

**Mendocino County**  
**Inland Water and Power Commission**  
**P.O. Box 1247**  
**Ukiah, CA 95469**  
**<iwpc@mendoiwpc.com>**

July 31, 2010

Mr. Clif Clendenen, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors, Humboldt County  
825 5th Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Chairman Clendenen,

The Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, a Joint Powers Authority whose member agencies include the County of Mendocino, City of Ukiah, Redwood Valley County Water District, Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District and the Potter Valley Irrigation District, wish to thank you for comments made in your letter to the State Water Resources Control Board dated April 27, 2010.

Specifically, your summation statement that; "The Board supports a comprehensive approach to the management of water in both the Eel and Russian River basins that includes prioritizing fisheries while recognizing historical municipal, recreational and agricultural uses of the diverted Eel River water in the Russian River", was greatly appreciated by those of us dependent upon the Potter Valley Project for our water supply.

We were also very pleased with the positive dialogue of the last Eel Russian River Commission meeting held in Ukiah on July 1, 2010. Over the many years that Humboldt and Mendocino Counties have been engaged in an exchange of views regarding the Potter Valley Project, it is refreshing now to have had a very positive, and constructive, discussion of the issues.

Your comment, in the letter to the State Water Resources Control Board, that Humboldt County has never received any benefits from the diversion, did not go unnoticed. We believe Humboldt County should "receive a benefit" for their acknowledgement of the importance of the Potter Valley Project to Mendocino and Sonoma Counties.

We understand that the Potter Valley project has had an impact on the Eel River. However, it is our hope that Humboldt County understands the efforts that have been undertaken, by fishery agencies, PG&E, FERC and all of the interveners involved in the thirty eight year process, to make the Potter Valley Project as invisible to the environment as possible. Key to the ability of our counties to work together will be our willingness to accurately put the impact of the Potter Valley Project into perspective.

Our two counties could benefit greatly from forging a strong alliance with the specific goal of protecting our shared Eel River resources. We understand that there is already an entity, the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Policy/Technical Review Panel, in place. Perhaps a subcommittee of this entity could be formed that would be concerned specifically with the Eel River watershed. The strength of this distinct regional alliance would be enhanced with the inclusion of Trinity, Lake and Sonoma Counties. All of these counties have a stake in the Eel River. Geographically we are united, but we are going to need a strong unified voice to protect the Eel River into the future. We would like to think that Humboldt County agrees that they would benefit significantly from a, well-founded and resource based, alliance with Mendocino County, and the other concerned counties, to protect the Eel River watershed.

We look forward to a discussion and progress towards that goal.

Sincerely,



Janet K.F. Pauli, Chair

Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission

cc: Jim Smith, Supervisor, Humboldt County  
Commissioners, Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission