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DATE: March 4, 2009

TO: Diana Messina, Senior Engineer
Central Valley Region Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 100
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6144

RE: **Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements and the Tentative Cease and Desist Order for the Donner Summit PUD Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Two years ago, I purchased a home in Washington, CA right on the South Yuba River where I spend a great deal of time. Recently, when several of my neighbors told me about Donner Summit PUD's on-going "wastewater" discharges into the headwaters of the Yuba River, I did more research about the possible impacts on the river. What I found out was shocking, to say the least.

First, I read the Nevada County Civil Grand Jury's report, which clearly states that the DSPUD's discharges "pose a threat to the beneficial use of the river."

Secondly, I read SYRCL's report (September 2008) about the on-going violations by the DSPUD, which details many of their failures to meet the most basic State mandated guidelines for wastewater management.

Third, I did extensive on-line research into the DSPUD's well-documented and repeated violations for its on-going wastewater disposal.

It is very apparent that DSPUD is not only in violation of countless State guidelines, it poses an on-going threat to aquatic life and human health all along the South Yuba River, which also impacts Lake Spaulding, the Bear River, Rollins Lake and areas beyond.

I hope that you will consider the following comments in your FINAL ORDER to force DSPUD to institute the most basic protocols to protect the South Yuba River and everyone else who lives downstream:

- Prohibit DSPUD's effluent discharge to the River. Land-based disposal is feasible to protect the South Yuba River from gross pollution and steps should begin NOW to investigate all the viable alternatives, including the most obvious long-term solution --- a "leach field" application.

NOTE: The Truckee-Donner PUD is not allowed to dump any wastewater into the Truckee River. Why are the standards any different for the South Yuba River, which is a protected 'Wild & Scenic River'?

- Currently, DSPUD is not allowed to discharge into the River during the months of August-September; however, that timeline should be expanded from June-October. Lots of people are swimming and inadvertently drinking the river water during those summer months. Doesn't it make sense to make sure these people are not being exposed to unhealthy levels of DSPUD's "treated effluent" in the river?

- The DSPUD needs to install a stream gauge RIGHT WHERE IT DISCHARGES ITS EFFLUENT INTO THE SOUTH YUBA RIVER --- NOT 10 MILES DOWNSTREAM where they are currently collecting their bogus discharge data (at Cisco Grove).

This stream gauge system should, a). monitor how many gallons of wastewater are spewed out every day into the river, and b). collect water quality samples to determine the levels of all the hazardous chemicals being dumped into the river on a daily basis.

Until this stream gauge is installed and monitored right at the dumping site, all of DSPUD's supplied data should be circumspect. Taking water samples ten miles downstream is a joke.

- The DSPUD should be denied any Dilution Credits.

- The period of DSPUD's interim limits for ammonia, nitrate, aluminum, manganese, copper, cyanide, aldrin, alpha BHC, silver, and zinc needs to be reduced from 5 years to 3 years.

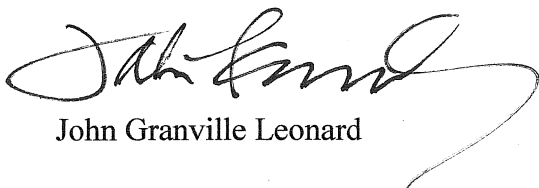
- The interim limits for nitrate and ammonia using data inclusive of the fall, winter and spring of 2008 needs to be recalculated.

The DSPUD should be held to the same standards as other wastewater disposal plants around the State. In fact, given the pristine environment of the Yuba Headwaters area, the DSPUD should be held to the very highest standards. Given their dismal record of performance, they should be more closely monitored and fined accordingly.

The South Yuba River is a protected "Wild & Scenic River" --- not the DSPUD's private sewer line. Thousands of people like me live and play in the South Yuba River. It needs to be protected from the DSPUD's irresponsible on-going dumping.

I hope you will consider these suggestions --- and thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John Granville Leonard