



# RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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## Guidance Policy for Interim Comment Statements

On May 2, 2013, the RRWA Board of Directors adopted a policy that guides the process for comment statements between regularly scheduled Board meetings. RRWA staff and member agencies' staff regularly monitor and recommend comment on local, state and federal actions that may affect our Goals and Objectives (attached). These actions include regulations, funding, and legislative bills.

The RRWA Board typically reviews and approves comment letters and support statements at their regularly scheduled meetings when the timing of the initiative allows for this review. Very often, comment periods do not coincide with the RRWA Board meeting schedule. The following is the adopted Guidance Policy for Interim Comment Statements.

- 1) RRWA Staff, in consultation with staff of affected member agencies, will develop a draft Interim Comment Statement for review by the RRWA Board Chair and/or Vice Chair.
- 2) The Chair and/or Vice-Chair will confer with RRWA Board members from affected member agencies on an ad hoc basis when necessary. The number of Board members involved in this ad hoc advisory discussion will be less than a quorum of the full Board.
- 3) RRWA staff will prepare a final Interim Comment Statement for signature of the Chair or Vice Chair.
- 4) The statement will be copied to the full Board when it is submitted.
- 5) The full Board will review the Interim Comment Statement at the next regular meeting of the RRWA Board, and may choose to make the statement a comment of the full Board by submitting a subsequent statement to this effect.

Attachment: RRWA Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives

# Memorandum of Understanding Creating The Russian River Watershed Association

## Exhibit C

### Mission Statement

Facilitate partnerships across political boundaries that promote stewardship of the Russian River watershed resources.

### Goals & Objectives

**Goal #1: Bring together counties, cities and local agencies to work cooperatively and effectively on issues of common interest.**

#### Objectives:

1. Promote the development and implementation of cooperative restoration and protection efforts throughout the watershed.
2. Promote a regional alliance that supplements local government programs.

**Goal #2: Be proactive on watershed-based regulation, which increasingly affects areas beyond traditional political boundaries.**

#### Objectives:

1. Increase the knowledge and experience base of local agencies in responding to regulatory actions.
2. Develop a unified voice for the Russian River cities and public agencies pertinent to existing regulations.
3. Monitor legislation and take positions on behalf of the Russian River cities and public agencies.

**Goal#3: Work cooperatively to increase eligibility for watershed based funding.**

#### Objectives:

1. Develop joint proposals for funding.
2. Leverage the strength of public support for local, state, federal, and other funding.
3. Support programs that implement the mission & goals of the Russian River cities and public agencies

**Goal#4: Maximize effective use of resources.**

#### Objectives:

1. Efficiently share expenses by leveraging limited funding on coordinated efforts.
2. Efficiently share information and increase communication among participants.
3. Undertake a cooperative education program.

**Goal#5: Enhance the Association's influence on local, state, and federal policies and programs.**

Objectives:

1. Speak with a unified voice representing interests of the Russian River area .
2. Develop liaisons and communicate effectively with key officials.

**Goal#6: Educate communities about the importance of watershed stewardship.**

Objectives:

1. Increase education on the importance of habitat restoration and protection and implementation of sustainability concepts.
2. Conduct outreach that attracts volunteers to cooperative programs.
3. Increase public awareness on the values of holistic planning.
4. Serve as an informational clearinghouse – repository of information to provide collective presentation of ecosystem stewardship values.