



California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region



Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

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CITY OF ST. HELENA

Mr. Myke Praul, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
City of St. Helena
City Hall, 1480 Main Street
St. Helena, CA 94574

Subject: City of St Helena Comprehensive Flood Protection Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (SC#2002012078)

Dear Mr. Praul:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the proposed St. Helena Comprehensive Flood Protection Project. The proposed project involves developing and implementing a plan to reduce flood damage along approximately 9,500 feet of the Napa River in the City of St Helena (City) and Napa County.

We are pleased with the changes that the City has incorporated into the RDEIR in response to our March 17, 2003 comments on the DEIR. We recognize the substantial level of effort the City has put forth for this project and commend the City for this effort. We believe the preferred alternative proposed in the RDEIR, the Enhanced Minimum Plan (EMP), would vastly improve existing conditions and go a long way toward accomplishing the multi-objective approach we discussed in our previous comments, i.e., to restore a healthy stream ecosystem while providing flood control benefits to the community.

We endorse the recent comments provided to you by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), particularly regarding issues such as impediments to fish passage, habitat complexity and sediment transport in the proposed terraces. We believe these issues can be resolved during the regulatory process, e.g. during consultation with NMFS, and through the adaptive management process. Therefore, we encourage the City to move forward with the project, as we believe it will provide an overall benefit to the environment.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments on the RDEIR for the proposed flood control project. We look forward to working with you during permitting process in order to obtain an environmentally superior project that is effective in managing flood risk as well as protecting the beneficial uses of the Napa River.

Sincerely,

Tobi L. Tyler
Tobi L. Tyler
North Bay Watershed Division

Cc: Maura Eagan, NMFS, SW Region, 777 Sonoma Ave., Rm. 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Peter Straub and Karen Rippey, USCOE, San Francisco
Dave Dickson and Nancy Weiss, MIG, 800 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, CA 94710