

July 21, 2009

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Dear.....,

Did you know that 59% of Americans worry a great deal about water pollution? In the same survey by Gallup, 40% of those surveyed expressed a great concern about safe drinking water. How important is this to you? Population growth and increased development continue to place greater demands on our precious water resources; while at the same time, budget cuts reduce government ability to maintain water infrastructure. Now more than ever, community watershed groups play a vital role in protecting [REDACTED] waterways. The [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is an advocate for grassroots watershed groups around the state and citizen involvement in the collaborative decision making process. [REDACTED] needs *your* support to provide tools and resources to these citizen groups.



The [REDACTED] is a coalition of over [REDACTED] watershed groups across the state. Now, more than ever, during these challenging times we need to expand our support of the network of volunteers working to monitor, protect, conserve and enhance the natural resources of their local communities. Our support manifests itself in a number of ways including:

- [REDACTED] we work to provide watershed groups with timely information on funding opportunities, conferences, training programs, roundtable meetings, and current events. Our newsletters and monthly water reports reach over 2,000 organizations and individuals.
- [REDACTED] trains high school teachers and watershed coordinators to develop volunteer water quality monitoring teams in their local watersheds. [REDACTED] voluntary stewards monitor over 300 stations and use this high quality data to educate decision makers on the health of rivers and streams in [REDACTED]. There is no cost to volunteers, only a commitment of time, energy and care.
- Water quality data from [REDACTED] is compiled along with dozens of agencies, municipalities and other water quality monitoring organizations and entered into the [REDACTED]. The data can be accessed by any interested citizen and used to develop watershed management plans.
- The annual [REDACTED] brings together local watershed groups with state and federal agencies and policymakers and features dozens of workshops on issues affecting [REDACTED] watersheds. This year's conference will be held in [REDACTED].

*Please consider giving a generous gift today so the [REDACTED] can continue to support the successful programs proven to serve watershed groups and citizen volunteers across the state.*

Your membership or donation will:

- **Enable watershed groups to better serve their constituents and meet their mission.** In the next year, [REDACTED] will offer new watershed groups a free web page on our site with a direct link. In this electronic age, websites are vital tools for education and maintaining relationships with stakeholders.
- **Enable more students to participate in a valuable hands-on education that contributes to a comprehensive understanding of water quality.** [REDACTED] is a program where learning and contribution to the community do not occur on a purely theoretical level. Your support will help make it possible for 60 new volunteers and students to become involved in [REDACTED]
- **Bring an Americorps\*VISTA volunteer to local watershed groups.** The Assembly has worked hand-in-hand with [REDACTED] to place VISTA volunteers with local watershed groups for capacity-building assistance. These volunteers perform 1 or 2 year lengths of service and help build memberships, write grants, organize events, coordinate monitoring plans and implement projects.
- **Increase the amount of water quality data available to citizens and lawmakers.** As volunteers monitor more rivers and as that data is entered to [REDACTED], policy makers and citizens will have more information describing the water quality in [REDACTED]. This will lead to the development of more informed watershed management plans and river restoration projects.

Your donation is essential to the long term support and growth of local watershed efforts. [REDACTED] relies on the support of citizen members like you in order to support on-the-ground, citizen-directed projects in communities across the state. Your contribution to [REDACTED] not only improves collaborative watershed management and water quality in your own backyard, but throughout the state of [REDACTED] as well.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Make a difference!

[REDACTED]

***P.S. Please send in your generous contribution today so we can help more citizens become involved in watershed management!***

We also hope to see you at the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] This year's conference will focus on the importance of watershed conservation in these tough economic times. The lineup of presentations, workshops and field trips offer an opportunity for watershed groups, agencies, private landowners, corporate entities, and other stakeholders to develop partnerships that will benefit [REDACTED] water resources.