BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
July 18, 2017

"For all items *NOT* on the agenda"

(Each Speaker Limited to 3 Minutes)

Voluntary Sign-In Sheet

1. Charles L. Ciancio ✓
2. Antoinette-Skiles ✓
3. Summer B. Darling ✓
4. Katie Coventry
5. DAVE BITTS
6.
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8.
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10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.

Date 7/16/17
To Everyone
Subject Humans Do Not Learn

As a college graduate, experienced in real world realties, I am no dummy Having only three minutes to speak, for years I have presented the following

It is not a good idea to ignore old experienced folks

I am convinced majority of the voting minority control Humboldt County Number one on my list is good health With two disabled family members, life can be mean Rural vote means nothing

I have learned everything needs sunlight, water, nutrients (food) to survive Laws lacking common sense are put in place by inexperienced voters With help from media, those with money, confusing legalese, politicians, and Fourth Branch of Government (regulators) are helping preservationists, protectionists, and many who call themselves environmentalists take control, and currently, I see this group controlling the world

As a field experienced forester (and I emphasize "field experienced"), Humboldt County is around half supported by taxpayers Private timber and lumber industry as number one **private** taxpayer is losing Way back in taxpaying pack, ranching, is number two Did you know around 80% the wood used in California comes from out of California while California grows all needed wood? It is too bad California Professional Foresters and Redwood Regional Logging Conference do not fight for the truth Based on my education and experiences, big tree manufacturing is disappearing, how to grow a tree is lost, and causes of uncontrolled fire are ignored

Other tidbits to consider are as follows Way marijuana is mishandled has big growers eventually taking over, working, rural, experienced folks, and species with humans are losing, and I do not believe anything anymore unless it is proven to my satisfaction

As a minority voter who **thinks** before voting, I have learned humans are stupid and going to hell With current majority of the voting minority in control, rural areas will experience a lot of trouble, and humans are separated from realty.

I have more to say, but, with no help, with few paying attention and being ignored, and being in voting minority, I may as well give-up

Charles L Ciancio
California Registered Professional Forester (RPF) #317
(An old tired field forester no one gives any attention who has lived in a working man's world)
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Larry Collins
Vice-President
Stephanie Mutz
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Chuck Cappotto
Treasurer

PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

Noah Oppenheim
Executive Director
Glen H. Spain
Northwest Regional Director
Vivian Helliwell
Watershed Conservation Director
In Memoriam:
Nathaniel S. Bingham
Harold C. Christensen
W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.

Please Respond to:

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July 18, 2017

Virginia Bass, Chairperson
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Re: Potter Valley Project relicensing FERC #77; In support of a "Scoping 1" public hearing in the lower Eel River (Fortuna or Eureka)

Dear Chairperson Bass and Supervisors,

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) is asking that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors please send a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requesting a public scoping hearing in the Lower Eel River concerning the fifty year relicensing of the Potter Valley Project. With so much at stake, it is important that parties that want to be involved in the relicensing weigh in early in the scoping process about what needs to be studied before adequate environmental analysis of impacts can take place.

As you may know, The Potter Valley Project (PVP) diverts water from the Upper Middle Fork Eel River, from Lake Pillsbury and Van Arsdale reservoirs, through a tunnel powering a small (9.2 MW) electric turbine and irrigating farms in Potter Valley before running into the East Fork Russian River and Lake Mendocino.

On June 28, representatives from PCFFA drove several hours to Ukiah to attend a scoping hearing on this project. Because the "Scoping 1" document indicated FERC intended to consider impacts on only a small area around the Cape Horn Dam at Van Arsdale, PCFFA has sent a letter to FERC, attached, requesting an additional scoping hearing in the Lower Eel River. The Eel River is the largest factor in recovering Coastal Fall Run Chinook salmon--threatened due to

their habitat, not fishing, according to the Department of Commerce NMFS Biological Opinion If these commercially valuable stocks were recovered to a point where the cap now in place could be lifted, an estimated additional 200,000 fish would be available to catch off California and Oregon in some years, with the multiple support jobs that accompany salmon landings and the resulting stimulus to the local economy

But the issue of dam safety and the improbability of adequate early warning to downstream residents overshadows these economic concerns It was brought to our attention by other speakers that seismic safety and the age of the two dams, built in 1908 and 1921, needs pointed consideration The possibility of dam failure is very real, and something that should rightly be of great concern to downstream communities along the Eel River The large volume of water and the very short time it would take to reach downstream makes it impossible for any system to give advance warning to people in time to evacuate Additionally, the public is prohibited from learning the current condition of the dams due to Homeland Security concerns

Less than a year ago, on August 10, 2016, a 5 1 earthquake struck ten miles southeast of Scott Dam on the Bartlett Springs fault, causing power outages in Lake County The fault is capable of between 6 0 and 7 4 magnitude seismic activity In light of the recent Oroville Dam situation, where early warnings were ignored, it makes sense to take a precautionary approach

Please write to the Commissioner at FERC and request a scoping hearing in Eureka or Fortuna as soon as possible so that people from this area can be adequately represented and participate in the relicensing process in a timely manner

Thank you

Noah Oppenheim
Executive Director, PCFFA

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July 17, 2017

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Submitted electronically to: kimberly.bose@ferc.gov

Re: FERC relicensing #77 Potter Valley Project: Request for a "Scoping 1" public hearing in the lower Eel River Basin (Fortuna or Eureka) and a 30-day extension from the date of such hearing for the submission of written comments

Dear Ms. Bose,

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) and the Institute for Fisheries Resources (IFR) hereby request that FERC convene an additional Scoping 1 public hearing in the Lower Eel River Basin to accommodate constituents affected by the Potter Valley Project who have not had the opportunity to voice their positions concerning relicensing and knowledge about the need for studies. An extension of the time for written comments would also be helpful to accommodate Lower Eel River communities.

Dam safety, in particular, is a vital concern not only for fisheries but also for families and businesses located along the Eel River. Testimony provided by David Keller of Friends of the Eel River indicated that many issues related to the safety and geological stability of Scott and Cape Horn Dams are not known to the public. Mr. Keller noted that flow volumes could reach 4 million CFS by the time water reached the Lower Eel in case of a dam failure. As you are no doubt aware, a nearby seismic fault recently registered a magnitude 5.1 earthquake; geologists estimate that fault instability could result in an earthquake of magnitude 6.0-7.4. This is troubling to many downstream communities.

PCFFA is the largest trade association of commercial fishing families on the West Coast. For more than forty years, PCFFA has led the commercial fishing industry in assuring the rights of individual fishing men and women, and in fighting for the long-term survival of commercial fishing as a productive livelihood and way of life. Our members coast-wide rely on healthy salmon fisheries in the Eel River, among other rivers. Not only do we rely on the Eel to restore endangered salmon runs so we can someday fish again on the "harvestable surplus," as referenced in the California Coho Recovery Strategy and other plans, but many other coastal

fishing support businesses rely on fishing to bring income to the area Money earned from salmon fishing is spent locally as well Commercial boats from up and down the coast, now shut down because of habitat degradation, brought millions of dollars' worth of salmon to market in Eureka in recent decades

PCFFA has been involved throughout the relicensing processes and flow adjustments in the Eel and Russian Rivers, and will submit written comments in the early scoping process PCFFA has a great deal of experience and institutional investment in the Eel and Russian River systems, including the development of the captive breeding program for coho at Dry Creek on the Russian River

PCFFA's sister organization, the Institute for Fisheries Resources (IFR), is dedicated to the protection and restoration of living marine resources and the human economies that depend on them A critical component of both organizations' missions is robust protections for water quality in surface waters that support salmon fisheries, which includes the Eel River and the Russian River

Currently, the Eel River is in better condition for salmon than California's other major rivers IFR has helped sponsor the citizen monitoring group, the Eel River Recovery Project, which has conducted population counts and habitat monitoring for the last five years (see eelriverrecovery org) We have documented significant levels of recovery from disturbance in many reaches of the Eel River and are heavily invested in continued recovery However, disturbingly, the upper main stem reaches of the Eel are not doing as well, according to a 2010 study by acclaimed salmon researcher Peter Moyle[1] The condition of these areas downstream of the Potter Valley Project must be rehabilitated if Eel River Chinook are to be restored

The scope of the Potter Valley Project includes fishing communities in the lower Eel River, and, in light of dam safety and project reliability issues that were raised at the recent scoping hearing in Ukiah (June 28, 2017), includes many of our members and numerous other interested parties that are affected by the Potter Valley Project operation Groups in the lower Eel River basin that were unaware of the hearing or found it too distant to access (hundreds of miles) must be able to contribute their voices the record and suggest topics for study in preparation for the draft EIR A complete scoping process including these stakeholders must be completed before a thorough analysis of project impacts for relicensing can take place

In light of these circumstances, we respectfully request that an additional Scoping 1 public hearing take place in the lower Eel River basin region Additionally, we request a 30-day extension from such hearing for written comments on the scoping for the relicensing process

Thank you for considering our request

Sincerely,

Noah Oppenheim
Executive Director, PCFFA and IFR

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[1] Yoshiyama, R M , & Moyle, P B (2010) *Historical review of Eel River anadromous salmonids, with emphasis on Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead* University of California, Center for Watershed Sciences