



Date

The Honorable FIRST & LAST NAME

Address

Subject: Support for New Eel-Russian Facility

Dear TITLE LAST NAME,

The Water Advisory Committee (WAC), comprised of a member of each of the respective legislative bodies of the eight Water Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District, all of which purchase water from the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) under various contracts, strongly support the Proposal submitted to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) by the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and Sonoma Water, which advances a regional solution for preserving flows and fisheries in the Russian River and improving Eel River fisheries. The eight Water Contractors include the Cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Town of Windsor, and the North Marin and Valley of the Moon Water Districts; a Director of Marin Municipal Water District is an “ex officio” WAC member.

The Water Contractors are parties to contracts with Sonoma Water to provide the overwhelming majority of the water supply for municipal and industrial purposes to over 600,000 residents of Sonoma and Marin Counties. The Water Contractors are highly dependent on Russian River water, as the region has limited local water resources and no ability to import water supplies from other regions of California. Eel River water that flows through PG&E’s Potter Valley Project facilities into the East Branch of the Russian River provides an important component of Sonoma Water’s system which delivers water to the Water Contractors.

PG&E plans to decommission its Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project, and in the absence of a proposal, end water diversions from the Eel River into the Russian River. The Proposal seeks to maintain these diversions while not delaying PG&E’s plans to remove Scott Dam and Cape Horn Dam. The proposed New Eel-Russian Facility would provide for effective and timely fish migration past the new diversion facilities while allowing water to be transferred to the Russian River when flows are high enough in the Eel River. These diversions are critical to the health of the Russian River watershed, to ongoing water supply for numerous communities in Sonoma, Mendocino and Marin counties, and to Russian River fisheries. Based on records from 1911-2017, without the Potter Valley Diversion, Lake Mendocino would have gone dry 56 out of 108 years (unless intervening measures were taken).

Russian River water users have made significant strides in reducing water use, improving water use efficiency, and developing alternative supplies (for example, Sonoma Water and its retail water customers take nearly 40 percent less water from the Russian River than they did 20 years ago, despite a growing population). However, halting the diversions, even temporarily, would directly threaten the

drinking water supply for more than 97,000 people living in Russian River communities -- and would make the drinking water supply for 600,000 additional people less reliable.

The WAC acknowledges that careful consideration needs to be given to the cost and funding required to implement the Proposal now and in the future. The California Constitution places limits on what can be included in each WAC member's retail water rates and any costs related to the continued diversion of water from the PVP must be proportionate to the benefit received by each WAC member's customers. Therefore, it is incredibly important to have your support for state and federal funding for completing the project design, environmental review and, ultimately, construction.

The lack of diverted water would cause tens of millions of dollars of economic damage per year, result in need for new and more drastic conservation measures and increased water rates, curtail needed new housing, and increase the region's vulnerability to droughts, wildfires and climate change. For these reasons, WAC hopes that we can count on your support of the Proposal now, through the regulatory process, and through completion of the project.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mike Healy, City of Petaluma Council Member
Chair
Water Advisory Committee

Federal and State Legislative Representatives

The Honorable Mike Thompson
United States House of Representatives
2300 County Center Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Dear Mr. Thompson

The Honorable Jared Huffman
United State House of Representatives
999 Fifth Ave.
San Rafael, CA 95901
Dear Mr. Huffman

The Honorable Mike McGuire
50 D Street, Suite 120A
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Dear Senator McGuire

The Honorable Bill Dodd
50 D Street, Suite 300
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Dear Senator Dodd

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
2721 Napa Valley Corporate Drive
Napa, CA 94558
Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry

The Honorable Jim Wood
50 D Street, Suite 450
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Dear Assemblymember Wood

The Honorable Damon Connolly
50 D Street, Suite 301
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Dear Assemblymember Connolly