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## **Nestlé Waters North America Announces Additional Details of McCloud Community Engagement, Scientific Studies and New Contract Negotiations**

McCloud, CA –Nestlé Waters North America (NWNA) today announced additional details regarding its plans for community forums, scientific studies and new contract negotiations surrounding its proposed project in McCloud, CA.

"Every siting project is unique and NWNA is always seeking new ways to improve our siting process and become a better neighbor. We are extremely appreciative of the strong support over the years we have received from members of the McCloud community, elected officials and residents throughout Siskiyou County and of the feedback we have heard from other stakeholders on this project," said Dave Palais, project manager. "As we continue with the contract, siting and permitting process, we look forward to engaging in public and productive dialogue with the McCloud Community Services District, the County, members of the McCloud community and other interested parties."

NWNA is committed to completing broad scientific studies designed by an independent review team to evaluate potential impacts of the project. The studies will include a two to three year evaluation of the existing status of the hydrology and biology. NWNA has also committed to undertake additional studies on air and water quality, traffic conditions, hazardous materials, and an economic impact study. The process will also explore the potential impact of climate change on water supply. The hydrology and biological studies are scheduled to begin in June 2008, and studies on the other topics will begin later this summer. Once these studies have been completed, a draft environmental impact report (EIR) will be issued.

In light of NWNA's recently announced decision to scale back the size and water usage of its proposed project by about 60 percent, the company also reiterated its support for new contract negotiations with the McCloud Community Services District. In addition, the company re-stated its commitment to permanently eliminate the possible use of groundwater wells in connection with this proposed project in a legally enforceable manner.

In mid-May, NWNA announced plans for a more robust public engagement process as consideration of the revised project proposal moves forward and today provided additional details regarding upcoming public meetings. Beginning

this summer and continuing on a regular basis, the company will host public meetings on specific topics related to its proposed project in McCloud. Among the issues to be addressed during this series of workshops are water resources and biology, air quality and truck traffic, and historical preservation.

The feedback received during these public meetings, in conjunction with the additional scientific studies that will be conducted on the revised project proposal, will be used for several purposes, including:

- To help shape the details of Nwana's proposed facility in McCloud;
- To help develop a draft EIR on the project; and
- To inform the creation of a new contract with the McCloud Community Services District.

All interested stakeholders, elected officials, members of the McCloud community and Siskiyou County residents are invited to attend and participate in these meetings. Additional details surrounding this series of public forums, including dates, times and locations will be available and announced to the public in early summer.

"As we continue with the siting and permitting process, we look forward to engaging in public and transparent dialogue with the McCloud Community Services District, the County, members of the McCloud community and other interested parties," said Palais.

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