



## Salmonid Restoration Federation

June 10, 2008

Martha Spencer  
Senior Planner, Planning Division  
Community Development Services  
3015 H. St  
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Ms. Spencer,

Salmonid Restoration Federation is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting salmonid recovery through education, outreach, and advocacy. SRF is based in Humboldt County and we have been involved in habitat restoration training in this county for over 25 years. SRF is pleased to support the citizen-developed set of comments for inclusion in development of the Humboldt County General Plan Update submitted by Trees Foundation and we have additional suggestions that would benefit salmon recovery efforts.

We believe that incorporation of these goals will help limit the impacts of existing and future rural residential development on the environment while sustaining both rural lifestyles and natural resources. These amendments will improve land use and resource management in areas zoned for rural residential development, as well as for small non-industrial timber production parcels. SRF is especially concerned about encouraging aquaculture and mariculture as it says in item WR-S9 C because of the known perils of fish farming and its impact on wild stocks.

Within rural residential communities there is a proliferating network of community-based groups and non-governmental organizations representing incredible commitment, community cohesiveness and tens of millions of grant and cost share dollars invested. The Humboldt County General Plan must build upon and support the success of these watershed planning and resource stewardship efforts.

SRF supports the goal to create a County program of stewardship incentives encouraging and supporting rural residential landowners in taking collective and individual actions to sustain, restore and conserve natural resources under private ownership. We also support the creation of community-based planning processes appropriate to the structure of rural residential communities guiding implementation of the general plan at the watershed sub-basin level.

We believe that reducing sources of potential pollution, would require the creation of ordinances to address sources of toxic run-off, as well as transportation, storage, and receptacles of toxics.

Here are some specific recommendations to integrate into the proposed Watershed Resources tasks:

**WR-P5.** Projects and ministerial actions, including building permits, must provide evidence of water availability and DFG LSAA if required prior to recordation of map.\* (3361.5)

**WR-P12.** Rivers, streams, ponds, and wetlands shall be integrated into new development in such a way that they enhance the aesthetic and natural character and the ecosystem functions of the site while disturbance to the resource is avoided or minimized and fragmentation is limited.

**WR-P18.** Continue to support local storm water and community watershed group efforts to inform the public about and implement practices and programs to minimize water pollution and restore watersheds and salmonid and other fisheries and aquatic wildlife habitat.

**WR-P20.** The availability of groundwater should be used as a prime factor in determining the desirable amount of residential development in a particular area and should be regionally determined by a groundwater management plan in order to protect groundwater resources from depletion or contamination, or depletion of surface flows. (3361.5)

**WR-P23.** Be willing to modify policies and programs as new information becomes available through recommendations from groundwater management plans...

**WR-P26.** Require consideration of naturally occurring and human caused contaminants in groundwater in new development projects. Work with the NCRWQCB, watershed groups and others to educate the public on evaluating the quality of groundwater through integrative basin-level groundwater management planning.

**WR-P51** Encourage community-based watershed groups and groundwater management plans to support research and monitoring of local ground water conditions, aquifer recharge, watersheds and streams.

**WR-P28.** Support to the extent feasible the actions and facilities needed by public water systems to supply water sufficient to meet the demands which are estimated in adopted master facilities plans, consistent with adopted general plans, urban water management plans, watershed management plans and the sustainable yields of the available resources and in a manner protective of the natural environment. Plans should also consider the seasonality of the water supply and the effects of climate change. Policies for public services need to recognize that water sources are frequently dependent upon watershed management upstream.

**WR-P29.** Assist public water suppliers in assuring that proposed water supplies and facilities, including adequate storage, are consistent with adopted general plans, that all planning jurisdictions are notified of and consider potential water supply deficiencies, particularly on a seasonal basis, during the preparation of such plans, and that adopted general plans accurately reflect secure water sources consistent with watershed management principles.

**WR-G4.** Increase the roles of conservation, storage, and safe, beneficial recharge and re-use in meeting water supply needs of both urban and rural users. Utilize natural bioremediation systems such as the Arcata Marsh.

Sincerely,

Dana Stolzman  
Executive Director  
Salmonid Restoration Federation