



July 6, 2021

SENT VIA: EMAIL

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- 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) 508-3670

cleanwater@rrwatershed.org
www.rrwatershed.org

Dr. Josh Collins
Aquatic Science Center
4911 Central Avenue
Richmond, CA 94804

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for USEPA WPDG Project: Russian River Regional Monitoring Program: Comprehensive Basemap of Surface Waters and Riparian Areas

Dear Dr. Josh Collins:

Serving as Executive Director of the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA), I enthusiastically endorse the San Francisco Estuary Institute – Aquatic Science Center’s (SFEI-ASC) application for the WPDG to support the Russian River Regional Monitoring Program. The RRWA is a coalition of ten public agencies in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties that have come together to coordinate regional programs in the Russian River watershed for clean water, habitat restoration, and watershed enhancement.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) originally reached out to the RRWA Board of Directors in 2016 to propose collaborative development of a Russian River Regional Monitoring Program (R3MP). Since that time and with full support, RRWA staff and its member agencies have continued to closely coordinate with the RWQCB and the expertise of SFEI-ASC to create and evolve a foundational and representative regional monitoring program. In 2018, a R3MP Steering Committee (SC) was convened to coordinate jurisdictional entities and a broad range of stakeholders to identify and prioritize and coordinate environmental planning and adaptive management initiatives in the Russian River watershed. A R3MP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed earlier this year, and is ideally suited to advise and add value to the WPGD project.

The WPGD project will build on five years of foundational R3MP work funded by the California State Water Board, Ocean Protection Council, USEPA, and continuous participation of RRWA member agencies and other stakeholders to produce a new base map and geodatabase of waters and riparian areas in the Russian River Watershed. These products are essential for the R3MP to serve as a common source of science for all aspects of Russian River watershed management, including beneficial use protection in the context of land use and climate change. Further, these products will support evolving local and watershed-wide regulations and initiatives to focus efforts and resources on the highest value priorities for watershed health and resilience.

Dr. Josh Collins

July 6, 2021

Page 2

Thank you in advance for considering WPDG funding for the Russian River Regional Monitoring Program. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, at cleanwater@rrwatershed.org or 707-508-3670.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Rodgers", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director
Russian River Watershed Association

cc: Maureen Mulheren, Chair RRWA and Mendocino County Supervisor
Neysa Hinton, Vice Chair RRWA and City of Sebastopol Councilmember