

## RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

### Public Meeting

### June 26 Meeting

#### Comment Sheet Statements

- Scientific opinions by independent, academic scientist
- Identify each agency's process and regulatory requirements
- Will agencies back up their employees
- Determine inter-connecting impacts of each proposal before implementation
- Stop County from spraying along roads and polluting streams
- Mission Statement is well written – leave it as is
- Mission Statement – emphasize maintaining and enhancing
- Stop treating the river as a commodity, stop destructive practices
- All resource agencies should be included i.e.: BLM, NRCS, Park Managers – County, State, and Federal, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation, Open Space District
- Recreational Fishery – catch and release only, no spurs on hooks
- Reduce paper work for agricultural impoundment/reservoir
- Invest in “truthful” scientific information, gravel mining a factor in providing lateral flood protection
- Restrict gravel mining (concern for impact on river system)
- Tributaries need immediate attention – sewage seepage, dairy, illegal check dams, and erosion prevention
- Educating the public is important—Mission statement should refer to it (teacher involvement)
- Biologically Integrated Farming Systems must be implemented, range management
- Focus on the biological integrity of the River (in mission statement - coho and steelhead)
- Develop guideline principles for river and watershed recovery
- There must be a recommended limit to development – are the Counties' growth plans based on limits to growth
- Review similar models of watershed efforts for what works and what doesn't
- Support existing General Plans and Limited Growth Plans
- Mission Statement should state the protection of “Biotic Resources”
- Clean out channel for farming
- Print on both sides of paper
- Should set up a watershed authority – overarches other agencies to implement restoration of River's health – wild salmonid population as indicator of watershed health.
- Land use designations are critical
- Set rules to limit human impact on River –widespread acceptance and compliance with rules
- Use treated wastewater for agriculture instead of shipping out. Reduce draw on water in the tributaries
- We need to act now to save the river
- Both environmental and economic health will be the result of your efforts to improve the watershed.
- A mediator is important to the process to ensure a successful outcome

## Comments Cont'd

- Council must have the ability to make policy
- Public access to process through public outreach, web page, newspapers etc.
- Commitment from County governments to carry out Watershed Council recommendations.
- County should not issue gravel mining permits before Council looks at gravel mining impacts.
- Voting representatives including: environmentalist, property owners, agriculture, gravel, counties, cities, tax payers, fish advocates, federal and state government, water agencies, water board, others – use consensus
- Protocols for river health must be set up by the Council within the next two months
- Decision of this group has to be reflected in public policy
- Structure of group must be managed by independent party
- Have Council included as CEQA commenting entity in watershed
- River, tributary, water quality, watershed managers must work well together. RCDs don't work well together
- Will Council influence or make policy
- Merge Section 7 process with Watershed Council
- Stop destructive activities while Council formulates a management plan
- Don't pit environmental verses economic
- Include recreational interest in structure
- Maximum participation, open door policy
- Structure the Council to provide opportunity for public comment
- Ex officio - advisory, non-voting
- Public involvement is important as part of Council (no special interest groups) (organized groups O.K.), (a place for everyone to be involved) (list all known groups and let people decide).
- Council must be decision making not advisory
- Council should have their own money
- Council should have a different name – i.e.: management group
- Council should be larger – more representatives
- Primarily fisheries advocates should serve on Council
- Environmental and Economic interests should have equal weight
- Sectionalizing the river to provide personal representation by each Council members – builds trust
- Property owners must have equal voice. Consult property owners first
- Political decision-making bodies should have a seat on the Council.
- Government agencies as active participants because of veto-power
- Forestville Citizens for Sensible Growth – seat on Council (support hinges on having a seat)
- Involve Sonoma State University
- Water Agencies and Board of Supervisors have a conflict of interest – should not be on Council