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## **Nestlé Waters North America To Begin New Contract Negotiations With McCloud Community Services District**

### ***Community Forums On Project To Begin In September***

**McCloud, CA** –Nestlé Waters North America announced today that it is stepping out of its initial contract to purchase spring water from the McCloud Community Services District and looks forward to negotiating a new contract with the District. The new contract will better reflect the company’s smaller project now envisioned in McCloud and community feedback on this proposal.

“Nestlé Waters is committed to working with the McCloud Community Services District Board to reach agreement on a new contract that better reflects the reduced size and bottling capacity of our revised project proposal, benefits the people of McCloud, is protective of the watershed and provides much-needed jobs in the area,” said Dave Palais, project manager. “We look forward to building on the productive and open dialogue we’ve begun with the McCloud community, elected officials and other stakeholders as we move forward in this process.”

Due to changes in the business climate and increased availability of water resources in other areas, Nestle Waters announced in mid-May that it will scale back the size and water usage of its proposed project in McCloud by 60 percent. The smaller facility will be a LEED certified green building, and will accommodate up to four production lines. When constructed, the project is expected to create 100 new jobs at the facility.

As a result of the significant changes in the project proposal, and feedback from the McCloud community, Nestlé Waters is stepping out of its original contract with the McCloud Community Services District. The company will work with the District to begin the process of negotiating a new contract tailored to this smaller project. As with the previous contract, the new agreement will be contingent on the completion of a comprehensive environmental analysis under CEQA and NEPA. This new contract will also reflect the company’s commitment to place legally enforceable restrictions on the possible use of groundwater wells in connection with the project.

The company also announced today that the first in a series of public meetings on the project will take place in September. These meetings are intended to provide the McCloud community and other interested stakeholders with an additional opportunity to weigh-in on a variety of issues raised by Nestle Water’s project proposal. The first meeting will focus on water resources and biology. All interested stakeholders, elected

officials, members of the McCloud community and Siskiyou County residents are encouraged to attend and participate.

“We have received a tremendous amount of constructive input from members of the McCloud Community and others over the past several years and we hope that our revised project proposal can benefit from ideas that come out of continuing that public dialogue,” continued Palais.

A variety of topics will be addressed at upcoming meetings including air quality and truck traffic, historical preservation, among others. Kearns & West, one of the state’s most respected public involvement firms will be facilitating these forums to ensure all viewpoints and opinions are heard and taken into consideration.

Last week, the company also announced the commencement of a two-year evaluation of the existing hydrology and biology of the Squaw Valley Creek watershed. The data collected will be used to develop baseline information and to improve the understanding of the characteristics of the watershed more generally. Additional studies on air and water quality, traffic conditions, hazardous materials, and the potential impact of climate change on water supply will also be conducted during this time. Once these studies have been completed, and additional public input has been received, a new draft environmental impact report on Nestlé Waters’ proposed McCloud project will be issued.

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