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Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488
www.westportmac.org

December 7, 2011

Forest Practice Program Manager
California Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection
135 Ridgway Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Re: Request for notification of THPs proposed in the WMAC geographic region

Dear Forest Practice Program Manager:

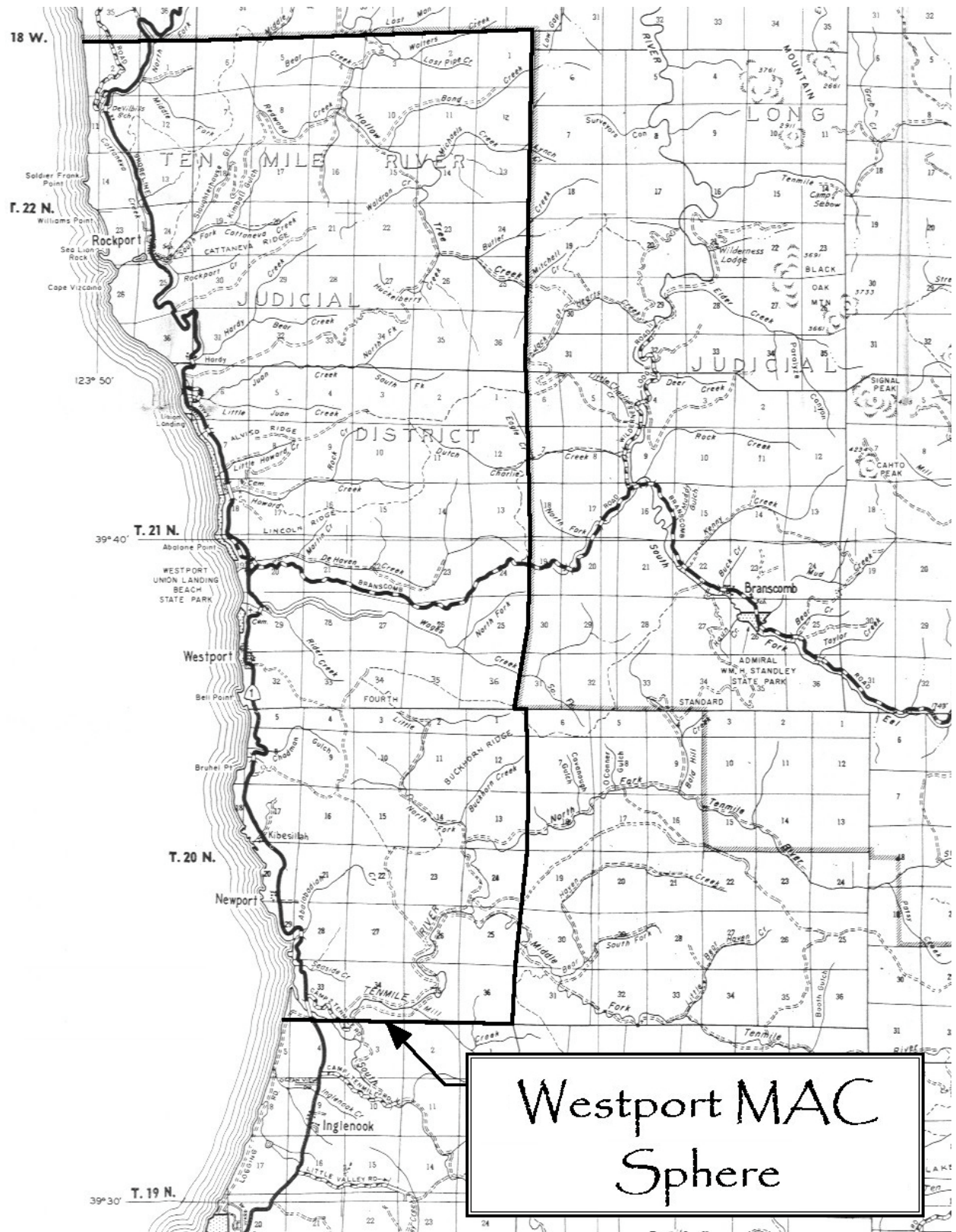
Concerned citizens continue to attend our regular monthly meetings to raise concerns about the environmental effects of proposed timber harvests in our geographic sphere of influence. That sphere encompasses about 120 square miles around the village of Westport, as shown on the attached map. That regular input from our community suggests there is a need for increased cooperation between your program, which operates under a CEQA counterpart regulation known as the Forest Practices Act, and the Westport Municipal Advisory Council.

In the interests of ensuring public concerns are adequately considered during the review of proposed THPs, we therefore request timely notifications of all future THPs proposed in our sphere of influence. Because we meet monthly, notification would be desirable upon initial receipt of each proposed THP. We would then be in a better position to assist you in gathering information about public concerns and ensuring those issues are properly addressed. Please send those notices to the WMAC Chairperson at thadvanbueren@directv.net so that we can place them on our regular agendas for public consideration.

At our most recent meeting on December 6 concerns were raised about THP 1-11-1019-MEN (Denoyer) in the Howard Creek watershed. That THP proposes exceptions to accepted standards and guidelines that we consider inappropriate because they have the potential to cause significant erosion problems affecting the environment and downstream residents. We therefore urge you to deny the exemption for ground-based yarding on very steep terrain in favor of practices that have less risk of causing environmental harm. Other concerns such as low retention of tree cover and existing environmental problems within the parcel were also raised and merit your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chuck Eyerly, Secretary



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