

**From:** [McFadin, Bryan@Waterboards](mailto:McFadin, Bryan@Waterboards)  
**To:** [Planning Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Dana Stolzman \(srf@calssalmon.org\)](mailto:Dana.Stolzman@srf@calssalmon.org); [White, Adona@Waterboards](mailto:White, Adona@Waterboards)  
**Subject:** NCRWQCB support for Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project, PLN-2019-15661  
**Date:** Friday, November 19, 2021 5:20:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [211119 BCM Marshall Ranch Flow Augmentation.pdf](#)

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please find attached a letter from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in support of the Salmonid Restoration Federation's Marshall Creek Flow Augmentation Project (Record PLN-2019-15661). Please feel free to contact me at this email about any questions or follow up regarding the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's support for this project.

Sincerely,  
Bryan McFadin  
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer  
Flow and Riparian Protection Specialist  
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 19, 2021

Humboldt County Planning Department  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
[planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us)

Subject: **Letter in Support of the Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Project, PLN-2019-15661**

File: Marshall Ranch, Redwood Creek, South Fork Eel River Flow

This letter is provided to express the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Water Board) support of the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project, PLN-2019-15661, (Project) proposed by the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF). Though the project has been modified since our last letter of recommendation to the Humboldt County Planning Commission on December 4, 2020, we continue to view this project as a legitimate approach to addressing the water quality and habitat impacts of low flows in Redwood Creek.

The Project is designed to augment streamflows in Redwood Creek during the low flow season, with the goal of maintaining surface connectivity of the stream in support of threatened and endangered salmonids. The Project is the result of a flow assessment study in Redwood Creek partially funded by the Regional Water Board that identified that water conservation measures alone, while important, would be inadequate to maintain surface flows during seasonal low flows. This Project takes a unique approach of developing a water storage facility (pond) to collect runoff. Water storage facilities, if adequately sized, designed, and managed, could provide the volume of water necessary to maintain surface water flow.

The South Fork Eel has been identified as a priority watershed for Coho salmon recovery and one of the highest priority watersheds in the state for flow enhancement. Redwood Creek suffers from chronic low flows in the dry season where pools become disconnected and water temperature is lethal for juvenile salmonids.

The Regional Water Board recognizes that beneficial uses, including cold water fisheries, require flow to maintain habitat and flow dependent water quality conditions.

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VALERIE L. QUINTO, CHAIR | MATTHIAS ST. JOHN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

At the same time, we realize there are risks to water quality associated with discharges of stored water.

We expect that any risks associated with the Project can be mitigated through establishment of proper conditions and monitoring requirements during our permitting process. We believe this Project can provide needed flows to Redwood Creek, in a safe, and effective manner, in support of fisheries.

The Regional Water Board has a vision of Healthy Watersheds, Strong Partnerships, Effective Regulation. This Project is the result of partnerships forged by SRF with the scientific community, the Marshall Ranch, and state funders. We believe this Project, along with ongoing regulatory and enforcement efforts in the Redwood Creek watershed, is a strong step toward a healthy watershed for beneficial uses of water.

Please contact Bryan McFadin at [Bryan.McFadin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Bryan.McFadin@waterboards.ca.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



On behalf of  
Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer

211119\_BCM\_Marshall Ranch Flow Augmentation

cc: Dana Stolzman, SRF, [srf@calsalmon.org](mailto:srf@calsalmon.org)