



To All Interested Parties:

On August 22, at a Russian River Watershed Community Council formation meeting in Cloverdale, participants nominated individuals and/or organizations to serve as members of the newly formed interim Council. As an important stakeholder in the watershed, the Council urges your continued involvement in order to ensure credibility in the public policy arena.

The Council's proposed mission is to protect, restore, and enhance the watershed's environmental and economic values through an open community-based process. The Council will be locally led, and must represent different interests and regions in the watershed. In addition, the individuals who are on the council must be committed to long-term solutions.

The first meeting of the interim Council will occur on Saturday, September 12, 1998, at the Veterans' Memorial Hall, 205 West First Street, in Cloverdale, from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The interim Council's first task will be to establish the criteria for the membership of the Council, as well as deciding on the processes and procedure the council will use. A preliminary list of criteria is included in this packet. Another task for this meeting may be the identification of several key watershed issues that the Council would develop.

Clearly, the Council will have to develop a strategy and structure that will allow it to work effectively. One of the Council's first actions will be to assist in the development of a draft Project Study Plan (PSP) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California State Resources Agency. This draft document will be sent to the Corps' Washington, D.C. headquarters and the State for approval. Approval of the draft PSP and subsequent signing of the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement between the Corps and the State will provide Federal and State funds (on a 50/50 basis) for early Council efforts such as logistics, outreach, research studies, development of scopes of work, and other activities.

Attached please find a list of individuals and organizations nominated to comprise the interim council. To hold the Council to 64 members, we recommend that the groups that have more than sixteen members decide who will be members and who will be alternates on the interim Council prior to the

September 12 meeting. Information on the Russian River watershed and the formation of the Russian River Community Council can be found on the following web sites:

www.ceres.ca.gov/geo_area/watersheds/watershed.phtml?Russian_River
www.spn.usace.army.mil (search under: Russian River Ecosystem Restoration)

Access to the internet and the web sites is available at most local libraries.

For additional information, please contact:

Cathy Bleier, Project Manager, Calif. Dept. of Conservation at (916) 267-2667 or
Karen Rippey, Study Manager, U.S. Corps of Engineers at (415) 977-8537

We look forward to a long and productive relationship with the interim Russian River Watershed Community Council.

Sincerely,



Mike Reilly
575 Administration Dr. Rm. 100A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2887
(707) 527-2241



Richard Shoemaker
501 Low Gap Rd. Rm. 1090
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-4221