

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

October 15, 2005

Subject: Water Quality – Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and TMDL
Action Plans

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Sonoma County Water Coalition (SCWC) includes 31 organizations and speaks for over 27,000 concerned citizens. Our primary concern is water supply and quality in Sonoma County and in the North Coast Region. We support the development of TMDLs and TMDL Action Plans for impaired and threatened rivers and streams required by the Federal Clean Water Act and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

This legislation requires that TMDLs and TMDL Action Plans be prepared for surface water not meeting the quality levels necessary for the beneficial uses of that water. The process requires: (1) stakeholder involvement, (2) assessment of pollution amounts or “loads”, (3), definition of the total load allowed and allocation of the load to sources, (4) development of an implementation plan, and (5) re-evaluation of the plan over time.

The Scott River Plan which followed these steps is now undergoing final public review prior to approval by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Plan is based on a comprehensive scientific study weighing both environmental and economic factors. Unfortunately, efforts are underway to weaken this plan and to further delay improving water in this tributary to the Klamath River.

Early on you have stated that you would place a high priority on water quality in the State of California. We urge you, your Office, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Regional Boards to ensure that the TMDL process for the Scott River and for rivers and creeks in Sonoma County is not undermined by special interest groups.

Thank you for your support now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Stephen Fuller-Rowell
Sonoma County Water Coalition