



FRIENDS OF THE EEL RIVER

Working for the recovery of our Wild & Scenic River, its fisheries and communities.

Monday, January 27, 2020

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
via email to Clerk of the Board

RE: Jan 28 Agenda item # 18, *Bid Authorization for Dinsmore Property Nuisance Abatement*

Dear Board,

Friends of the Eel River are very grateful to see the county moving to clean up the junkyard that is the subject of this agenda item. As the staff report for this item notes, the "site at 46280 State Hwy 36, Dinsmore, CA owned by Mr. Bobby Marks and Mrs. Virginia Marks is an illegal junk yard that poses a danger to the public and to the environment."

We concur with the staff report's summary: "This is a situation that poses a hazard to public health and safety and can also have detrimental impacts upon water quality and sensitive species in and along the Van Duzen River. It is fairly apparent that Mr. Marks has created a public nuisance that he is unable to address, and intentional actions are needed to remedy this situation and to prevent further environmental harm."

We do want to emphasize the need for urgent action. In our complaints about the junkyard to the county and various state agencies, we have noted that some of the more than 200 vehicles on the property appear to be within the potential high water level of the adjacent Van Duzen River. In fact, vehicles appear to have been placed adjacent to the Van Duzen River in violation of F&G Code §5652, which prohibits "the placement of a vehicle body on privately owned property along a streambank by the property owner or tenant for the purpose of preventing erosion of the streambank," as well as depositing, abandoning, disposing of, or throwing away any "motor vehicle or parts" "within 150 feet of the high water mark of the waters of the state."

While it does make sense to first "remove remove the junk and hazardous materials from the site" as the proposal before you provides, we also want to emphasize that the "second phase of the cleanup (to) be undertaken at a later date to remediate contaminated soils" is also urgently necessary, and a matter of county responsibility.

Thank you for your consideration.

/s/

Scott Greacen
Conservation Director

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