

From: [crystal ortiz](#)  
To: [commentletters](#)  
Subject: Comments  
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 11:58:10 AM

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Hi,

I am writing this email to express my GRAVE CONCERN that the waterboards newest draft will drastically negatively impact the rural communities of Northern California. Humboldt, Mendocino and TRINITY county are economically disadvantaged to the rest of the state and many of the actions in the proposed regs will destroy the economic livelihood of the areas. Many farmers have enrolled with huge support into the regional program for waste discharge and invested \$\$\$\$\$\$ ( at huge financial burden) to meet those setbacks. The fact that the state is changing the setbacks with no site specific variance is devastating. Our community needs the ability to protect their watershed without blanket regulations set to destroy them. The majority of our gardens are under an acre and cannot and will not scale. At the very least, we NEED site specific plans and setbacks that will allow farmers to protect their watershed without onerous and devastating regulations. DO NOT REGULATE THE SMALL FARM OUT OF BUSINESS. Your words say one thing, but your actions are set to eliminate the vast majority of the smallest farmers. PLEASE allow for hired professionals to create a protection plan that mitigates setbacks, adequately addresses water use and does not create beaureacratc red tape that does not make sense to the smallest of farms. Economic diversity is where we thrive, and funneling the cultivation to indoor and large scale industrial ag and out of the rural communities that depend on it is immoral. We MUST have an opportunity to participate, and the MAJORITY of farms will not meet these onerous thresholds. To attempt to regulate a rural parcel with LESS THAN 1/4 acre garden the same as the industrial ag monoliths cropping up is destined to destroy the progress we have made thus far. Be prepared for complete and total devastation to the rural communities of Northern Ca if you do not create SITE SPECIFIC plans that mitigate any potential impacts of their cultivation area. Please call for more information if needed. Chrystal Ortiz (707)672-4968