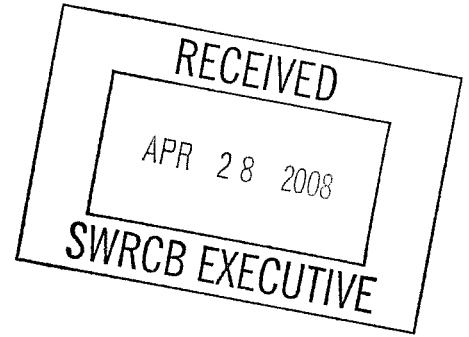




to: Vicky W. for
AB2121 file/record

Sotoyome Resource Conservation District

P.O. Box 11526 - Santa Rosa, CA 95406 - Phone: (707) 569-1448 - Fax: (707) 569-0434
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April 22, 2008

Ms. Tam Dudoc
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Sonoma County Salmonid Coalition Efforts – Watershed Approach to Determining Water Availability and Evaluating Environmental Impacts

Dear Ms. Dudoc:

The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (SRCD) works to help landowners and resource users in the northern two thirds of Sonoma County develop locally driven solutions to address a broad range of natural resource concerns, including watershed management and protection of water quality. SRCD is supportive of the Sonoma County Salmonid Coalition's efforts at developing a watershed approach to address allocation of water, as well as a habitat restoration and conservation plan for Salmonid protection in specific watersheds tributary to the Russian River. Section 12 of the *Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams (Policy)* recognizes that a "watershed approach for determining water availability and evaluating environmental impacts of multiple water diversions in a watershed may be a viable alternative to evaluating individual projects using the regionally protective criteria set forth in this policy."

The Sonoma County Salmonid Coalition (Coalition) is made up of federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over water quality and endangered species issues, local governments, private landowners, trade associations, NGO's and conservation groups. SRCD is a cooperator in the Coalition. Participation in the Coalition has provided all parties a better understanding of the inter-relatedness of Salmonid needs, agricultural needs, and potable water supply needs for our region. We recognize that urban representatives need to work closely with agricultural producers to develop a watershed approach to improve the health of our fisheries and maintain a vital economy.

The watershed approach appears to be an efficient method to comply with the proposed Policy and will bring stakeholders together, as has been done under the State's Integrated Watershed Management Plans, and as contemplated under the Farm Bill's Regional Watershed Enhancement Program. SRCD also believes that a one-size-fits-all approach to water rights is inappropriate for the climate and area of the North Coast, and asks that the Policy not be based on such an approach.

Sincerely,

Ron Rolleri, President
Board of Directors
Sotoyome Resource Conservation District