetland plant and animal surveys. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Electronic Inventory were reviewed to identify special-status species known to or having the potential to occur in the project vicinity. Project Impacts on biological resources present or potentially present were addressed in Section 4.4, Biological Resources, beginning on page 4.4-5 of the Draft EIR for the creation and maintenance of the lagoon outlet channel, and beginning on page 4.4-75 of the Draft EIR for the long-term lagoon adaptive management.

NA_Sukov-7 Refer to response to comment NA_Sukov-6, above.

NA_Sukov-8 The Draft EIR considered the potential for special status species, including cetaceans, to occur within the study area in Table 4.4-3 on pages 4.4-32 and 4.4-33 of Section 4.4, Biological Resources. All of the special status cetaceans evaluated in Table 4.4-3 were deemed unlikely to occur within the study area due to the absence of suitable habitat.

NA_Sukov-9 Water Agency artificial breaching activities have followed the conditions and monitoring measures established in the Incidental Harassment Authorization issued by NMFS to avoid and minimize impacts on pinnipeds at the Jenner haulout. These measures are listed on Draft EIR pages 4.4-69 through 4.4-71, and have been established to minimize disturbance to pinnipeds.

NA_Sukov-10 Refer to response to comment NA_Sukov-6. Additionally, in Draft EIR Section 4.4, Biological Resources Figure 4.4.1 on page 4.4-7 shows the vegetation communities on Penny Island within the study area. Impact 4.4.6 on pages 4.4-75 through 4.4-77 addresses the potential impact of the long-term adaptive management plan on sensitive natural communities within the study area. Impact 4.4.7 on page 4.4-78 addresses the potential impact of the long-term adaptive management plan on special-status plant species within the study area.

NA_Sukov-11 As described in Chapter 2.0, Project Description, the Water Agency proposes to modify Estuary management in order to reduce marine influence (high salinity and tidal inflow) and promote a higher water level in the Estuary (formation of a fresh or brackish water lagoon) from May 15 to October 15. The Water Agency will continue the historical practice of artificially breaching the barrier beach outside the Lagoon Management Period (October 16 to May 14) to minimize the potential for flooding of low-lying properties. Anadromous species that occur in the Estuary (with a focus on special-status species) are described, with reference to timing of migration and life-stage habitat requirements, in Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries (pages 4.5-4 to 4.5-14). Additionally, as described in Section 4.5.4 (Approach to Analysis, Section 4.5 Fisheries, pages 4.5-17 to 4.5-19) the timing of the project is considered unlikely to affect: Green sturgeon, Longfin smelt, Russian River tuleperch, Clear Lake-Russian River roach, hardhead, and Lamprey. Salmonids (addressed under Impact 4.5.2, Section 4.5, Fisheries, page 4.5-22 et seq.) typically immigrate upstream following winter storms outside the proposed management period, when the Estuary would be open due to natural or artificial breaching. With respect to outmigration of Chinook and coho smolts, Water Agency monitoring data in 2009 and 2010 indicate the timing of outmigration varies year to year, but that in most years the peak of the run may be expected between mid-April and mid-May, generally before the beginning of the Lagoon Management Period.

Additionally, as described under Impact 4.5.1 (Chapter 4, Section 4.5, Fisheries, page 4.5-19 et seq.), Estuary management to promote freshwater lagoon conditions would increase the frequency, duration and volume of freshwater storage within the Estuary during the Lagoon Management Period, thereby increasing potential habitat availability for juvenile salmonids. As, as concluded in the EIR, the project will be unlikely to result in adverse impacts to migratory fish populations.

NA_Sukov-12 Please refer to response to comment NA_Sukov-10. Islands, or gravel bars, within the Estuary Study area are mapped in Draft EIR Chapter 3.0, Project Background and Environmental Setting, including mapping of anticipated 7 and 9 foot water levels. It is anticipated that higher water levels will reduce the gravel beach area around individual islands. Draft EIR Section 4.7, Recreation, estimates the total gravel bar area in the Estuary Study Area is comprised of

approximately 27 acres; 24 acres, or 97 percent of the mapped beach area, is anticipated to be inundated at a 9 foot water level. Inundation associated with higher water levels would reduce the amount of beach acreage available within the Estuary, and these conditions would occur for a longer duration, depending upon performance of the outlet channel. At 9 feet, beach area would remain present at most gravel bar locations, and riverside access to these gravel bars would still be available. CEQA does not require a lead agency to conduct every recommended test and perform all recommended research to evaluate the impacts of a proposed project (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15204, subd[a]).

NA_Sukov-13 Refer to response to comment NA_Sukov-6. In addition, the Draft EIR adequately assessed the special-status species known within the project vicinity (Section 4.4, Tables 4.4-2 and 4.4-3) and evaluated each special-status species for its potential to occur in the Estuary given the habitat requirements of each species relative to the observed existing conditions and results of previous biological resources studies (refer to special-status plants discussion beginning on page 4.4-22 of the Draft EIR and special-status animals discussion beginning on page 4.4-43 of the Draft EIR). CEQA does not require a lead agency to conduct every recommended test and perform all recommended research to evaluate the impacts of a proposed project (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15204, subd[a]).

NA_Sukov-14 As described in Chapter 2.0, Project Description, the Water Agency proposes to modify Estuary management in order to reduce marine influence (high salinity and tidal inflow) and promote a higher water level in the Estuary (formation of a fresh or brackish water lagoon) from May 15 to October 15. As described in general Section 4.5 (Chapter 4.0), and in detail under Impact 4.5.1 (Chapter 4.0, Section 4.5, pp. 4.5-19 et seq.), the ecological benefits of lagoon habitat for salmonids (and especially rearing steelhead) have been documented extensively. Please refer to response to G_RRWPC-45 regarding potential predation risk to salmonids. There is no substantial evidence to indicate that intrusive predation would be significantly altered as a result of the project.

NA_Sukov-15 The Draft EIR provides analysis and disclosure of potential environmental impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project. Potential impacts related to sedimentation are discussed in Draft EIR Section 4.3, Hydrology. As noted in Section 4.3, Hydrology, the Estuary Management Project would not create or contribute to sedimentation within the Estuary. Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**, and response to comment NA_Burge-1.

NA_Sukov-16 Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**. This response recognizes that fertilizers and chemicals affect aquatic life when discharged to streams. The Draft EIR does not address specific

fertilizers and chemicals used by the public and agricultural industry; the Estuary Management Project does not require use of fertilizers or chemicals, nor will it result in new sources of discharge of fertilizers or chemicals. The purpose of this Draft EIR is to disclose the potential environmental effects of the project on the physical environment. The use of fertilizers or chemicals in the Russian River Watershed is an existing condition that would not be affected by the project. Therefore, an exhaustive list of all fertilizers or chemicals used within the watershed is not included in the Draft EIR.

NA_Sukov-17 As described in Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, Alternatives Analysis, the Water Agency does not own, maintain, operate, or have jurisdiction over the jetty structure, and is therefore not authorized to make policy decisions for action to remove the jetty. However, the Water Agency is required by the Russian River Biological Opinion to develop a study plan to analyze the effects of the Russian River Estuary jetty on Estuary water levels and on beach morphology, as well as evaluate alternatives that modify the jetty to achieve target estuarine water levels. This is included as a potential alternative to the Estuary Management Project in Draft EIR Chapter 6.0, Alternatives Analysis. For additional discussion regarding feasibility and uncertainty of outcomes of jetty removal, refer to **Master Response 2.5, Alternatives Analysis, in Chapter 2, Master Responses.**

NA_Sukov-18 Please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses** for discussion of potential effects to water quality and potential secondary effects related to algae blooms.

NA_Sukov-19 Project implementation is not anticipated to affect distribution of algae. Please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses** for discussion of potential effects to water quality and potential secondary effects related to algae blooms.

NA_Sukov-20 Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, includes a description of the common and special status aquatic species found in the Estuary, and characterizes the type of habitat provided by the Estuary. The Estuary provides habitat for a variety of fish species including salmonids and other important recreational fish species such as American shad and smallmouth bass. In terms of conservation, much attention is given to three Endangered Species Act-listed salmonid species that are known to occur in the Russian River watershed. These are Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), California Coastal Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), and Central California Coast coho salmon (*O. kisutch*; NMFS, 2010). The Estuary is important for adult and juvenile passage for the three Endangered Species Act-listed salmonids (NMFS, 2008). The Estuary provides an opportunity for smolts to acclimate to ocean conditions before migrating to the ocean, as well as potentially providing rearing habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon. The Estuary does not provide “ripple” habitat, as noted by the

commenter. Draft EIR Section 4.5, Fisheries, quantifies that anticipated increase in potential available rearing habitat that would be created through lagoon conditions. It is expected that the Estuary Management Project will have a discernable environmental benefit and would further the goal of environmental protection through provision of 6,357 acre feet of potential rearing habitat in the Estuary from the mouth to Vacation Beach (Draft EIR page 4-21). Draft EIR Section 4.5, Impact 4.5.1, Habitat Availability, quantifies the expected increase in potential rearing habitat that would be made available through implementation of the Estuary Management Project. Impact 4.5.2, Habitat Quality, describes expected habitat conditions that would be made available through implementation of the Estuary Management Project.

NA_Sukov-21 It is anticipated that summer dam deployment would not be affected by increased in water levels. Summer dams are deployed in order to provide increased water levels for recreational uses. The lower Russian River summer dams at Johnson's Beach and Vacation Beach are upstream of the Estuary Study Area and Maximum Backwater Area (Draft EIR Figure 2-3A) and are not anticipated to be impacted by the Estuary Management Project.

NA_Sukov-22 Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses** for a discussion related to *Ludwigia*.

NA_Sukov-23 The Draft EIR does not address introduction of fungicides, herbicides, and pesticides into the Russian River. The Estuary Management Project would not create or contribute to new or more severe sources of pollution; additionally, the Water Agency does not have the authority to control input from other dischargers.

NA_Sukov-24 The Draft EIR does not address historical introduction of mercury into the Russian River. The Estuary Management Project will not result in new sources of discharge of mercury. The purpose of this Draft EIR is to disclose the potential environmental effects of the project itself on the physical environment. Pollution in the Russian River is an external factor that cannot be controlled by the project, or enforced by the Water Agency. For a discussion of impacts related to heavy metals, including mercury and copper, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality, in Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NA_Sukov-25 As noted in Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, page 2-22, certain conditions during the Lagoon Management Period, such as water quality degradation¹ or imminent flooding to properties and structures adjacent to the Estuary, could require a change in management, and may result in the Water Agency breaching the barrier beach during the Lagoon Management Period.

¹ Water Quality parameters are defined in the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Plan and would be further defined in consultation with NMFS and RWQCB.

Therefore, in the unlikely event that septic or chemical spill into the Estuary or Russian River result in nuisance conditions, the Water Agency would consult with NMFS and CDFG regarding artificial breaching during the Lagoon Management Period.

NA_Sukov-26 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**, and **2. 7, CEQA Statutes: Adequacy of EIR Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

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Comment Letter NA_Sulli

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

Daniel J Sullivan

(Name: Please Print)

14280 # 14284 Laurel Rd

(Street Address)

Guerneville Ca 95446

(Town)

(Zip Code)

PO Box 334 Guerneville 95446

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_Sulli-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_Sulli-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_Sulli-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_Sulli-4

NA_Sulli-5

NA_Sulli-6

NA_Sulli-7

NA_Sulli-8

NA_Sulli-9

Sincerely,

Daniel J Sullivan

(Signature)

1/11/11

(Date)

Is what your doing is dumb headed as it seems. What is the hidden agenda. Is water management made up as you go along. No been watchy and usury. This happen for 70 yrs

NA_Sulli-10

Daniel Sullivan, January 11, 2011

- NA_Sulli-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_Sulli-2 Commenter is identifying individual uses of the Russian River.
- NA_Sulli-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_Sulli-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_Sulli-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_Sulli-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_Sulli-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_Sulli-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_Sulli-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_Sulli-10 The Biological Opinion analyzed the impacts of the Water Agency's water supply, flood channel maintenance, and Estuary management activities on listed salmonid species, and the incidental take statement in the Biological Opinion covers all such activities. The specific project objectives of the proposed Estuary Management Project are established in Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, and include providing are enhanced rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids within the Russian River Estuary and minimizing flood hazards.

Comment Letter NA_ThomaA

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 19 2011

ANN B. Thomas

(Name: Please Print)

P O Box 726

(Street Address)

Guerneville 95446

(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_ThomaA-1

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

NA_ThomaA-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_ThomaA-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
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- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_ThomaA-4

NA_ThomaA-5

NA_ThomaA-6

NA_ThomaA-7

NA_ThomaA-8

NA_ThomaA-9

Sincerely,

Ann B Thomas
(Signature)

1-16-11

(Date)

Ann Thomas, January 16, 2011

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

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

Bertha L. Thomas
(Name: Please Print)

73 Ardilla Rd.
(Street Address)

Orinda CA 94563
(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_ThomaB-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_ThomaB-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_ThomaB-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_ThomaB-4

NA_ThomaB-5

NA_ThomaB-6

NA_ThomaB-7

NA_ThomaB-8

NA_ThomaB-9

Sincerely,

Bertha L. Thomas
(Signature)

1/15/11
(Date)

Bertha Thomas, January 15, 2011

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

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

LEILANI THOMPSON
(Name: Please Print)
1733 CALAVARAS DR
(Street Address)
SANTA ROSA CA 95405
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Thomp-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_Thomp-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_Thomp-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_Thomp-4

NA_Thomp-5

NA_Thomp-6

NA_Thomp-7

NA_Thomp-8

NA_Thomp-9

Sincerely,

(Signature)

Leilani Thompson

(Date)

1/12/11

Leilani Thompson, January 12, 2011

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

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

JIM TRANCHINA
(Name: Please Print)

7404 HIDDEN LAKE RD
(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_Tranc-1

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

NA_Tranc-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_Tranc-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
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- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Tranc-4

NA_Tranc-5

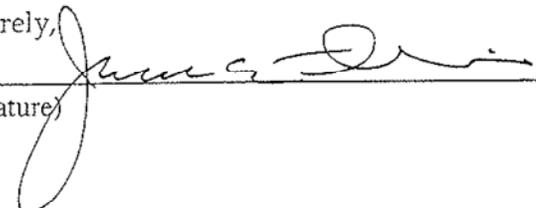
NA_Tranc-6

NA_Tranc-7

NA_Tranc-8

NA_Tranc-9

Sincerely,


(Signature)

1/11/11
(Date)

Jim Tranchina, January 11, 2011

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

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 13 2011

MR F. J. TRAPANI
(Name: Please Print)

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

110 CRESTMOOR CIRCLE
(Street Address)

PACIFICA, CA 94044
(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_Trapa-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_Trapa-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_Trapa-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.
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NA_Trapa-4

NA_Trapa-5

NA_Trapa-6

NA_Trapa-7

NA_Trapa-8

NA_Trapa-9

Sincerely,

(Signature)



(Date)

1-11-11

FJ Trapani, January 11, 2011

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

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB 14 2011

Sonoma County Water Agency
Attention: Jessica Martini-Lamb
404 Aviation Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To: Jeane, Martini-Lamb

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

February 14, 2011

Re: Estuary Project

The Sonoma County Water Agency's plan to change a tidal estuary into a freshwater lagoon is an experiment which may never work as planned. First of all, for salmon to thrive in the Russian River again we must look at the big picture. The impacts of logging, gravel mining, vineyards, pharmaceuticals from wastewater and chemical pollutants are all ignored.

NA_Urbin-1

There are many CEQA Conclusions as Significant and Unavoidable. The surfers will lose the high quality waves at the river mouth. The harbor seals leave when the water level is high. River beaches will be inundated. Recreation is very important to the economy of the lower Russian River. The combination of the low flows with a closed river mouth could create a high level of pollutants. Will the river be safe to swim in?

NA_Urbin-2

You must assure the houses in Jenner do not flood. At your first meetings a river height of seven feet was constant. Now you say five months of nine feet. If the river reaches ten feet, will you open the river mouth? I would like to hear the results of last years attempt to create the river outflow. And you must tell us where the water from the low flow will go.

NA_Urbin-3

We know logging silts the creeks so the salmon cannot spawn. We know the vineyards use water from the creeks and river during frosty nights and there have been instances of salmon kills. There are herbicides, fungicides, pharmaceuticals that end up in the river. Low flow creates a lot of algae. There were huge salmon runs in the 1960's. We must look at everything to bring the salmon back. I do not think turning a tidal estuary into a freshwater lagoon is the answer.

NA_Urbin-4

Sincerely,



Cynthia Urbina
P.O. Box 11
Jenner, CA 95450

Cynthia Urbina, February 14, 2011

NA_Urbin-1 Please refer to **Master Response 2.3, Project Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses** for discussion regarding the adaptive management process. With respect to Draft EIR consideration of logging, gravel mining, vineyards, pharmaceuticals from wastewater and chemical pollutants, the Draft EIR provides analysis and disclosure of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. The Estuary Management Project would not create or contribute to new or more severe sources of pollution; additionally, the Water Agency does not have the authority to control input from other dischargers.

NA_Urbin-2 Recreational resources, including surfing and river beach access are addressed in the analysis provided in Draft EIR Section 4.7, Recreation. Potential impacts to harbor seals are addressed in Draft EIR Section 4.5, Biological Resources.

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**. Reducing minimum instream flows under Decision 1610 is addressed in the Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis which concludes that recreational and water quality impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project, considered in conjunction with foreseeable effects associated with lowering flows, could result in cumulatively considerable impacts. Refer to **Master Response 2.6 Recreational Impacts, Socioeconomic Impacts and Mitigation Feasibility**, in **Chapter 2, Master Response** for discussion of CEQA requirements relative to analysis of socioeconomic impacts.

NA_Urbin-3 The Estuary Management Project is proposed to achieve the primary project objectives of enhancing rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids managing Estuary water levels to minimize flood hazard. As noted in Draft EIR Section 4.2, Hydrology and Flooding, water levels are not anticipated to exceed 9 feet during the Lagoon Management Period. However, as noted in Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, page 2-22, certain conditions during the Lagoon Management Period, such as water quality degradation² or imminent flooding to properties and structures adjacent to the Estuary, could require a change in management; the Water Agency would consult with NMFS and CDFG regarding artificial breaching during the Lagoon Management Period.

With respect to water supply, the Biological Opinion analyzed the impacts of the Water Agency's water supply, flood channel maintenance, and Estuary management activities on listed salmonid species, and the incidental take statement in the Biological Opinion covers all such activities. The specific

² Water Quality parameters are defined in the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Plan and would be further defined in consultation with NMFS and RWQCB.

project objectives of the proposed Estuary Management Project are established in Draft EIR Chapter 1.0, Introduction, and include providing enhanced rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids within the Russian River Estuary and minimizing flood hazard.

NA_Urbin-4 As noted in Draft EIR Chapter 2.0, Project Description, page 2-22, certain conditions during the Lagoon Management Period, such as water quality degradation³ or imminent flooding to properties and structures adjacent to the Estuary, could require a change in management, and may result in the Water Agency breaching the barrier beach during the Lagoon Management Period.

The Estuary Management Project does not require use of fungicides, herbicides, and pesticides, nor will it result in new sources of discharge of fungicides, herbicides, and pesticides. The purpose of this Draft EIR is to disclose the potential environmental effects of the project itself on the physical environment. The use of fertilizers or chemicals in the Russian River Watershed is an existing condition that would not be affected by the project. Therefore, an exhaustive list of all fertilizers or chemicals used within the watershed is not included in the Draft EIR. 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.**

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

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Comment Letter NA_Vail

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

JAN 20 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

GLADYS M. VAIL
(Name: Please Print)

3486 E REDLANDS AVE.
(Street Address)

FRESNO, CA. 93726
(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_Vail-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_Vail-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_Vail-3

Please address the issues below:

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

NA_Vail-4

NA_Vail-5

NA_Vail-6

NA_Vail-7

NA_Vail-8

NA_Vail-9

Sincerely,

Gladys M. Vail 1/14/11
(Signature) (Date)

My summer home is in
Villa Grande, Sonoma Co. 95486

Gladys Vail, January 14, 2011

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

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB - 2, 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

CHARLES WAGNER
(Name: Please Print)

15837 WRIGHT DR
(Street Address)

GUERNEVILLE, CA 95446
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_WagneC-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_WagneC-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_WagneC-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.
- 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_WagneC-4
NA_WagneC-5
NA_WagneC-6
NA_WagneC-7
NA_WagneC-8
NA_WagneC-9

Sincerely,

Charles E. Wagner
(Signature)

1-31-2011
(Date)

Charles Wagner, January 31, 2011

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

RICHARD WAGNER

(Name: Please Print)

6031 ANDERSON RD

(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_WagneR-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 / RELAXATION.

NA_WagneR-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_WagneR-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_WagneR-4

NA_WagneR-5

NA_WagneR-6

NA_WagneR-7

NA_WagneR-8

NA_WagneR-9

Sincerely,

Richard Wagner 1-26-11

(Signature)

(Date)

Richard Wagner, January 26, 2011

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

(Name: Please Print)



Mr. and Mrs. Warren Watkins
418 Matheson St.
Healdsburg, CA 95448

(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_Watki-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_Watki-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_Watki-3

Please address the issues below:

- CEQA requires that the entire project be considered in one environmental document. "Low flow" is inexorably linked to the Estuary Project through the BO. It is wrong to bifurcate the process.
- Estuary Project only analyzes impacts to Duncans Mills, whereas impacts from closed mouth & flow alteration, affects river as far upstream as Vacation Beach.
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- The preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.
- * I am concerned that water quality monitoring studies in 2009 were inadequate, and that data for 2010 has not been made available to the Water Quality Control Board or the public. The outcome of water quality studies will not be available until the EIR on "low flow project" is released in 1.5 years. This is unacceptable.

NA_Watki-4

NA_Watki-5

NA_Watki-6

NA_Watki-7

NA_Watki-8

NA_Watki-9

Sincerely,

(Signature)

 Janis Watkins 1/30/11

(Date)

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Watkins, January 30, 2011

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

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

EDWARD J WATSON
(Name: Please Print)

1444 BALBOA AVE
(Street Address)

BURLINGAME 94010
(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_Watso-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_Watso-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_Watso-3

Please address the issues below:

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NA_Watso-4

NA_Watso-5

NA_Watso-6

NA_Watso-7

NA_Watso-8

NA_Watso-9

Sincerely,

Edward J Watson
(Signature)

1/11/11
(Date)

owner of a Russian River Summer Residence.

Edward Watson, January 11, 2011

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

LENNY LOEIOSTEIN

(Name: Please Print)

P.O. Box 526 (21301 Hwy 116)

(Street Address)

MONTE RIO 95402

(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_Weins-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 SANITY

NA_Weins-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_Weins-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_Weins-4
NA_Weins-5
NA_Weins-6
NA_Weins-7
NA_Weins-8
NA_Weins-9

Sincerely,

(Signature)

JAN 14, 2011

(Date)

Lenny Weinstein, January 14, 2011

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

MAR 11 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

Margaret Whitaker-Greene
(Name: Please Print)

19390 Pine Glade
(Street Address)

Guerneville, CA 95446
(Town) (Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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

NA_Whita-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_Whita-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_Whita-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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- 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_Whita-4

NA_Whita-5

NA_Whita-6

NA_Whita-7

NA_Whita-8

NA_Whita-9

Sincerely,

Margaret Whitaker-Greene
(Signature)

1/13/2011
(Date)

Margaret Whitaker-Greene, March 11, 2011

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

Katie Blank

From: victoria wikle [victoriawikle@usa.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 09, 2011 3:04 PM
To: estuaryproject
Subject: Russian River Estuary Management Project

Categories: Orange Category

Sonoma County Water Agency
Attn: Jessica Martini Lamb

I include my comments on the project.

With the estuary closed, the reach of the river upstream from Austin Creek to Vacation Beach is impacted by higher water levels, lack of flow and degraded water quality. The project needs to address improving the poor water quality that has resulted from prior closings of the estuary and for the project as planned. NA_Wilke-1

River flow directly impacts the conditions at the estuary. A closed estuary implies lower flow in the lower river. The estuary management project must be studied in conjunction with flow rates. NA_Wilke-2

Sincerely,
Victoria Wikle
PO Box 151
Villa Grande, CA 95486

Victoria Wikle, January 9, 2011

NA_Wikle-1 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** regarding impacts from Austin Creek to Vacation Beach during the Lagoon Management Period. The response assumes that the comment regarding “lack of flow” relates to residence time of water in the Estuary and not reduced flows. The comment asserts the Draft EIR should address water quality issues that occurred during prior closings. Prior natural closure conditions are not a subject of the Draft EIR and are not retroactively analyzed. Refer to Draft EIR Section 4.3, Water Quality, page 4.3-22 for information regarding the residence time of flow in the lagoon system.

Water quality issues, including short-term impacts during outlet channel creation (Impact 4.3.1), impacts to salinity, dissolved oxygen, and temperature during the Lagoon Management Period (Impact 4.3.2), and effect of nutrient and bacteria levels during the Lagoon Management Period (Impact 4.3.3), are disclosed in Draft EIR Section 4.3, Water Quality. For additional discussion regarding potential impacts to water quality, refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NA_Wikle-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**.

JAN 18 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

WILLIAM WINTERS (Name: Please Print)
17848 ORCHARD AVE (Street Address)
GUEPUCVILLE 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_Winte-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_Winte-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_Winte-3

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NA_Winte-4

NA_Winte-5

NA_Winte-6

NA_Winte-7

NA_Winte-8

NA_Winte-9

Sincerely,

William Winters (Signature)

(Date)

William Winters, January 18, 2011

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

A. J. Wood
(Name: Please Print)

8840 BODEGA HWY.
(Street Address)

SEBASTOPEL 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_Wood-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 ECOLOGY PRESERVATION.

NA_Wood-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_Wood-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_Wood-4

NA_Wood-5

NA_Wood-6

NA_Wood-7

NA_Wood-8

NA_Wood-9

Sincerely,

[Signature]
(Signature)

1/17/11
(Date)

AJ Wood, January 17, 2011

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

Anne Wurr, January 14, 2011

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

COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Dana Zimmerman
1900 Neeley Rd.
Guerneville, CA 95446
February 4, 2011

FEB - 7 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 concern 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_ZimmeD-1

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

NA_ZimmeD-2

My preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.

NA_ZimmeD-3

My area provides several river side parks and installs two summer recreation dams in the lower river for residents and visitors to enjoy swimming, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and other forms of recreation. The Russian River Recreation District was established in 1941 to install summer dams for summer enjoyment of the Russian River by locals and tourists.

NA_ZimmeD-4

I am concerned about the impact to water quality from decreased water flow; including possible added pollution from nutrients, regulated and emerging toxins, bacteria, temperature, and invasive species. Reducing the flow will seriously impede the enjoyment of the river by residents and visitors to our riverside parks.

NA_ZimmeD-5

I am also 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_ZimmeD-6

Another concern results from the fact that in 2009 several locations along the lower river tested positive for enterococcus. During the last 10 years of bacteriological testing of the river there was only one positive test at Johnson's Beach in Guerneville. The test was in July 2002, the water tested positive for ecoli, but there was a documented sewage spill from Santa Rosa at the time.

NA_ZimmeD-7

COPY

Again, my preferred project maintains estuary level at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose. NA_Zimmed-8

Sincerely,

Dana Zimmerman
russianriverrat@hotmail.com
(707)869-9184

Cc: 5th District Supervisor, Efren Carrillo

Dana Zimmerman, February 4, 2011

- NA_ZimmeD-1 Commenter's name and address added to distribution list.
- NA_ZimmeD-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**, and **2.7, CEQA Statutes: Adequacy of EIR Analysis**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_ZimmeD-3 For a discussion of the relationship of the Estuary Management Project to the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project, and a discussion relevant to the comment's assertion that the change in minimum flows is intended to prevent flooding, please refer to **Master Responses 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**. Commenter is expressing preference for Reduced Project Alternative. 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_ZimmeD-4 Comment is not directed to Draft EIR analysis; no response or text changes are necessary.
- NA_ZimmeD-5 Please refer to **Master Response 2.1, Relationship to Other Biological Opinion Elements**, for a discussion related flows and **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality in Chapter 2, Master Responses**. Reducing minimum instream flows under Decision 1610 is addressed in the Draft EIR Chapter 5.0, Cumulative Analysis which concludes that recreational and water quality impacts associated with the Estuary Management Project, considered in conjunction with foreseeable effects associated with lowering flows, could result in cumulatively considerable impacts. The Draft EIR reviews and discloses potential impacts to water quality associated with implementation of the Estuary Management Project (Section 4.3, Water Quality).
- NA_ZimmeD-6 For a discussion of water quality, and analysis of best available data, please refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.
- NA_ZimmeD-7 As stated in Impact 4.3.3, Estuary Management Project implementation would not alter water quality inputs for bacteria or nutrients into the Estuary. Additionally the Water Agency does not have the authority to control inputs from other discharges. Refer to **Master Response 2.4, Water Quality**, in **Chapter 2, Master Responses**.

NA_ZimmeD-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.

Comment Letter NA_ZimmeM

Marilyn Zimmerman
16900 Neeley Rd.
Guerneville, CA 95446
February 4, 2011

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FEB - 7 2011

To: Jeane; Martini-Lamb

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

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb,

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NA_ZimmeM-1

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

NA_ZimmeM-2

My preferred project maintains estuary levels at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.

NA_ZimmeM-3

The Guerneville area provides several river side parks and installs two summer recreation dams in the lower river for residents and visitors to enjoy swimming, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and other forms of recreation. The Russian River Recreation District was established in 1941 to install summer dams for summer enjoyment of the Russian River by locals and tourists.

NA_ZimmeM-4

I am concerned about the impact to water quality from decreased water flow; including possible added pollution from nutrients, regulated and emerging toxins, bacteria, temperature, and invasive species. Reducing the flow will seriously impede the enjoyment of the river by residents and visitors to our riverside parks.

NA_ZimmeM-5

I am also 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_ZimmeM-6

Another concern results from the fact that in 2009 several locations along the lower river tested positive for enterococcus. During the last 10 years of bacteriological testing of the river there was only one positive test at Johnson's Beach in Guerneville. The test was in July 2002, the water tested positive for ecoli, but there was a documented sewage spill from Santa Rosa at the time.

NA_ZimmeM-7

Again, my preferred project maintains estuary level at 8'. No buildings would be flooded at this level, making low flow unnecessary for this purpose.

NA_ZimmeM-8

Sincerely,



Marilyn Zimmerman
russianriverrat@gmail.com
(707)529-5669

Marilyn Zimmerman, February 4, 2011

NA_ZimmeM-1 Refer to response to comment NA_ZimmeD-1.

NA_ZimmeM-2 Refer to response to comment NA_ZimmeD-2.

NA_ZimmeM-3 Refer to response to comment NA_ZimmeD-3.

NA_ZimmeM-4 Refer to response to comment NA_ZimmeD-4.

NA_ZimmeM-5 Refer to response to comment NA_ZimmeD-5.

NA_ZimmeM-6 Refer to response to comment NA_ZimmeD-6.

NA_ZimmeM-7 Refer to response to comment NA_ZimmeD-7.

NA_ZimmeM-8 Refer to response to comment NA_ZimmeD-8.

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Comment Letter NA_Zucke

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

Shula Zuckerman

(Name: Please Print)

14631 Old Cazadero Rd

(Street Address)

Guerneville

(Town)

95446

(Zip Code)

January, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Martini-Lamb:

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NA_Zucke-1

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NA_Zucke-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_Zucke-3

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NA_Zucke-4

NA_Zucke-5

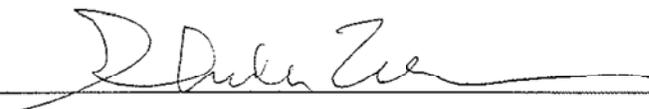
NA_Zucke-6

NA_Zucke-7

NA_Zucke-8

NA_Zucke-9

Sincerely,



(Signature)

(Date)

Shula Zuckerman, January 13, 2011

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