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May 23, 2016

Mr. Mark Lovelace, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501
VIA Email

RE: May 24, 2016, Afternoon Agenda Pubic Works Item #2: Approval of Elk River Stewardship Funding

Dear Chair Lovelace and Board Members:

Green Diamond is fully supportive of the Elk River Stewardship project. We believe it is the best opportunity to bring all of the parties together needed to develop a successful outcome for the drainage.

We believe that the current sediment in the channels is the result of legacy practices and not current practices. Since we implemented our Elk River Management Plan and WDR in 2006, we have undertaken extraordinary measures to remove potential existing sediment sources and prevent new sediment from entering Elk River. This has been accomplished by completing a comprehensive review and upgrading of our road system, and implementing management measures that protect watercourses and minimize potential new sources of sediment.

Over the last several years we have participated in numerous meetings regarding Elk River and it has become increasingly apparent that solutions must include both upstream and downstream landowners, as well as local, state and federal agencies. We have been working closely with the organizers of the Stewardship Project and fully support this approach to reach solutions for Elk River.

We respectfully request your approval of the funding for the Elk River Stewardship Protect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gary C. Rynearson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Gary C. Rynearson, Manager
Forest Policy and Communications

FRIENDS OF ELK RIVER
friendsofelkriver@gmail.com

24 May, 2016

To: Humboldt Co Board Of Supervisors
Re: Elk River Stewardship Grant

Friends of Elk River supports this agreement and welcomes any step toward recovery, but with significant concerns.

- That this project is very little and very late, but will be used to advertise that everything's better while residents continue to endure flooding and fish populations struggle to survive. (Testimony provided at the April 7 and May12 NCRWQCB meetings can be seen on Access Humboldt.)
- That it will focus primarily on infrastructure, which will address symptoms but allow Elk River to continue to deteriorate.
- That it will improve access and deliver community services to residents whose water systems are impaired, but invite development with a consequent loss of agricultural lands, of water quality, and Elk River's rural character.
- That HRC's participation in water improvements will allow it to increase logging (as per the WDR), end its obligation to deliver water to residents, and look like a good neighbor while avoiding its responsibilities for cleanup and abatement of sediment.
- That the Steering Committee and subcommittees will be dominated by agency staff, timber companies, and ranchers, with little voice for affected residents.

We hope these outcomes can be avoided, that there will be an equitable and public process, and that it will lead to an Elk River that is healthy for people and fish. Like you, we will continue to monitor this collaborative effort. Thank you,


Jerry Martien