

22 April 2013

Mr. Eric Shott  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Email delivery to: mrc.hcpitp@noaa.gov

Mr. John Hunter, Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office  
1655 Heindon Road  
Arcata, California 95521  
Email delivery to: John\_E\_Hunter@fws.gov

Mr. Chris Browder  
Resource Management  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460  
Email delivery to: sacramentopubliccomment@fire.ca.gov

Mr. Brad Valentine  
Staff Environmental Scientist  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
PO Box 3999  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
Email delivery to: bvalentine@dfg.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Request for Extension on Public Review Period and  
Comments on the Mendocino Redwood Company  
Draft Habitat Conservation Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement /  
Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report

To Whom It May Concern:

The private property owners of the Navarro River Road Association (NRRA) have just recently become aware of the fact that the Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) is seeking approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for their approximately 213,244 acres in Mendocino County, California, and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR) have been prepared and are available for public review and comment until April 22, 2013. The MRC holdings include timberlands which border the private properties of members of the NRRA to the south, between our properties which front on the Navarro River and Cameron Road. The water supplies of most of the NRRA residences are from in-stream or near in-stream diversions (including shallow-fed seeps and springs) that could be contaminated by herbicide spraying on the adjacent MRC lands to the south, or could be adversely affected by timber harvest, road construction and other activities that could lead to landsliding, sedimentation, erosion, and degradation of creek water quality that would directly and indirectly affect our properties.

In 2005, MRC proposed a timber harvest of adjacent lands to the south of our properties, referred to at the time as Timber Harvest Plan (THP) No. 1-05-134 MEN – Cameron. We retained an attorney at the time who initially secured a tolling agreement and then ultimately negotiated a settlement agreement with MRC that among other commitments prohibited any use of herbicides on the MRC properties upslope of the NRRRA properties to protect our potable water supplies from possible contamination. We also negotiated revisions to the THP to provide greater setbacks from Class II and III Streams, steep slopes that border our properties, and environmental sensitive wetland areas. The settlement agreement was signed by all parties and continues to be in effect for timber harvest and land management activities of MRC.

Given we have just become aware of the HCP/NRCCP and EIS/TPTEIR, we have not had an opportunity to review these complicated and cumbersome documents. As adjacent property owners in a remote area that is not served by any local newspaper or other media, we believe written notice should have been provided to us given the adjacency of the MRC lands and the importance of adequate controls to prevent direct and indirect effects on our properties. We are concerned about the contents of the HCP and EIS/PTEIR and have the following requests and comments:

1. Having received no written notification as adjacent property owners and just finding out about the public review, we request that the public comment period be extended for at least another 90 days to allow us the opportunity to review the draft HCP and EIS/PTEIR and possible direct and indirect impacts on our properties. These are highly complex documents, comprising over 1,000 pages with accompanying maps, tables, and appendices. There is no way we can review the documents in any meaningful fashion in such a short period of time.
2. That we be notified of all future announcements, including deadlines for an extension of the public comment period and all other aspects of the HCP and EIS/PTEIR process. And that at minimum written notice be provided in writing to the following address Navarro River Road Association, c/o Kara Morris, PO Box 164, Albion CA, 95410 and the following email addresses: karab\_navarro@yahoo.com and beach127@aol.com.
3. That the HCP, EIS/PTEIR, and any land management activities by MRC must consider our potable water supplies located downslope and in close proximity to timber harvest lands, and must ensure that they will not result in any contamination to our water supplies.
4. That the HCP, EIS/PTEIR, and any land management activities by MRC comply with the settlement agreement with the Navarro River Road Association and specific adjacent land owners along Navarro River Road, and not use any herbicides on their properties along Cameron Road that drain across our properties to the north to prevent possible direct and indirect contamination of our drinking water supplies and surface waters that flow across our properties. In 2005, MRC entered into an agreement with several of the property owners as part of a settlement during the environmental review of THP No. 1-05-134 MEN – Cameron, which prohibits the use of herbicides on the MRC properties located upslope and to the south of our properties and covered under this THP. We can provide a copy of this agreement if needed to review in responding to our comments.
5. That the steep hillsides on the southern portion of our properties and the adjacent MRC lands are very steep and prone to landsliding, and that any timber harvest, road construction, or other activities must consider these conditions and make sure that they don't contribute to future landsliding onto our properties or destabilization along creeks and drainages that flow onto our property that could result in erosion and/or sedimentation on our properties. And that these risks be adequately addressed in the HCP and EIS/PTEIR.

Thank you in advance for your careful attention to our concerns and diligence in making sure the draft HCP and draft EIS/PTEIR adequately address all the above issues, and in meeting our request for an extension on the public review and comment period to allow us sufficient time to review these documents. We are not opposed to MRC harvesting or conducting appropriate management on their property, but would like to make sure our downslope properties, water supplies, and the resources of the Navarro River watershed are all adequately protected in the process.

Sincerely,

Navarro River Road Association  
c/o Kara Morris  
PO Box 164  
Albion CA, 95410