

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

**Subject:** Presentation of Proclamation Recognizing Brenda Adelman

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**Background:**

This item has been placed on the agenda to honor Brenda Adelman, a longtime and deeply committed advocate for the Russian River and its watershed.

For several decades, Ms. Adelman was a consistent and influential presence in Sonoma County water and environmental matters. As founder and director of the Russian River Watershed Protection Committee, she played a key role in elevating public awareness of water quality issues and advocating for improved wastewater management practices throughout the region.

Ms. Adelman's work began in the 1980s in response to significant wastewater discharges into the Russian River, and she remained a steadfast voice on these issues for decades. Her advocacy, along with that of others, contributed to meaningful changes in how wastewater is managed in the watershed and helped bring greater regulatory attention and public accountability to the health of the river.

In addition to her organizational leadership, Ms. Adelman was a familiar presence at public meetings, including those of the WAC and TAC, where she provided informed, persistent, and often passionate public comment. She was widely recognized as a dedicated watchdog of government processes and a strong advocate for environmental stewardship, frequently emphasizing the long-term health of the Russian River ecosystem and the communities that depend on it.

Her approach reflected a commitment not only to advocacy, but also to public education, working to translate complex water quality and policy issues into clear, actionable understanding for the broader community. In doing so, she exemplified the important role that engaged members of the public play in strengthening local governance and resource management.

**Conclusion:**

The WAC and TAC acknowledge and appreciate Brenda Adelman's longstanding contributions to the protection of the Russian River and to the public process. This item provides an opportunity to formally recognize her legacy through presentation of the attached proclamation.

**Attached:**

- Proclamation Recognizing Brenda Adelman