

Friends of the Napa River

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January 27, 2003

City Council Members
City of St. Helena
1480 Main Street
St. Helena, CA 94574

Re: St Helena Flood Protection, Enhanced Minimum Plan

Dear City Council Members:

Friends of the Napa River (FONR) has hired a consultant, Phil Williams and Associates (PWA), to advise the public on the concerns that FONR has about the Enhanced Minimum Plan (EMP). We attended several meetings of the Technical Committee, have commented in writing and received responses from the Committee, which we appreciate.

Based on the latest information, our consultant has prepared additional comments which we submit for your consideration. The key findings are:

- The major concern that the currently proposed EMP may not be adequately addressing the Living River Principles (LRP) still stands. This may jeopardize Measure A funding.
- Assumption of geomorphic stability is questionable.
- Potential for significant deposition in the restored floodplain terrace reaches could result in disruptive or expensive maintenance.
- Adaptive management not integrated with planning and design potentially exposing the City to high maintenance costs.
- Design criteria for floodplain terraces are unresolved.
- The concerns expressed by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG, verbal at the 1/15 meeting) and by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, per letter 5/22/02) have to be addressed.

The detailed comments by PWA of 1/20/03 are attached in addition to the PWA comments of 11/29/02. Please let us know when the planned EIR will be released to enable timely comments and reviews. To this effect, our consultant is preparing an LRP-based alternative "multi-objective" flood control and river restoration project.

Sincerely,



Bernhard Krevet, President
Friends of the Napa River

CC: MIG, MBK, DFG, NMFS, NOAA, ACOE, Vineyard Valley
Attachments: PWA Memorandum of 1/20/2003
PWA Memorandum of 11/29/2002