

November 5, 2019

California Department of Water Resources  
Financial Assistance Branch  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Project: Eel River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Monitoring Well Installation Project,  
Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Planning Grants (Prop. 68, Round 3)

Dear DWR Grant Application Review Team:

On behalf of the City of Fortuna ("City"), I am writing to express support for Humboldt County's proposal to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") for the Eel River Valley groundwater basin. Groundwater is an essential natural resource that provides the drinking water source for the City of Fortuna's 12,000 residents and other communities in the valley as well as supplying water for agricultural irrigation and serving to replenish interconnected surface waters. The City is the largest municipal water provider in the basin and has been actively involved in the Eel River Valley Groundwater Working Group since the group was convened by Humboldt County in 2015. We supported Humboldt County in the preparation of a GSP Alternative for the basin, which was ultimately disapproved by DWR. We will participate in the upcoming discussions regarding the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") and will support Humboldt County and/or the GSA in the preparation of a regular GSP with funding from Prop. 68 Round 3. We will ensure that the interests of our residents are represented in the GSP and will support implementation of the GSP to ensure that sustainable groundwater is maintained into the future.

The entire Eel River Valley is economically disadvantaged based on median household income. The cost of acquiring the required data and information and performing the required technical studies and modeling to develop the GSP greatly exceeds the capacity of Humboldt County and our water users. We appreciate DWR's consideration of Prop. 68 funding to support preparation of a GSP for our basin.

Sincerely,



Merritt Perry, City Manager

City Hall  
(707) 725-7600  
Fax (707) 725-7610  
621 11th Street

Police Department  
(707) 725-7550  
Fax (707) 725-7574  
621 11th Street

Parks and Recreation  
(707) 725-7620  
Fax (707) 725-7576  
5 Park Street

Public Works  
(707) 725-7650  
Fax (707) 725-7651  
180 Dinsmore Drive



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*Rio Dell City Hall  
675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA 95562  
(707) 764-3532  
cityofriodell.ca.gov*

October 30, 2019

California Department of Water Resources  
Financial Assistance Branch  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Project: Eel River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Monitoring Well Installation Project, Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Planning Grants (Prop. 68, Round 3)

Dear DWR Grant Application Review Team:

On behalf of the City of Rio Dell, I am writing to express support for Humboldt County's grant application for funding to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Eel River Valley groundwater basin. Our 3,400 residents rely on groundwater as the emergency source of drinking water (infiltration galleries from the bed of the Eel River are the City's primary source). The City of Rio Dell has been actively involved in the Eel River Valley Groundwater Working Group since the group was convened in 2015. We supported Humboldt County in the preparation of a GSP Alternative for the basin, which was ultimately disapproved by DWR. Now we are ready to participate in discussions regarding formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency and to support preparation of a regular GSP.

The cost of the supporting data and studies to develop the GSP greatly exceeds the capacity of Humboldt County and the communities within the basin. The entire Eel River Valley is economically disadvantaged and the water users in the basin do not have the resources to fund the development of the GSP. We appreciate Humboldt County taking the lead in organizing our local response to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and we appreciate DWR's consideration of Prop. 68 funding to support preparation of a GSP for our basin.

Sincerely,

Kyle Knopp, City Manager

Palmer Creek CSD  
P.O. Box 309  
Fortuna, CA 95540

October 25, 2019

California Department of Water Resources  
Financial Assistance Branch  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001


Project: Eel River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Monitoring Well Installation Project,  
Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Planning Grants (Prop. 68, Round 3)

Dear DWR Grant Application Review Team:

Palmer Creek Community Services District supports Humboldt County's grant application for funding to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Eel River Valley groundwater basin. Palmer Creek CSD is a small water supplier with approximately 120 connections. We have been actively involved in the Eel River Valley Groundwater Working Group since the group was convened in 2015. We supported Humboldt County in the preparation of a GSP Alternative for the basin, which was ultimately disapproved by DWR. Now we are ready to participate in discussions regarding formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency and to support preparation of a regular GSP.

The cost of the supporting data and studies to develop the GSP greatly exceeds the capacity of Humboldt County and the communities within the basin. The entire Eel River Valley is economically disadvantaged and the water users in the basin do not have the resources to fund the development of the GSP. We appreciate Humboldt County taking the lead in organizing our local response to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and we appreciate DWR's consideration of Prop. 68 funding to support preparation of a GSP for our basin.

Sincerely,



Kevin Farmer, Operations Manager

cc. Palmer Creek Community Services District Board of Directors

**BEAR RIVER BAND of the ROHNERVILLE RANCHERIA**  
266 KEISNER RD LOLETA, CA 95551-9707 PHONE 707-733-1900 FAX 707-733-1723



November 8, 2019

California Department of Water Resources  
Financial Assistance Branch  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Project: Eel River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Monitoring Well Installation  
Project, Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Planning Grants (Round 3)

Dear DWR Grant Application Review Team:

On behalf of the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, I am writing to express support for Humboldt County's application for funds to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Eel River Valley groundwater basin.

The mission of the Bear River is to promote balance between quality of life, self-sufficiency, sustainability and cultural awareness for our tribal members. Groundwater is an essential natural resource that provides the drinking water source for the Tribe's residential areas, community centers, and businesses. Bear River's Rancheria is situated within the boundary of the Eel River Valley groundwater basin, on a hillslope overlooking the valley.

Bear River has a strong working relationship with Humboldt County on natural resource issues through our collaborative work on the North Coast Resource Partnership. Bear River supports Humboldt County's efforts to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and coordinate with water users and stakeholders to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the basin. Bear River will participate in upcoming discussions regarding the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency and will ensure that the interests of the Tribe are represented in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. We are aware of DWR's Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater – Engagement with Tribal Governments (June 2017) and expect that Humboldt County will conform to this document.

The cost of performing the required technical studies and modeling to develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan greatly exceed the capacity of Humboldt County and the water users within the basin. We appreciate DWR's consideration of funding to support this important work.

Sincerely,

Edwin Smith  
Vice-Chairperson  
Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria



# Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

5630 South Broadway Eureka, CA 95503

Phone (707) 442-6058 Ext. 5

hercd@yahoo.com

13 November 2019

California Department of Water Resources  
Financial Assistance Branch  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Project: Eel River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Monitoring Well Installation Project, Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Planning Grants (Prop. 68, Round 3)

Dear DWR Grant Application Review Team:

The mission of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (RCD) is to enhance and improve the sustainability of natural resources in an economically viable manner. The district was originally formed in 1987 as the Eel River RCD and expanded county-wide in 1993. Two of the Humboldt RCD's key goals are supporting viable agricultural operations and achieving improvements in water quality and quantity through comprehensive assistance to land managers. A primary focus of the Humboldt County RCD's work is to assist private landowners in voluntary planning, design, and installation of soil and water conservation practices. The Humboldt County RCD has a longstanding cooperative partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

In 2016, the Humboldt County RCD assisted the Humboldt County Department of Public Works by developing an irrigation water use study for the Eel River Valley groundwater basin. This study mapped and quantified irrigated acreage and develop an empirical estimate of irrigation water use based on data collection and interviews with local equipment suppliers, producers, and professionals from NRCS and U.C. Cooperative Extension. In addition, the Humboldt County RCD assisted Humboldt County with landowner coordination for access to private wells and has been an active participant in the Eel River Valley Groundwater Working Group. In 2018, the Humboldt County RCD began coordinating with DWR, Humboldt County, and a private landowner to install a California Irrigation and Management Information System (CIMIS) weather station in the Eel River Valley basin. This CIMIS weather station became operational in August 2019.



# Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

5630 South Broadway Eureka, CA 95503

Phone (707) 442-6058 Ext. 5

hercd@yahoo.com

The Humboldt County RCD supports Humboldt County's application for grant funding to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Eel River Valley groundwater basin.

We understand that Humboldt County has incorporated funds within the budget for the Humboldt County RCD to assist with landowner engagement and outreach, land and water use assessment, data collection, and other tasks related to development of the GSP. The Humboldt County RCD looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Humboldt County, DWR, and the agricultural producers of the Eel River Valley to support sustainable groundwater management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jill Demers", is written over a light gray grid background.

Jill Demers

Executive Director

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

Eureka, CA 95503



# United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

**California Water Science Center  
4165 Spruance Road  
Suite 200**

**San Diego, California 92101-0812**

**Phone: (619) 225-6100 Fax: (619) 225-6101**

**<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ca-water/>**

November 14, 2019

California Department of Water Resources  
Financial Assistance Branch  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**Project:** Eel River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Monitoring Well Installation Project

**Funding:** Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Planning Grants (Round 3)

To Whom it may concern,

The USGS is conducting the Regional Groundwater Availability Study of the California Coastal Basins, which includes the Eel River Valley groundwater basin. Work on this project began in 2017 and initial work products will be available in mid-2020. Work products will include the data release of hydrogeologic framework models, groundwater flow simulations and a research article. We believe these work products from this study will provide substantial benefit to Humboldt County and the future Eel River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency in complying with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Humboldt County has requested that USGS provide technical assistance as a collaborating partner on the Eel River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Monitoring Well Installation Project and has allocated funds in their grant application budget to fund USGS staff in this role. We confirm that we will provide this technical support contingent upon developing a technical assistance agreement with Humboldt County. We will also explore the possibility of providing cooperative matching funds to expand the USGS' ability to participate in this project.

Sincerely,

Zachary P. Stanko, Ph.D.  
Hydrologist  
USGS California Water Science Center  
4165 Spruance Rd., Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Office: (619) 225 – 6448  
Email: [zstanko@usgs.gov](mailto:zstanko@usgs.gov)