



May 16, 2023

SENT VIA: EMAIL

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- City of Cotati
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- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
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- County of Mendocino
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

ANDY RODGERS
Executive Director

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(707) 508-3670

info@rrwatershed.org
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The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Russian River County Sanitation District – Wet Weather Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrades

Dear Senator Padilla:

Serving as Executive Director for the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA), I am writing to express support for Russian River County Sanitation District's (District) designated spending request for Wet Weather Treatment Plant Upgrades at the Russian River CSD Treatment Plant.

The District serves an economically disadvantaged community that faces high rates of over \$2,000 per household per year, along with limited funding for operations, maintenance and equipment replacement.

Wastewater treatment plants are typically situated at a lower elevation than their collection systems, allowing for gravity to transport wastewater to the treatment plant. The District's treatment plant is located above the 100-year flood plain and its service area, and all wastewater generated in the District must be pumped to the treatment plant.

To minimize or eliminate instances of sanitary sewer overflows during flood events, the District significantly increases the collection system pumping rate to the treatment plant. While the treatment plant can accommodate increased flows associated with a 1-to-2-day flooding event, it does not have the capacity to fully treat all wastewater inflows for longer flooding events to tertiary standards.

With climate change, flooding from the Russian River is anticipated to be more frequent and severe. The project would allow the District's treatment plant to provide tertiary treated recycled water through extended periods of flooding of the Russian River. In addition, the project will mitigate the risk of sanitary sewer overflows and associated hazards to public health and safety, as well as preserve water quality.

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I sincerely hope you will consider the Russian River County Sanitation District's request.

Thank you in advance for considering grant funding for this important project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, at cleanwater@rrwatershed.org or 707.508.3670.

Sincerely,



Andy Rodgers, Executive Director
Russian River Watershed Association

cc: Robert Rogers, Community & Government Affairs Intern, Sonoma Water