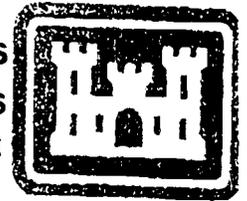




**Resources Agency
of California**

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
San Francisco District



To All Interested Parties:

The California Resources Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced in November, 1997 our intention to work with the Russian River Watershed communities, local governments, special districts, nonprofit organizations, and all other interested parties to assist in developing a community-based process to restore, protect, and enhance the quality of the Russian River Watershed.

With both counties' (Sonoma and Mendocino) expressions of support for our help this past winter and the initiation of the Corps' Endangered Species Section 7 process for the Russian River, we believe that the State and the Corps can now begin to work with the community to determine how best to pursue our common objectives in the Russian River Watershed.

The Governor's watershed efforts within California, along with federal efforts, support the development of an ecosystem approach to water and related land resources planning that balances environmental values, beneficial uses, and economic activities. It is widely recognized that to achieve this balance the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders is required.

Therefore, your help in developing and implementing the Russian River Watershed planning effort is crucial. Ultimately, the organization which will be responsible for this effort will depend upon individuals within the community to make community-based decisions with the policy, logistical, and technical support of the State, Federal, and local governments. It is critical that we work together to reshape the Russian River Watershed for future generations.

In order to for us to determine how best to proceed in a community-based process, we invite you to meet with us at Piner High School, 700 Fulton Road, Santa Rosa, on June 26, 1998, at 9:00 a.m. A meeting agenda is attached to this notice, as well as a draft of a proposed mission statement and structure. You can see from the agenda that the State, Federal, and local government entities who have initiated this process look forward to an active and productive discussion about the process, its goals, and its organization. We look forward to discussing ways to initiate this effort on the 26th.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Wheeler
Resources Secretary


Richard G. Thompson, Lieutenant Colonel
Corps of Engineers, District Engineer