

From: [Juliet Lamont](#)
To: [commentletters](#)
Cc: [Juliet Lamont](#)
Subject: Please Support of Proposed Wetlands Policy Regulations for CA!
Date: Monday, September 4, 2017 10:29:05 AM
Importance: High



Felicia Marcus, Chair, and Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Marcus and Board members:

I am writing to urge you to adopt the proposed statewide wetlands policy regulation (“Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State”), and to put your full force behind its implementation and enforcement. California has lost over 90% of its historic wetlands, and we must do all we can to stop further harm, protect what remains, and rebuild some of what we’ve lost.

Wetlands provide a multitude of critical ecosystem services that benefit both people and the planet (and all species!). Wetlands improve water quality by filtering toxins, protect communities against flooding, and help to replenish groundwater supplies. They are important habitat for many native species in this state, such as birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Wetlands are being restored globally as part of ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation efforts to combat climate change, and to complement our over-taxed “gray” infrastructure. They can also provide key protections from the rising ocean levels and storm surges that climate change will bring. The catastrophes of Hurricane Katrina, and more recently, flooding associated with Hurricane Harvey, are sobering reminders that the protection of our full watershed ecosystems, and their critical wetlands components, are an imperative.

Despite all of this, the President has recently acted to roll back federal protections for wetlands. This is wholly unacceptable, and the state must do all it can to protect our resources from federal inaction. The State Water Resources Control Board stands in a unique position to lead in the face of federal retreat. We urge you to use your authority to adopt the statewide wetlands policy swiftly and decisively. We cannot afford to wait any longer.

Sincerely,

Juliet Lamont

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