

CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Chief Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

CONTACT INFORMATION  
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1010  
Ukiah, California 95482  
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221  
FAX: (707) 463-7237  
Email: [bos@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:bos@mendocinocounty.org)  
Web: [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors)

June 4, 2019

Mr. E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: Support for Grant Request for Middle Eel River Basin Water Conservation and Watershed Restoration Pilot Project

Dear Chairman Esquivel,

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors recommend that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) respond affirmatively to the Eel River Recovery Project's (ERRP) request for support of its organizing work in the remote Middle Eel River watershed. Their plan to help local residents, including cannabis farmers, to conserve water and adopt best agricultural practices to limit water pollution is exactly what is needed in conjunction with the State's regulatory and enforcement efforts.

While our County has also established a regulatory framework, we are grappling with ways to prevent water pollution and stream flow depletion associated with cultivation, and ERRP provides a proactive strategy to resolve potential problems.

ERRP has been extremely successful working with the cannabis community, as reflected by its work done previously for the SWRCB in 2015 and 2016, where hundreds of farmers were educated and 70 farms were visited to provide technical assistance on best practices implementation. This project represents a logical extension of their past work and focuses on one of the most challenging areas in the Eel River watershed for regulation and enforcement.

The SWRCB was granted its authority to fund modest projects at its discretion and we highly recommend that you do so for this urgently needed, highly innovative, and locally driven project. Regulation has caused a huge amount of stress and economic dislocation in the cannabis industry in Mendocino County. Assistance is needed with watershed wide requirements to conserve water, restore stream flow, and stem erosion from roads because they are beyond the capacity of individual land owners.

Please call me, if you have questions regarding our support for this project.

Sincerely,

Carre Brown, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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