

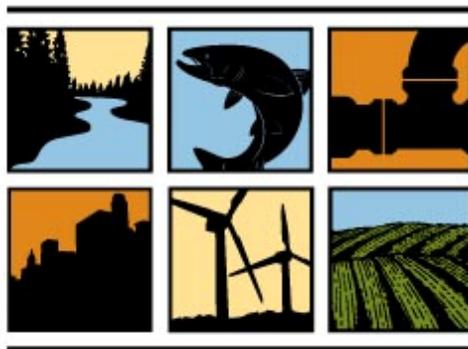


NORTH COAST INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Implementation Grant Proposal
Proposition 84, Round 2**

**ATTACHMENT 10:
Disadvantaged Community Assistance**

**Integrated Regional Water Management Program
Applicant: Humboldt County**



North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Proposition 84, Round 2 Implementation Grant

Attachment 10. Disadvantaged Community Assistance

A. Documentation of the Presence of Economically Disadvantaged Communities

Methodology

Using a geographic information system (GIS), median household income (MHI) and total population census tract* and place* data derived from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) compiled for the 5-year period 2006-2010 were used to determine disadvantaged communities in the North Coast Region. Both categories of census geographies were used because of the largely rural character of much of Northern California. These data were made available by DWR on the Resources & Links webpage at <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resourceslinks.cfm>.

MHI census tract¹ data was used to determine which tracts contained disadvantaged communities. MHI census place² data was overlaid upon the tract data and determined which places contained

¹ *Census tract*

A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county delineated by a local committee of census data users for the purpose of presenting data. Census tract boundaries normally follow visible features, but may follow governmental unit boundaries and other non-visible features in some instances; they always nest within counties. Designed to be relatively homogeneous units with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions at the time of establishment, census tracts average about 4,000 inhabitants. They may be split by any sub-county geographic entity.

² *Place*

A concentration of population either legally bounded as an incorporated place, or identified as a Census Designated Place (CDP) including comunidades and zonas urbanas in Puerto Rico. Incorporated places have legal descriptions of borough (except in Alaska and New York), city, town (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), or village. Definitions from the glossary of the US Census Bureau

Factfinder website (Available at:

http://factfinder2.census.gov/help/en/american_factfinder_help.htm#glossary/glossary.htm)

disadvantaged communities. Non-disadvantaged places located within disadvantaged census tracts were clipped out of the tract and that place's population was subtracted from the disadvantaged tract's population. Also, in some instances, places that were disadvantaged occurred within tracts that were not disadvantaged. In these cases, the place's population was added to the total disadvantaged community population. Disadvantaged communities were identified as those communities – either places or tracts - with an MHI of less than \$48,706, which is 80% of the statewide MHI per the Proposition 84 and 1E IRWM Guidelines.

The ACS Census data (2006 – 10) indicate that 88% percent of the region's geographic area is considered economically disadvantaged, as defined by the IRWM Proposition 84 Guidelines and 57% is considered severely economically disadvantaged as defined by the California Department of Conservation³ (see *North Coast Priority Project Locations and Economically Disadvantaged Communities Map*). The 2006 – 2010 ACS data show that the MHI of the North Coast region was \$48,706, significantly below the MHI for the state, which was \$60,883 per year for this date range.

All thirteen projects in this Proposal are entirely or partially located within DACs (see *Table 10.2 NCIRWMP Proposition 84, Round 2 Projects which Provide Benefits to DACs and North Coast IRWMP Priority Project Locations and Economically Disadvantaged Communities Map*). All of the proposal projects provide some level of benefits to DACs in the form of increased use of local labor and materials and implementation of a beneficial water supply or quality improvement project. However, a number projects provide very specific beneficial effects to water supply and quality; these are presented in detail in the following section.

B. Description of Critical Water Related Need and Targeted Benefits to DACs

Critical Water Supply and Water Quality Needs Summary

As part of the NCIRWMP long-term planning and technical project evaluation and selection process, the NCIRWMP Technical Peer Review Committee prioritized projects that addressed public health issues in disadvantaged communities. While all of the Priority Projects benefit disadvantaged communities, five address serious issues related to drinking water supply and water quality in disadvantaged communities. Three of these address critical needs of a DAC as defined by the IRWM Guidelines and can be classified as California Department of Public Health Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund ranking categories B or E. (*Table 10.1, NCIRWMP Proposition 84, Round 2 Critical Water Supply and Water Quality Projects*). Letters of Support from the three critical water supply and water quality projects from a representative of the disadvantaged community that the project will benefit are included in this attachment as Appendix A, NCIRWMP Proposition 84 Round 2 Implementation Critical Water Supply and Water Quality Projects Letters of Support.

³ The California Department of Conservation defines a “severely disadvantaged community” as a community with a median household income (MHI) that is less than 60% of the statewide annual MHI. www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wp/grants/Documents/Appendix%20F%20Economically%20Disadvantaged%20Communities.doc

Table 10.1. NCIRWMP Proposition 84, Round 2 Critical Water Supply and Water Quality Projects	
Project Summary	State Revolving Fund (SRF) Category
<p>101 - Big Rock Community Services District, Stabilize Water Storage Tank</p> <p>Big Rock CSD’s project will stabilize the system’s 100,000 gallon water storage tank and foundation before the fill under the tank fails, causing a massive landslide that would take out the CSD’s water system as well as homes, portions of Highway 99, and eventually reach the Smith River. The tank is at the end of its useful life and is in need of replacement; addressing this need before pad failure will avert probable human injury, loss of life, infrastructure destruction, reduced firefighting capacity, closure of a vital evacuation route, potential degradation of the Smith River, and damage to utility lines feeding two of five townships in the county.</p>	<p>SRF Category E: Water systems with (1) water outages; (2) significant water quantity problems caused by source water capacity; or (3) water delivery capability that is insufficient to supply current demand. Where an independent engineering evaluation demonstrates that the water system’s existing sources cannot supply the current demand without creating significant water quantity problems.</p>
<p>421 - Siskiyou County, Septage Pond Closure</p> <p>In Siskiyou County, a septage receiving pond near the Montague airport is not under permit from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and has been advised by the Board to “take immediate steps to cease accepting septage waste” at the facility (NCRWQCB 2008). This project will allow Siskiyou County to implement a RWQCB-approved closure plan to gain compliance and protect sub-surface and nearby surface waters. Additionally the County will avoid issuance of a Cease and Desist order, costly fines, and possible litigation, which has been threatened by a local environmental group.</p>	
<p>635 - Salyer Mutual Water Company, Distribution System and Hydrants</p> <p>The Salyer Mutual Water Company (SMWC) project will respond to drinking water supply issues that have been ongoing for over a decade; since 1998, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has imposed a standing boil order advisory because the unfiltered source water does not meet Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. Additionally, the amount of water storage available is insufficient for fire protection despite Salyer being at high risk for wildland fires.</p>	<p>SRF Category B: Water systems that have repeatedly violated the total coliform MCL due to active sources contaminated with coliform bacteria (fecal, E. coli, or total coliform). As a result of the source contamination, has had repeated confirmed bacteriological contamination in the water delivered to consumers resulting in issuance of boil water and/or bacteriological failure notifications.</p>
<p>206 - Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Ranney Collectors 1 & 1A Lateral Replacement</p> <p>The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) supplies drinking water to about 2/3rd of Humboldt County’s population; aging infrastructure has resulted in the collapse and degradation of the laterals, which are projected into the aquifer for water withdrawals. This has resulted in reduced capacity and increased energy costs. HBMWD’s (#206) project is the second phase of a larger project to replace the laterals in all four concrete caisson collectors, increasing water supply reliability and decreasing energy costs for Disadvantaged Communities.</p>	

Table 10.1. NCIRWMP Proposition 84, Round 2 Critical Water Supply and Water Quality Projects	
Project Summary	State Revolving Fund (SRF) Category
<p>215 - Westhaven Community Services District, Water Tank</p> <p>In Westhaven, the water system relies on a single concrete storage tank with a roof that is in an advance state of rot due to dampness. A CDPH inspection in 2005 listed the condition of the roof as a “system or operational defect and/or potential health hazard.” This project will replace the failing tank and ensure an adequate, reliable, and sanitary drinking water supply for the community.</p>	<p>SRF Category E: Water systems with (1) water outages; (2) significant water quantity problems caused by source water capacity; or (3) water delivery capability that is insufficient to supply current demand. Where water outages or shortages have resulted in enforcement action or permit condition directing that new sources be developed or requiring improvement be made in the water delivery system.</p>

Because healthy watersheds provide the basis for safe drinking water quality for much of the North Coast Region (while at the same time maintaining other critical beneficial uses of water such as salmonid population viability), the NCIRWMP places an emphasis on the integration between watershed-based and jurisdictionally based planning and project implementation. Collectively, all the Priority Projects address both water quality and water supply and their implementation is based on sound technical and scientific data. The projects will contribute towards resolving issues related to safe, reliable drinking water and water quality issues in disadvantaged communities (DACs) including Arcata, Bayside, Blue Lake, Boonville, Cutten, Eureka, Fieldbrook, Freshwater, Guerneville, Hiouchi, Hopland, Humboldt Hill, Myrtle town, Manila, Monte Rio, Philo, Salyer, Samoa, Stewarts Point, Talmage, Ukiah, Weaverville, Westhaven, and Yreka as well as the Native American communities of Karuk and Yurok (*Table 10.2 NCIRWMP Proposition 84, Round 2 Projects which Provide Benefits to DACs*).

The DACs identified above experience varied – and sometimes multiple – water supply and water quality issues. In general, DACs throughout the region experience interruptions in water service due to water quality issues, failure of outdated infrastructure, or low rainfall conditions. The township of Hiouchi is at risk of losing its water supply and creating water quality impacts to the pristine Smith River due to potential failure of its municipal water tank earthen pedestal which is actively eroding; a collapse during an earthquake or storm event would have severe economic, public health, and ecosystem impacts. The severely disadvantaged community of Salyer currently faces potential loss of water supply due to aging infrastructure and water main breaks; the Salyer water system is currently on the California Public Utilities Commission list of systems with Critical Water Quality problems. Water supply reliability is compromised by outdated and failing infrastructure for two thirds of Humboldt County’s population, which is predominately economically disadvantaged. The Westhaven Community Services District’s water storage tank roof is rotting and poses additional contaminant risk to the severely disadvantaged community’s water supply which currently has extremely high levels of carcinogens. In the Russian River watershed, instantaneous drawdown of streamflow during spring frost events from direct diversions of water for frost control can threaten salmonid populations by stranding juveniles.

DACs throughout the region also experience serious water quality issues that could impact public health. From aging infrastructure to increased loading due to anthropogenic activities, communities throughout the North Coast struggle to utilize scarce resources for maximum health and environmental water quality benefits. The proposed projects represent a range of issues experienced by DACs in the area. In the Russian, Gualala and Navarro rivers, which are 303 (d) listed for sediment, nutrients and temperature; disadvantaged communities lack the resources necessary to implement BMPs to improve their water quality. In the Gualala, Klamath, and Trinity River watersheds, potential water quality impacts from remnant timber and mining industry activities may impact drinking water quality as well reduce habitat suitability for endangered salmonids. In the severely disadvantaged community of Yreka, there currently exists significant potential for accidental discharge of raw sewage to the Oregon Slough and Shasta River from an unlined, unpermitted and unsecured septage receiving facility. All of these DACs may be subject to substantial fines from the Regional Water Quality Control Board – thereby exacerbating the economic impacts associated with this failing infrastructure.

Anticipated Targeted Benefits Summary

The projects are expected to have a cumulative, positive effect on the DACs in which they are implemented simply due to a variety of factors – including the implementation process. Priority project proponents have expressed a preference for obtaining local labor and materials, which will temporarily boost local economies, enhance skill capacity over the long term, as well as providing long-term water quality or water supply benefits from project implementation (*Table 10.2 NCIRWMP Proposition 84, Round 2 Projects which Provide Benefits to DACs*). The projects will also provide much more focused benefits to specific communities while collectively providing greater water supply reliability, reductions to water quality impacts, and opportunities to disseminate stewardship practices and ameliorate environmental injustices. Once these critical environmental problems are addressed, and projects and programs are “jump started” with some initial funding and capacity development, it is expected that economic benefits will accrue to the local area, increasing the likelihood of ongoing, diversified funding. Many of these small, rural communities rely upon recreational tourism (such as swimming, camping and fishing) for their economic viability – fixing failing water supply, waste water, water supply and “green infrastructure” can have a substantial and positive effect on a local community’s ability to attract tourism dollars.

Attachment 10, Disadvantaged Community Assistance

Table 10.2 NCIRWMP Proposition 84, Round 2 Projects which Provide Benefits to DACs						
#	Organization, Project Name	Located in & benefitting:		Communities	Project Benefit Type	SRF Rank
		DAC	severely DAC			
101	Big Rock Community Services District, Stabilize Water Storage Tank	entirely		Hiouchi, Elk Valley Rancheria, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Smith River National Park	water supply	E
320	Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Working Landscapes Riparian Enhancement Project	partially		Boonville, Philo, Talmage, Ukiah, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, Hintl Tribe	water quality/ salmonid habitat	
522	Gualala River Watershed Council, Sediment Reduction Program: Lower Rockpile Creek Planning Watershed	partially	partially	Gualala	water quality/ salmonid habitat	
421	Siskiyou County, Septage Pond Closure	entirely	partially	Yreka, Montague, greater Siskiyou County	water quality/ salmonid habitat	
739	Karuk Tribe, Lower Mid-Klamath Habitat Protection-Road Decommissioning Implementation Project	entirely	entirely	Orleans, Karuk Tribe	water quality/ salmonid habitat	
740	Yurok Tribe, Restoration of Lower Klamath River Habitats	entirely	entirely	Crescent City, Klamath, Klamath Glen, Requa, Yurok Tribe	water quality/ salmonid habitat	
635	Salyer Mutual Water Company, Distribution System and Hydrants	entirely	entirely	Salyer	water supply	B
636	Trinity County Resource Conservation District, West Weaver Creek - Channel and Floodplain Rehabilitation	entirely	partially	Weaverville	water quality/ salmonid habitat	
206	Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Ranney Collectors 1 & 1A Lateral Replacement	partially	partially	Arcata, Bayside, Bayview, Blue Lake, Cutten, Eureka, Fieldbrook, Freshwater, Humboldt Hill, Manila, Myrtle town, Samoa	water supply/ water quality	
215	Westhaven Community Services District, Water Tank	entirely	entirely	Westhaven	water supply	E
316	California Land Stewardship Institute, Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching	partially	partially	Boonville, Guerneville, Hopland, Philo, Talmage, Ukiah	water quality/ salmonid habitat	

Attachment 10, Disadvantaged Community Assistance

	Environmental Certification in the Russian, Navarro, and Gualala River Watersheds					
317	California Land Stewardship Institute, Russian River Watershed Agricultural Water Conservation & Water Supply Reliability Program	entirely	partially	Ukiah	water supply/ salmonid habitat	
523	Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Coastal Watersheds Enhancement Project	partially		Monte Rio, Guerneville	water supply/ salmonid habitat	

Description of Targeted Benefits to Economically Disadvantaged Communities by Project

101 - Big Rock Community Services District, Stabilize Water Storage Tank

Hiouchi is a disadvantaged community, according to DWR, and also provides water to the Hiouchi RV Park owned by the Elk Valley Rancheria. The potential failure of the water tank and pad could result in significant injury and possibly loss of life following the anticipated massive landslide. The community could be without water service for 4 to 6 months waiting for repairs in the rural area after an earthquake. The landslide could block Highway 199, the only evacuation route into and out of the area. The wildfire threat within this township's jurisdiction is always present, but the potential disaster would change the response time of fire suppression agencies from three minutes to about 20 minutes. Many families would be displaced from their homes in a wildfire scenario. Property damage will be major problem. This project would remove these known threats.

320 - Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Working Landscapes Riparian Enhancement Project

Two tribal groups (Hopland Band of Pomo Indians and the Hintl Tribe) exist immediately downstream from two project sites in the Russian River watershed. Good water quality, a healthy riparian community, and robust fisheries are of prime importance to the tribes who would directly benefit from project implementation. Minimizing the loss of property and/or livestock, and providing employment opportunities in the communities of Philo, Boonville and Talmage are critical components in our economically depressed areas. The education and outreach component will demonstrate the use of cost effective techniques to farmers and ranchers who may not have the economic resources for riparian enhancement activities.

522 - Gualala River Watershed Council, Sediment Reduction Program: Lower Rockpile Creek Planning Watershed

About 50% of the Gualala River Watershed is considered a disadvantaged community with financial support dependent on fishing and timber, now severely impacted by impaired ecosystems. Declines in

salmonid populations directly affect local workers, limiting their pursuit of livelihood. Fisheries restoration projects remediate these impacts, increases tourism creating jobs and recreational opportunities while providing seasonal employment for local anglers, timber and other workers. Additionally the projects themselves help to restore the water quality and supply so this partially disadvantaged community. Furthermore, the project invokes environmental justice in these disadvantaged areas of the watershed.

421 - Siskiyou County, Septage Pond Closure

Within the North Coast Region, 94% of Siskiyou County meets the criteria for designation as an "Economically Disadvantaged Community". The project site is located adjacent to an area designated as "Severely Disadvantaged". Timely closure of the facility and remediation of the site consistent with the RWQCB-approved closure plan will eliminate potential sources of sub-surface water contamination, safeguard drinking water supplies, prevent issuance of a RWQCB cease and desist order along with associated fines and penalties, and eliminate the basis for threatened litigation. As a result, human health and safety and aquatic habitats would be safeguarded and potentially significant and direct financial impacts would be avoided.

739 - Karuk Tribe, Lower Mid-Klamath (Red Cap /Perch Creek) Habitat Protection-Road Decommissioning Implementation Project

Restoring our watersheds is a starting point for a different kind of economic prosperity, one in which society recognizes that the wellbeing of our communities is inextricably tied to the welfare of watersheds. This project does more than help protect and restore our environment. It creates living-wage jobs and stimulates economic activity in our economically depressed and underserved river communities. The value of this type of restoration continues to accrue and pay out over generations. Improvements in habitat and fish populations are fundamental to our health, productivity, and quality of life.

740 - Yurok Tribe, Restoration of Lower Klamath River Habitats

Implementing fisheries and water quality restoration projects in the Lower Klamath provides resource based employment opportunities for Tribal members and other local people. We also use local vendors as much as possible to further stimulate our local economy. A primary goal of our work is to restore aquatic habitats to levels capable of supporting robust native fish populations to provide increased subsistence and commercial fishing opportunities to Tribal members and recreational opportunities that would support local businesses). The Lower Klamath fishery, once restored, could bring in significant amounts of local revenue annually via ecotourism and fishing (e.g. support local businesses and the Yurok People).

635 - Salyer Mutual Water Company, Distribution System and Hydrants

During power outages and when water lines break, larger capacity storage tanks would provide some water reserve for community. A dedicated water line, increasing chlorine contact time, contributes to better water quality. A master meter and new customer meters will help the Salyer Mutual Water Company board monitor and assess water use to help keep costs and rates affordable for our

community members on fixed/low incomes. Fire hydrants will provide fire protection and allow for system flushing maintaining acceptable water quality.

636 -Trinity County Resource Conservation District, West Weaver Creek - Channel and Floodplain Rehabilitation

Much of this habitat restoration project lies within the Weaverville Community Forest. The Weaverville Community Forest is a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service and the Trinity County Resource Conservation District (RDC) to manage federal land in the Weaverville basin as a community forest. For the local community, this forest stewardship upholds local values in the management of federal lands through the partnership with the local RCD. These values include high visual quality, fuels reduction, habitat restoration, recreation, timber harvesting, firewood collection, and improved forest health and wildlife habitat. This land stewardship promotes multi-use, community-driven forest management that creates and retains living wage jobs in an otherwise economically disadvantaged rural community. The Weaverville Community Forest hopes to strengthen the connections between the land and its community through projects such as the one proposed herein.

206 - Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Ranney Collectors 1 & 1A Lateral Replacement

The proposed project is of regional importance to assure water supply reliability for 2/3rds of Humboldt County's population, including the disadvantaged communities within the region. The project protects and enhances drinking water quality, and is the most cost effective, environmentally sensitive way of ensuring a reliable, high quality drinking water supply for the region. It has an added benefit of protecting against agencies pursuing alternate water supplies at higher financial and environmental costs. The loss of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District's (HBMWD) largest customer, the Samoa Pulp Mill, has resulted in increases in wholesale water costs across the Humboldt Bay area, which has been translated into higher retail water rates. Funding of this project reduces costs to upgrade the District's regional system while at the same time reducing operations costs through improved energy efficiency, thereby reducing the necessary water usage rates in all of the impacted disadvantaged communities.

215 - Westhaven Community Services District, Water Tank

The project benefits the disadvantaged community it serves by helping to ensure an adequate, reliable and sanitary supply of drinking water. The rotting wood in the tank roof threatens the quality of the treated water. Repairing the roof will improve water quality and decrease treatment (disinfection) costs and protect drinking water quality. The project addresses environmental justice issues as related to disadvantaged communities. With 232 residential accounts providing all of the income, the average monthly water bill is \$76. According to the 2010 census, the MHI is \$34,135, producing an affordability index of 2.7%, somewhat higher than generally considered to be acceptable. Monthly bill currently include \$10 for debt service on a 30-year DWR Water Bond loan that dates to 1994. Incurring additional debt to repair the tank will only drive the affordability index in the wrong direction.

316 - California Land Stewardship Institute, Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching Environmental Certification in the Russian, Navarro, and Gualala River Watersheds

The Upper Russian River, parts of the Lower Russian River, parts of the Navarro drainage near Boonville, and parts of the Gualala drainage are identified as Disadvantaged Communities. Large portions of these DAC areas are in agriculture and grazing land and we will perform additional outreach to have these lands enrolled in the Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching (FFF/FFR) Program. This project has a great benefit for disadvantaged

communities by ensuring the economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture. Additionally, the FFF/FFR Program addresses environmental compliance issues directly related to the largest industry employment sector in Mendocino and Sonoma counties, which provides jobs for over 50,000 people.

317 - California Land Stewardship Institute, Russian River Watershed Agricultural Water Conservation & Water Supply Reliability Program

The Upper Russian River is predominately identified as economically disadvantaged and includes areas of severely disadvantaged communities. This program addresses water issues directly related to one of the largest industries and employment sectors in Mendocino County. The moratorium on using water for frost control proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service for the 2009 season, if implemented, would have resulted in a major loss of the wine grape crop and of jobs. In addition, without the proposed recycled water system, the City of Ukiah will have to increase sewage rates throughout the city in 2015, including the severely economically disadvantaged portion of the community, in order to perform the needed reclamation of the effluent. The City will need to build an additional percolation pond to store the effluent further increasing rates. These increases would be on top of the 24% rate increase implemented for 2010 through 2014.



**North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Proposition 84, Round 2 Implementation Grant**

Attachment 10, Disadvantaged Community Assistance

APPENDIX A

**NCIRWMP Proposition 84 Round 2 Implementation
Critical Water Supply and Water Quality Projects Letters of Support**



**COUNTY OF DEL NORTE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

981 "H" Street, Suite 200
Crescent City, California 95531

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March 26, 2013

Zaffar Eusuf, Program Manager
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
1416 Ninth Street, Room 338
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: *Big Rock CSD Water Storage Tank Stabilization Project*

Dear Mr. Eusuf:

On behalf of the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of the *Big Rock Community Services District's* (a California special district) Water Storage Tank Stabilization Project submitted under both (a) "North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan" Proposition 84 Round 2 Funding and (b) *Federal Emergency Management Agency* (FEMA) "Hazard Mitigation Grant Program" DR-1968-PJ0063.

The proposed project would replace a critical potable water storage tank in this Special District that is extremely susceptible to major damage or complete failure in a seismic event. If the earthen pedestal beneath the existing 100,000-gallon water storage tank fails as predicted, it will slide down the hillside onto a portion of the *Township of Hiouchi*, resulting in potential loss of life and property. This event additionally could cut U.S. Highway 199 and generate sufficient momentum for the debris field to enter the Smith River. Given total loss of the affected tank and associated infrastructure, the *Big Rock CSD* would not be able to restore drinking water service for its many customers or enough water for fire suppression for four to six months while waiting for repairs.

The *Township of Hiouchi*, which lies within the *Big Rock CSD's* constitutional jurisdiction, is a disadvantaged community. It is populated with residential and commercial water consumers, a fire station operated by the *Smith River Fire Protection District* that depends upon a reliable water supply, the *Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park*, and the adjoining *Redwoods National Park*. The special district also provides water to the *Hiouchi RV Park* owned by the *Elk Valley Rancheria*. In effect, the proposed project would provide long-term water supply reliability by stabilizing the *Big Rock CSD's* largest water tank and preventing failure and loss of water supply to the community, while at the same time

Page 2
March 26, 2013

eliminating a number of potentially extensive environmental impacts resulting from a landslide.

Because we live in an active seismic area and insofar as the potential for loss of life exists if the earthen pedestal fails, this project enjoys broad support as a top priority. The proposed scope of work would focus on replacing the existing Redwood water storage tank with a bolted steel tank of equal volume and seismically anchor the tank into a solid granite bench.

We fully support *Big Rock CSD's* efforts to acquire grant funding for this project and urge your favorable consideration of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Sullivan
Chair of the
Del Norte County
Board of Supervisors

**SALYER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
275 SALYER LOOP ROAD
P. O. Box 235
SALYER, CALIFORNIA 95563**

March 9, 2013

Re: Salyer Mutual Water Company Distribution System and Hydrants

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing in support of the Salyer Mutual Water Company Distribution System and Hydrant project submitted under the North Coast Integrated Regional Management Plan Proposition 84 Round 2 funding application.

The proposed project will design a new distribution system to replace its existing system, and complete a portion of the construction. The existing system, constructed with sewer pipe more 50 years ago, is at the end of its useful life. Deferred maintenance causes the community to endure major leaks, low water pressure, water outages, lack of proper chlorination, and unsafe drinking water. With these problems there is no water for firefighting. Since 1998, the California Department of Public health has imposed a standing boil order advisory because of the unfiltered source water does not meet Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. *Regulatory violations are a tremendous strain on the community as the service area is severely economically disadvantaged with the medium income of \$30,109 (51 of the statewide 2011 MHI).*

By reducing the number of leaks/breaks, the Mutual will also reduce the volume of water wasted and unnecessarily taken from the Trinity River, which will preserve the flows in this stretch of the Trinity River that is fully allocated.

We are located in an area that is recognized as high fire severity zone; installation of fire hydrants will provide fire protection and increase our ability to suppress fires. Also, the installation of fire hydrants will allow for the system to be flushed maintaining acceptable water quality, and a water supply that will not damage the pumps on the fire engines.

The Salyer Volunteer Fire Department fully supports the Salyer Mutual Water Company's efforts to acquire funding for this project and urge your favorable consideration of the project. It makes sense for the region and will ensure storage of potable and fire water, potentially preventing a loss of life and property in a fire prone area for the community of Salyer. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely;


David Murphy, Fire Chief
(H) 530-629-2073



RON CHAPMAN, MD, MPH
Director & State Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

February 27, 2013

Katherine Gledhill
West Coast Watershed
11526 Sutton Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

Salyer Mutual Water Company, Critical Water supply Service Area, North Coast IRWMP, Implementation Grant, Proposition 84, Round 2, Step 2, Trinity County

As lead engineer in our office for Trinity County public water systems, I have worked closely with Salyer Mutual Water Company and its predecessor, Riverview Acres Water Company, for over 5 years. Salyer Mutual has requested our support in their application to the North Coast IRWMP for funding to upgrade their distribution system. Our office is pleased to voice our support. Not only is this project essential to the delivery of safe and reliable drinking water to the Salyer Mutual community, but because of recent changes the water system now has the capabilities to properly operate and maintain the proposed project.

Salyer Mutual provides water for domestic use to about 60 residences in a critical water supply service area of western Trinity County. Because they serve unfiltered surface water that is inadequately chlorinated, the system is a violation of Federal and State surface water treatment regulations, and has been under a standing boil water order for over 16 years.

Until last year, this water system was owned by a private individual who operated the system under the name "Riverview Acres Water Company". As for-profit utility, it was regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) who placed Riverview Acres on its list of water utilities with "Critical Water Quality, Water Supply, Infrastructure, or Financial Problems." [letter included with the Mutual's application]. Ranking them the 3rd highest priority system (out of 30), the CPUC described Riverview Acres' problems to be:

"Surface water source without filtration. System lacks Technical Managerial and Financial capacity. Owner is recalcitrant and Irresponsive. On State Revolving Fund list – Category C."

As a public water system, Riverview Acres (now Salyer Mutual) is also regulated by the California Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water (CDPH). In addition to the standing boil water order, CDPH had issued Riverview Acres numerous citations and compliance orders for violation of Federal and State safe drinking water regulations, public notification, failure to perform monitoring and reporting, and failure to pay fees. In recent years, the system was not operated by a state certified operator and water outages were frequent. Outages, one summer event lasting 6 days, occurred for a variety of reasons including pipeline breaks, pump failure, power outages (no backup generator), and power shut-down due to nonpayment of the PG&E electric bill. The owner's billing practices were poor; customers reported receiving bills irregularly or not at all, and in some summer months the PG&E electric bill exceeded revenues. The company had no capital improvement plan or fund, and

all repairs were performed by the owner and his family. Maintenance of the system had dropped sharply in recent years as the owner's health declined. The family was unsuccessful in selling the system since it had a myriad of compliance issues, and no true assets. In December 2010, Riverview Acres applied for funding from CDPH to correct their deficiencies, but were bypassed because they did not have documented water rights or the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to operate the water system [CDPH's bypass letter is included with the Mutual's Round 2 application].

On June 29, 2011, the daughter of the owner of Riverview Acres informed CDPH that her father would not longer be able to operate the water system [letter is included with the Mutual's Round 2 application]. CDPH organized a community meeting to discuss options available: acquisition by a district or another private entity, take over by the homeowners through formation of a mutual water company, or, as the very last resort, receivership by the State [CDPH's meeting announcement is included with the Mutual's Round 2 application]. Since there were no other entities interested in the system, the homeowners assembled an acting Board of Directors in August 2011, became incorporated with the California Secretary of State as a non-profit Mutual Water Company in October 2011, and took ownership of the water system in February 2012. Since that time, the Mutual established a tiered water rate structure; repaired, replaced or installed flow meters to fairly bill for usage; started funding a capital improvement plan; standardized billing and collections; required membership of all customers; took action on water theft; organized volunteer work events; hired a certified water treatment and distribution operator for system maintenance and repairs; and obtained tax-exempt status from the IRS. And by hiring an attorney, the Mutual also obtained documented water rights; this was significant because with water rights and the improvements in management and operations, CDPH is now able to provide funding for a surface water treatment system to address the water system's safe drinking water violations.

The Mutual's accomplishments in the last year have been remarkable. Through sheer hardwork, this public water system has gone from being one of the most troubled in northern California to having a clear path towards compliance. This is especially significant since the water system is a critical water supply for this severely disadvantaged community. With a medium household income of \$30,109 or 51% of the statewide 2011 MHI (determined by CDPH in December 2011), this small community has no means of affording infrastructure improvements on their own and is in need of financial assistance.

This North Coast IRWMP distribution system replacement project, together with CDPH's filter plant project, will provide the customers in this service area with what they have not had for decades: reliable and clean drinking water. The North Coast project is essential in the delivery of safe water; reducing main breaks will not only significantly reduce outages but also conditions of backsiphonage when line pressures drop (a health concern since water and septic lines are poorly mapped).

We are excited about the recent improvements to this water system and fully support the Salyer Mutual Water Company Board of Directors' efforts to bring their water system into compliance. We look forward to working with the North Coast IRWMP on these upcoming projects to bring reliable and safe drinking water to this critical water supply service area.

If you have any questions, please contact me at mey.bunte@cdph.ca.gov or (530) 224-3265.



Mey Bunte, P.E.

Staff Engineer

DRINKING WATER

FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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March 18, 2013

Zaffar Eusuf, Program Manager
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
1416 9th Street, Room 338
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Westhaven Community Services District, Water Tank Project

Dear Mr. Eusuf:

I am writing in support of the Westhaven Community Services District - Water Tank Project application for Proposition 84 Round 2 funding through the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. This is a very important project to improve water quality for the Westhaven community and support the implementation of the County's General Plan.

The proposed project will construct a new tank that meets current seismic code and repair the failing roof on its existing tank. The District needs additional storage to assist its efforts in reducing the production of disinfection byproduct (DBP) (carcinogens) by lowering chlorine concentrations and dissolved organic carbon levels both of which are DBP pre-cursors. The WCSD's storage tank roof is rotting, and if it should fail the community's water supply would be exposed to contaminants. Additional storage will allow the District to replace the roof on the existing water tank and better support planned buildout of the community.

Based on 2010 Census, the Westhaven community is severely economically disadvantaged with a medium household income of \$34,135, only 55% of the statewide average. The combination of the multiple public health issues and lack of local resources due to its status as a severely economically disadvantaged community make this a critical project for Proposition 84 Round 2 funding.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Hamblin, Director
Humboldt County Planning and Building Department