



HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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CAROL RISCHE

December 10, 2014

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 5th Street, Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: GPU Mineral Resource Element - Goal MR-G2

Dear Supervisors,

In late October, we shared our interest and concerns regarding changes that were made to Mineral Resource Goal MR-G2 at your September 22nd meeting. Thank you for bringing this goal back for consideration – we very much appreciate it.

Goal MR-G2 was modified and approved by a straw vote as follows:

In-stream Sand and Gravel Extraction. Continued supplies of in-stream sand and gravel using extraction methods and rates that are consistent with state and federal endangered species regulations. Where possible, extraction can should take place in manner beneficial to endangered or threatened species. ~~support threatened or endangered species recovery, protect riparian corridors and preserve existing river bed elevations.~~

As previously communicated, we are not opposed to mining on the Mad River. Our concern centers on removing preservation of the existing river bed elevation.

We contacted the gravel operators on the Mad River (Mercer Fraser and Eureka Ready Mix) to discuss this matter. We better understand their concern with the goal as originally drafted. We would like to come to agreement with them on a mutually acceptable goal. To that end, we drafted two options for their consideration and feedback. We believe they are in agreement with the following goal, but as of this writing have not received final confirmation:

In-stream Sand and Gravel Extraction - Continued supplies of in-stream sand and gravel using extraction methods and rates that are consistent with state and federal endangered species regulations, and preserve the natural bed-level elevation upstream and downstream of extraction sites. Where possible, extraction should take place in a manner beneficial to endangered or threatened species.

Earlier this week, we learned that County Planning staff is proposing addition of the following policy statement:

MR-P13. Protection of In-stream Water Collection and Transmission Facilities on the Mad River.

Prescribed sand and gravel extraction rates shall not cause channel bed degradation to levels that adversely impact public infrastructure.

The District appreciates and concurs with this addition.

We will attend the December 15th GPU Hearing to present our recommendation and/or answer questions.

Sincerely,



Carol Rische
General Manager

cc: Justin Zabel and Mark Benzinger, Mercer-Fraser
Paul Krause, Eureka Ready Mix
Kevin Hamblin, Michael Wheeler, Humboldt County Planning Department
John Winzler, GHD, District Engineer