

## McClenagan, Laura

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**From:** Isaac Mikus <isaac@erwig.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 20, 2021 2:54 PM  
**To:** Planning Clerk  
**Subject:** Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Comments  
**Attachments:** 2021 ERWIG Marshal LOS.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hi,

I have attached comments/letter of support for the Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Project, Record #PLN-2019-15661.

Thanks,

Isaac Mikus  
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November 20, 2021

Re: Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Project  
Record Number: PLN-2019-15661

Dear Humboldt County Planning Commission,

I am the Executive Director of the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group and I am writing in support of the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement project. The mission of the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG) is to improve instream and related watershed habitat conditions in the Eel River basin, and surrounding California coastal basins, to benefit of native stocks of salmon and steelhead. Our primary goals are to provide organizational and technical assistance to landowners & managers, to develop local watershed action plans, and to implement specific projects which will benefit salmonids.

Over the last 15 years I have spent countless hours in the Redwood Creek watershed conducting surveys, and carrying out restoration projects. Redwood Creek has a robust, but fragile population of three salmonid species, Chinook, Coho and steelhead. The Redwood Creek populations of these species are critical to the survival of these species in the South Fork Eel River, which is the most important Eel River tributary for salmonid recovery. All three salmonid species spawn in Redwood Creek every winter but face a drying stream channel most every summer, which is particularly detrimental to Coho salmon. ERWIG recently completed a CDFW FRGP funded habitat restoration project that will provide excellent summer habitat if there is water in the stream channel. The Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Project will directly benefit the summer habitat throughout our project reach and for miles downstream. I am intimately familiar with the watershed and flow conditions and recognize that lack of adequate instream flows is the primary limiting factor for salmonid recovery.

Our current climate crisis is further exacerbating drought conditions in the watershed, resulting in increased stream drying and higher intensity wildfires. Not only will this project benefit fish, but it will be an important source of water for fire-fighting. The fire suppression component of this proposed project would be an immense benefit to the community of Briceland.

The Salmonid Restoration Federation has worked diligently with Stillwater Sciences to design a project that is amenable to neighboring landowners and would still provide much needed flows to Redwood Creek during the dry season. This outstanding project provides a unique opportunity that would benefit fisheries, the community, and fire resilience with a willing landowner, the Marshall Ranch, whose land is fully protected under conservation easements.

In conclusion, I support the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project because of its contribution to increasing instream flows for salmonids and safety benefits for the community.

Sincerely,

Isaac Mikus  
ERWIG Executive Director