



Public Comment
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July 14, 2025

Michelle Bushnell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Humboldt County Courthouse
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Water Diversion Agreement for a New Eel-Russian Facility on the Eel River

He'ba'lou Supervisor Bushnell:

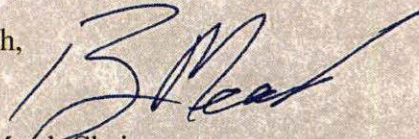
I am writing on behalf of the Wiyot Tribe to express our strong support for the proposed Water Diversion Agreement that is being presented to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on July 22, 2025, and to the other parties, including the Round Valley Indian Tribes, Sonoma County Water Agency, the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Trout and Trout Unlimited. The Wiyot Tribe is grateful to the Board of Supervisors for your hard work in negotiating and drafting a WDA that advances our shared goal of a restored, free flowing Eel River.

The Wiyot Tribe believes that the Water Diversion Agreement will serve a critical role in ensuring the restoration of a healthy Eel River for generations. We are very pleased with the WDA's limits on Eel River diversions, the measures built in for fishery protection, and the commitment to raise funding for restoration throughout the watershed, including our ancestral territory within Humboldt County. As you know, the Eel River is an essential cultural and natural resource that has supported the Wiyot Tribe for generations. Our goal for many years has been to restore the fisheries of the Eel River because so much of the Tribe's life and culture are tied to its health. The WDA provides substantial funding for this restoration, including, significantly, commitments from Russian River interests to provide restoration funding and to assist in raising such funds for years after the WDA becomes effective. The Wiyot Tribe looks forward to participating in the restoration efforts and working with Humboldt County and the other WDA parties to ensure a healthy Eel River following dam removal.

We respectfully request that you share this letter with the other members of the Board of Supervisors. We urge the Board to approve the WDA, which the Tribe believes will be a significant step toward restoration of the Eel River.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Juwaksh,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B Mead', written over the printed name.

Brian Mead, Chairman