

**ORICK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

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December 14, 2007

North Coast Regional Water Resources Control Board  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, California 95403

Subject: Work Plan to Control Excess Sediment in Sediment-Impaired Watersheds -  
Redwood Creek Watershed

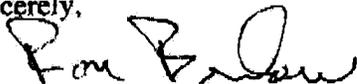
Dear Executive Officer:

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the proposed sediment control tasks for the Redwood Creek Watershed contained in the public review draft of the Excess Sediment Work Plan (dated November 14, 2007).

Orick is a small, rural community that depends on levees for protection from Redwood Creek floodwaters. Orick was hit hard by floods in 1953, 1955, and 1964 before the levees were built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It can't be emphasized enough that flood protection is extremely important to the community. Community members have been actively involved for many years trying to ensure sufficient flood protection. We attend meetings that deal with regulatory issues affecting the levees, and we roll up our sleeves during annual work days to help the County of Humboldt with levee maintenance. In addition, the Orick Community Services District is a signatory of the Redwood Creek Watershed Group, which developed an Integrated Watershed Strategy in 2006 for addressing short-term and long-term issues in the watershed.

Redwood Creek Task 1 in the draft Excess Sediment Work Plan calls for Regional Water Board staff to coordinate with the Redwood Creek Watershed Group and the Redwood Creek Landowners Association on excess sediment control efforts. We believe this is the right approach, because these groups will help ensure that sediment control efforts are developed within the overall context of the watershed and with input from local residents. However, we believe that Redwood Creek Task 3, which specifically addresses the levee system, does not sufficiently address the community's need for continued flood protection. We request that the Regional Water Board consider deleting Redwood Creek Task 3, because levee issues are included within the framework described under Redwood Creek Task 1. If Redwood Creek Task 3 is not deleted, then the task should be amended to specify that the task will be implemented in a manner that ensures continued flood protection and respects private land ownership.

Sincerely,



Ron Barlow  
Board Chair  
Orick Community Services District