



January 14, 2015

Jeffrey Albrecht
Division of Financial Assistance
Project Development

Transmitted via e-mail to: Jeffrey.Albrecht@waterboards.ca.gov

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Ukiah
- County of Mendocino
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

ANDY RODGERS
Executive Director

300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 666 - 4857

www.rrwatershed.org

Subject: Statement of Support – DROPS Grant for Ukiah Unified School District

Mr. Albrecht,

The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Ukiah Unified School District on their grant application to the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS) program. RRWA is a coalition of eleven cities, counties and special districts in the Russian River watershed that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, fisheries restoration and watershed enhancement. Stormwater pollution prevention is a key element of our mission and the DROPS program at Ukiah High School would advance RRWA's outreach and education objectives in the Upper Russian River area.

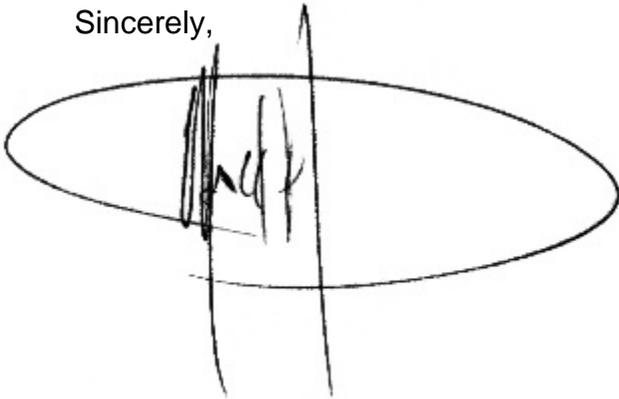
The Ukiah Unified School District is proposing to install stormwater planters and rain gardens throughout the Ukiah High School campus, as well as interlocking concrete pavers in the parking lot. The entire campus, including the parking lot, slopes toward and drains directly into Orrs Creek, a tributary to the Russian River.

The DROPS proposal fits with existing RRWA outreach and education components of the MS4 stormwater pollution prevention and LID objectives and would be an excellent demonstration project for the Upper Russian River. The Ukiah area is the headwaters of the Russian River, the drinking source for 600,000 people in three counties. The Upper Russian River is critical habitat for threatened steelhead trout, is currently listed as impaired for temperature and sediment and is slated to be listed for Pathogen Indicator Bacteria TMDL in the near future. The entire Russian River watershed has been selected as the first Habitat Focus Area under NOAA's Habitat Blueprint.

This project presents a unique opportunity to educate the public about low-impact design and the importance of clean water for our drinking water and threatened salmonids. We strongly urge you to fund this project. Please feel free to contact Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, at (707) 666-4812 if you have questions about RRWA or this letter of support.

Thank you for considering this grant applicant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Landman", is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature is somewhat stylized and overlaps the oval's boundary.

Mark Landman, Chair, RRWA Board of Directors

cc: Russian River Watershed Association Board of Directors
Deborah Edelman, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
Robert Reeves, Division of Financial Assistance, State Water Resources Control Board