

MOU REQUEST

LETTER SENT TO THE STATE

Budget/MOU Committee
Russian River Watershed Council

Maria Rea
Assistant Secretary, Watershed and Salmon Restoration:
Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Friday, October 01, 1999

Dear Ms. Rea,

The MOU/Budget Committee of the Russian River Watershed Council has recently formulated the following core elements for a Memorandum of Understanding between the State of California and the RRWC. These are the results of a consultative process; meetings convened for the purpose of defining these anchor tenants were comprised of members from the Public, Economic, and Environmental caucuses of the Watershed Council, and which included many members of the Steering Committee of the RRWC.

We seek an agreement in principle which can be enunciated in a few brief sentences and which will demonstrate a clear and unquestionable link between the RRWC and the State. This enabling language will dispel any lingering questions about the intent of the State in its dealings with the RRWC, as well as convey a faith in the potential tendered by this grassroots organization.

As we build community cooperation in working with the larger question on watershed management and viability we want to offer a sense of security to all participants. This agreement—these words indicating the intent of all to engage in an affirming and sustaining manner—will go far towards dispelling lingering concerns about the motives and nature of our proposed partnership.

Please keep in mind that this is only a draft. These recommendations are the elements we see as keys to grounding a durable relationship, but we recognize that there may be a need for flexibility and we are willing to respond to that necessity. We ask for your guidance in formalizing this document in the shortest possible time so that we can get on with the business of remedying the multiple ills which plague the Russian River watershed.

This Committee has also formulated a revised budget proposal which will be presented to the RRWC at its next meeting, together with an MOU and with the recommendations of the RRWC Structure/Rules Committee.

Recommendations of the MOU/Budget Committee:

- * That the Executive Committee of the RRWC will take no action not duly authorized by the RRWC, and shall act in accordance with directives of the RRWC,
- * That Council members of the RRWC Executive Committee are voting members of that Committee,

- * That there shall be 45 days notice for items brought for a vote to the RRWC, unless this time limit is waived or modified by a vote of RRWC,

- * That there shall be an annual review by the RRWC of the Project Study Plan of the RRWC and the USACE, including a review of Executive Committee structure,

- * That the actions of the partners (i.e., the State, the USACE, and the RRWC) in the business of the RRWC shall be consistent with the Mission of the RRWC,

- * That the FCSA shall reference the MOU between the State and the RRWC (e.g., in Article 1-E, Definitions),

- * That State funds given directly to RRWC or RRWC-directed recipients may count for federal cost sharing purposes without those funds going through the Corps (e.g., per Sonoma Baylands),

- * That the State shall support the RRWC's efforts to obtain independent legal status, multiple partnerships and varied funding sources, and/or

- * That the MOU establishes RRWC as a "recognized entity" under federal, state and local grant programs, thus enabling RRWC to receive & direct funds from a variety of agencies & programs,

- * That the RRWC and its governmental partners shall maintain good lines of communication and open sharing of information relevant to the Council's mission and functioning. This Committee has also formulated, and will shortly be refining, a revised budget proposal which will be presented to the RRWC for consideration at its next meeting.

Thank you for your assistance. We hope that this Committee may send a delegation to visit you for further discussion, and that you may soon find an opportunity to explore the River as our guest.

Respectfully,

RRWC Budget/MOU Committee

Jay Halcomb, Coordinator
Pamela Netzow
Rusty Klassen
Tim Derry
Nikki Barratt
Joan Vilms
Tim Buckner
Will McAfee

Cc: Karen Rippey, USACE