



March 13, 2009

Mr. Keenan Foster
Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Subject: Stream Maintenance Program Draft EIR Comments

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Ukiah
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

DAVE RICHARDSON
Executive Director

300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 833-2553

Dear Mr. Foster:

The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is an association of local public agencies in the Russian River Watershed that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, fisheries restoration, and watershed enhancement. Several member agencies rely on drainage channels that would be managed under the proposed Stream Maintenance Program.

RRWA congratulates SCWA on its efforts to address stream maintenance at a programmatic level. The Draft Stream Maintenance Program Manual and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) represent substantial progress toward a proper balance of drainage, habitat and water quality protection. The proposed partnership with the City of Santa Rosa to provide appropriate disposal of sediment removed from channels is an especially promising model for agency cooperation to address environmental issues of mutual interest.

We offer the following specific comments on the Draft EIR:

- As part of SCWA's maintenance activities, is there flexibility in involving the community in cleanup efforts in these waterways? This could be considered a beneficial impact and help meet requirements in both the Draft Phase 1 MS4 Permit and Draft Phase 2 NPDES Permit.

Additionally, RRWA feels that the process for outreach to agencies affected by the Stream Maintenance Program has been inclusive and beneficial, with SCWA undertaking a large effort to help agencies understand the programmatic approach and details of the Program, and allowing their concerns and ideas to be discussed and incorporated into the Draft EIR. Our member agencies appreciate this extra effort on SCWA's part to further their understanding and consider their needs in the Stream Maintenance Program.

Sincerely,

Jake Mackenzie, Chair, RRWA Board of Directors
Russian River Watershed Association, www.rrwatershed.org