

RESOLUTION 23-001

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD RUSSIAN RIVER PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

POTTER VALLEY PROJECT POSITION

WHEREAS, the Potter Valley Project (PVP) has been diverting water from the Eel River at Cape Horn Dam into the Russian River watershed since 1908; and

WHEREAS, the water diverted from the Eel River through the PVP has resulted in the availability of water for residential, municipal, industrial, agriculture, tribal, and recreation, as well as for natural resource and other beneficial resources; and

WHEREAS, the water transferred from the Eel River is especially critical for maintaining sufficient storage in Lake Mendocino, which is used to provide minimum stream flows that are critical for maintaining natural resources and listed salmonids in the Russian River during periods of low water availability; and

WHEREAS, having determined that operation of the PVP is not financially viable, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) is asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) to decommission the PVP; and

WHEREAS, the Russian River Property Owners are concerned that without infrastructure that allows for continued diversions, the loss of the Eel River water through the PVP would result in an economic and natural resource crisis for the Alexander Valley in Sonoma County as well as other areas; and

WHEREAS, as part of the FERC's decommissioning process, certain parties are advocating for the removal of the Cape Horn and Scott dams ("Dam Removal") which may consume significant funds and eliminate funding opportunities for maintaining and improving diversion infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, PG&E must be held accountable for a significant portion of both the cost of (1) Dam Removal and (2) required infrastructure for ongoing diversion from Eel River to Russian River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, a partnership with government and non-governmental agencies is necessary (1) to hold PG&E accountable for all costs and (2) to secure future federal and state funding for the residual costs of infrastructure to support water reliability for the Alexander Valley water users; and

WHEREAS, a reliable agricultural water supply will require the continued diversion of the Eel River flows into the Russian River; and

WHEREAS, water users in the Russian River watershed will need to acquire some of PG&E's water rights to allow the continued diversion and use in Mendocino County and Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, The Russian River Property Owners, along with other organizations, are proposing the creation of a Water District in the Alexander Valley made up of unincorporated parcels overlying the Alexander Valley groundwater basins to safeguard a reliable and sustainable water supply and to provide water management that includes water efficiency, groundwater recharge, and other programs that ensure a resilient water supply for the protection of all recognized beneficial uses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the **Russian River Property Owners Association hereby finds, determines and declares** that the Russian River Property Owners Association will remain neutral regarding the removal of Cape Horn and Scott dams provided that before any Dam Removal PG&E assigns its water rights to Russian River water users and there is the funding, and governmental approvals for the installation and operation of necessary infrastructure (i.e., new diversion structures, reservoirs, etc.) to ensure the continued diversion of the sufficient quantities of water to the Russian River system to support Sonoma County agricultural, domestic, municipal and environmental water needs, including the support of listed salmonids and other habitat values, as well as supporting the economic vitality of Sonoma County.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of the **Russian River Property Owners Association**, at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the **May 10, 2023**, by the following vote.

AYES: Brad Petersen, Harry Black, Rickie Pina, David Fanucchi, Allen Nelson, Bret Munselle, Cam Mauritson, Justin Miller.

NOES: Pat Burns, Paul Foppiano

ABSENT: Carolyn Wasem, Richard Rued



Brad Petersen, Chairman
Board of Directors



ATTEST: Harry Black, Vice President