

McCloud Watershed Council & California Trout Enlist Manatt

National Law Firm Joins Efforts to Protect Communities Rights against Nestle Waters North America

MCCLOUD, Calif., April 23 /PRNewswire/ -- The McCloud Watershed Council and California Trout, who, along with Trout Unlimited, comprise the Protect Our Waters Coalition, announced today that they have engaged the national law and consulting firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP. The firm will represent the Coalition in their fight to safeguard the rights and quality of life for residents of McCloud, California and beyond who would be affected by operation of a planned Nestle Waters North America water bottling plant in the Mt. Shasta area. Progress on the proposed plant, which would be the nation's largest, is mired in unanswered questions and conflicting economic and environmental assessments.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have a firm of Manatt's stature on board," said Debra Anderson, chair of McCloud Watershed Council's board. "There are complex issues surrounding the construction of this and other plants like it across the country. The potential negative impact on the citizens of McCloud most directly, Californians generally, and through precedent, the entire nation, cannot be overstated. We have been impressed by the depth of Manatt's expertise and strategic advice. We know they will be effective advocates on behalf of the people and the environment."

Manatt partners Stephen Mayne and Andrew Bassak in the firm's San Francisco office, and Craig Moyer in Los Angeles, will head up the legal team.

According to Bassak, "the scope and cross-disciplinary nature of legal issues involved -- from government contract approval and enforceability issues, to natural resources and land use, to state and federal regulatory questions, and on potentially to litigation -- play to our firm's strengths. We look forward to working with the Coalition on this important effort."

About Protect Our Waters Coalition

Protect Our Waters Coalition formed to ensure the ecological and hydrological integrity of Mt. Shasta's unique headwater areas for future generations. Current members include Trout Unlimited, California Trout and the McCloud Watershed Council. Streams that originate on Mount Shasta, and the springs issuing around its base, enter three Siskiyou county river systems -- the Shasta, the Upper Sacramento and the McCloud rivers. These springs and rivers provide a unique quality of life for area residents, visitors and ecology, and face similar challenges -- most pressing how to properly value them for the future. Mount Shasta's waters support rich agricultural production, ranching, healthy forests and rivers, industry, rural towns and cities.

About Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, provides legal and consulting services to a global client base from offices in Los Angeles, Orange County, Palo Alto, San Francisco, and Sacramento, California; New York City and Albany, New York; and Washington, D.C. Manatt includes Manatt Health Solutions, a healthcare policy and strategic business advisory group, and Manatt Jones Global Strategies, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary that develops and implements strategies to expand client businesses and facilitate their effective competition in global markets. For more information, visit <http://www.manatt.com>, <http://www.manatthealthsolutions.com>, and <http://www.manattjones.com>.