

# Water Resources Element Comments

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I had hoped to make these comments in person, but I fractured my leg and am wheelchair limited for a few more weeks. This room is not currently wheelchair accessible hence my written comments.

The Water Resources Technical Plan and Chapter 13; The Water Resources Element are comprehensive and well written. The staff should be commended for this undertaking.

I am not knowledgeable enough to know if these plan documents meet the technical and legal requirements to enact a workable long term plan. I would suggest that these documents be reviewed by the Department of Water Resources prior to their adoption. There also may be an opportunity for state funding assistance from the DWR.

My vision for the Humboldt County Water Plan is that current and future citizens of Humboldt County be made to live within our water means thereby avoiding the problems of water shortages that are now becoming widespread in much of California. In spite of many hugely expensive water projects, many people and many areas of California are running out of water with no solution in site. Because of the foresight of our Humboldt County predecessors and our climate, most of Humboldt County has an adequate water supply. There are some notable exceptions that are worth looking at in more detail.

40 years ago the Kneeland Area was mostly open grassland and timberland. The old ranch homes were all sited near year round water sources. The Indians and homesteaders understood the necessity of water. Much of this area has now been subdivided with many new homes. Many of these new homes run out of water in the fall; their wells and springs run dry.

Likewise the Mattole Watershed has been overpopulated resulting in severe water shortages. In spite of millions of dollars spent on restoration efforts, Mattole salmonids remain imperiled. Because of tributary water diversions and ground water over utilization for domestic use, for much of the year there is no water flow in the Mattole River to the detriment of the salmonids. Efforts are now underway to distribute large water tanks to capture winter rains for dry time use thereby allowing tributaries to fill the river during critical dry periods.

I hope the Humboldt County Water Plan would:

1. Assess the water available in the watersheds.
2. Determine the volume necessary for ground water replacement and surface runoff.
3. Determine the natural loss (evaporation, etc.)
4. Determine the volume necessary for a healthy in stream life (fish, aquatic life, etc.)
5. Measure the current domestic usage.
6. Calculate the available water.
7. Limit the population based on water availability.