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Re: Eel River Valley Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan

Good morning Supervisors, and Chair Ms. Fennel.

My name is Hollie Hall, a soil and water scientist living in Arcata. Today, I am writing to comment in favor of the establishment of a Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan for the Eel River Groundwater Basin including hydrologically connected surface waters.

The Eel River is designated a Wild and Scenic River in due to its extraordinary scenic, recreational, fishery, and wildlife assets. For example, the Eel River supports numerous charismatic federally listed salmonid species: coho salmon, Coastal Chinook salmon, and North Coast Steelhead, as well as the Pacific Lamprey.

At the same time, most if not all of the Eel River tributaries are listed as 'impaired' under the Clean Water Act by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for water temperature and sediment.

The implementation of a scientifically rigorous Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan will not only establish a monitoring regime for groundwater quality and quantity; it will also monitor the effects of groundwater pumping on the quality and quantity of interconnected river surface waters that support beneficial uses providing the ecological data needed to adaptively manage the Eel River Valley's watershed resources.

Thank you for continued service.

With best regards,
Hollie