

**From:** [Robert Pennington](mailto:Robert.Pennington@sonoma-county.org)  
**To:** [Stacie Groll](mailto:Stacie.Groll@sonoma-county.org)  
**Subject:** FW: PUBLIC COMMENT - 3/11 AGENDA ITEM 34 - FW: RRF Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 for the RR Floodplain Restoration Project  
**Date:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 3:42:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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FYI

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**From:** Tennis Wick <[Tennis.Wick@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Tennis.Wick@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 3:12 PM  
**To:** Christina Rivera <[Christina.Rivera@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Christina.Rivera@sonoma-county.org)>; Jennifer Klein <[Jennifer.Klein@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Jennifer.Klein@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Cc:** Scott Orr <[Scott.Orr@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Scott.Orr@sonoma-county.org)>; John Mack <[John.Mack@sonoma-county.org](mailto:John.Mack@sonoma-county.org)>; Robert Pennington <[Robert.Pennington@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Robert.Pennington@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: PUBLIC COMMENT - 3/11 AGENDA ITEM 34 - FW: RRF Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 for the RR Floodplain Restoration Project

Thank you very much!

TW



**Tennis Wick, AICP**  
**Director**  
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
[www.PermitsSonoma.org](http://www.PermitsSonoma.org)  
**o:** (707) 565-1900  
**d:** (707) 565-1925  
[Tennis.Wick@Sonoma-County.org](mailto:Tennis.Wick@Sonoma-County.org)



Lobby hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Wednesday 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

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**From:** Christina Rivera <[Christina.Rivera@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Christina.Rivera@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 3:04 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Klein <[Jennifer.Klein@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Jennifer.Klein@sonoma-county.org)>; Tennis Wick <[Tennis.Wick@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Tennis.Wick@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** Fw: PUBLIC COMMENT - 3/11 AGENDA ITEM 34 - FW: RRF Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 for the RR Floodplain Restoration Project

Just making sure you have this emailed Public Comment.

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**From:** BOS <[BOS@sonoma-county.org](mailto:BOS@sonoma-county.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 2:45 PM

**To:** BOS <[BOS@sonoma-county.org](mailto:BOS@sonoma-county.org)>

**Cc:** Marcie Woychik <[Marcie.Woychik@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Marcie.Woychik@sonoma-county.org)>; Noelle Francis <[Noelle.Francis@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Noelle.Francis@sonoma-county.org)>

**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT - 3/11 AGENDA ITEM 34 - FW: RRF Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 for the RR Floodplain Restoration Project

Respectfully,

*Michelle Norman*

*Deputy Clerk of the Board – Assessment Appeals*

*(707) 565-2244*

[Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Michelle.Norman@sonoma-county.org)

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**From:** Ed Barich <[ebarich@sonic.net](mailto:ebarich@sonic.net)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 1:28 PM

**To:** BOS <[BOS@sonoma-county.org](mailto:BOS@sonoma-county.org)>

**Cc:** Daniel Powers <[DpCustomMeats@outlook.com](mailto:DpCustomMeats@outlook.com)>; don <[don@russianriverkeeper.org](mailto:don@russianriverkeeper.org)>; [cschneider@caltrout.org](mailto:cschneider@caltrout.org)

**Subject:** RRF Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 for the RR Floodplain Restoration Project

March 6, 2025

Chair Lynda Hopkins Supervisor District 5 [district5@sonoma-county.org](mailto:district5@sonoma-county.org)

Rebecca Hermosillo, Supervisor District 1 [rebecca.hermosillo@sonoma-county.org](mailto:rebecca.hermosillo@sonoma-county.org)

David Rabbitt, Supervisor District 2 [David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org](mailto:David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org)

Chris Coursey, Supervisor District 3 [district3@sonoma-county.org](mailto:district3@sonoma-county.org)

James Gore, Supervisor District 4 [district4@sonoma-county.org](mailto:district4@sonoma-county.org)

County of Sonoma

Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Drive, Room 100 A Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Re: Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 for the RR Floodplain Restoration Project**

The Russian River Fly Fishers (RRFF) are a Sonoma County club of more than 200 members whose purpose is to advance, promote, practice and teach the art of fly casting and angling with artificial flies. To make this sport possible, we make recommendations and representations to state and/or federal authorities for the improvement of water conditions to protect, conserve and increase the population of wild fresh water, salt water and migratory game fish.

We are writing you today to support the Use Permit application for the Russian River Floodplain Restoration Project to convert four gravel pits into functional floodplains. This project will create multiple benefits from reducing erosion on adjacent properties to enhancing salmon recovery and increasing our adaptation to climate change impacts.

The legacy of gravel mining and channelization has caused the loss of more than 85% of former riparian areas and deeply incised the river channel cutting it off from its floodplain. This has greatly decreased critical salmon habitat and reduced biodiversity and wildlife abundance. Currently, when the river has major floods, endangered salmon venture into the gravel pits and often cannot escape as floodwaters recede and are eaten by non-native bass in the pits. This project will also halt the introduction of toxic methylmercury from the gravel pits into fish, birds and people.

Restoring the connection between the mainstem of the river to seasonal floodplain will also improve our community's and local ecosystem's resilience to climate change. Expanding the river area will provide more temporary flood storage and improve groundwater recharge in the important middle reach of the Russian River. The project will create over 160 acres of riparian and seasonal wet meadow habitat that will increase food production for juvenile salmon and steelhead. The project will enhance recovery of local native flora and fauna by restoring the seasonal floodplain and river channel habitat complexity.

The project will also provide new public access with trails that are compatible with restoration and improve public lands access equity for underserved communities in the area.

We are very supportive of the project and urge the Board to approve the Use Permit and Conditions of Approval so this important project can move forward.

Sincerely,

**The Board of Directors of the Russian River Fly Fishers:**

Daniel Powers (President)

Penelope Gadd-Coster

Steve Tubbs

Brendan Galten

Tracie Koenig

Mike Spurlock

Catherine Miller

Ed Barich

Gregg Wrisley

Doug Mackay

Don Shaw

Jeff Cratty

Mike Borba

Pam Boyd DeCoite

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