

Klamath Riverkeeper

A Program of the Klamath Forest Alliance

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Talking points for Klamath River TMDL Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting

The beneficial uses of the Klamath River have been damaged by excessive nutrients, excessively high water temperature and excessively low dissolved oxygen. Below these are referred to as “pollution” which is precisely what these “impairments” are under the Clean Water Act and Porter-Cologne Act.

- ◆ **This Clean-Up plan must be different from the Scott River Plan both in terms of Process and Content. We want an all-party stakeholder group on the Klamath River where the people most affected by the pollution can participate. And we want a TMDL that relies on responsible state and federal land management and regulatory agencies to make the needed changes (not on the good will of the polluters).**
- ◆ **The Scott River Clean-up Plan will not work to clean-up and restore the Scott River because it is voluntary and the polluters are in charge. This clean-up plan must prescribe regulations that will be effective and which can be enforced by the NCWQCB and its related state agencies.**
- ◆ **The environmental study must look at the social and the economic costs which the pollution and its impacts have wrought up and down the river and up and down the coast. The social and economic value of restored water quality must be studied and disclosed. In doing these assessments and disclosures the best available information must be consulted and referenced.**
- ◆ **The environmental study and TMDL must look at the biological connections and processes involving the pollution parameters as well as the consequences of failure to clean-up the Klamath pollution including but not limited to the following:**
 1. **What is the connection between the pollution and the dams?**
 2. **What is the connection between the pollution and toxic algae?**
 3. **What is the connection between the pollution and fish diseases and die-offs?**
 4. **What is the connection between flow, hydrologic manipulation and withdrawal and the pollution?**

- 5. What is the connection between specific land-use practices and the pollution including but not limited to: agricultural and forestry practices?**
- 6. What are potential health affects for humans, especially children, fishermen, river recreation folks?**

- ◆ The environmental study and action plan should look at the regulations being implemented by other state and federal agencies throughout the watershed and how these regulations are being implemented and enforced. The action plan should identify those existing related regulations which need to be enforced by other state and federal agencies in order for the Klamath clean-up to be effective.**
- ◆ Agriculture and forestry are by far the dominant land uses in the Klamath River Basin. Therefore these activities should receive special focus and attention.**
- ◆ The environmental study and TMDL should identify what load reductions are necessary and appropriate for the Klamath water received from Oregon. And the Action Plan should identify what specific actions Oregon needs to take and a time-line in order that the water which flows into California is capable of supporting beneficial uses.**
- ◆ The Klamath River is dying. We need the North Coast Water Board to accept their responsibility under the Clean Water Act and Porter Cologne and give us a clean-up plan that will actually work, that is, a plan to clean up the pollution and restore the Klamath River to health and vitality. The NCWQCB has been in charge of water quality in this river basin for over 30 years. During that time the water quality of the Klamath River has gotten worse and worse and related beneficial uses have been severely impacted. It is time for the water board to finally do what it takes to reverse the destruction of the Klamath River and its beneficial uses.**