



The Sea Ranch Association

975 Annapolis Road
P.O. Box 16
The Sea Ranch, CA 95497-0016

5/4/10 Bd Hrng. (cont' frm 4/27)
AB 2121
Deadline: 4/30/10 by 12 noon

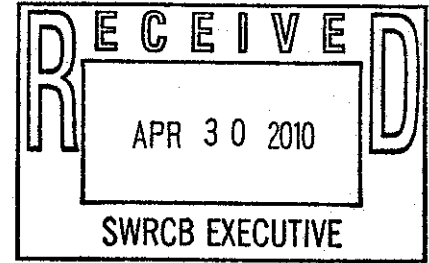
Administration

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April 29, 2010

commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Proposed April 27 Draft AB 2121 Instream Flow Policy



Dear Chair and Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

I write on behalf of the Sea Ranch Water Company. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

The SWRCB's April 27th red-line reflects extensive substantive changes to accommodate the interests of the agricultural and Trout Unlimited concerns. The April 27th hearing was delayed to accommodate further negotiations with those stakeholders, and most of the hearing focused on those issues. We hope that their concerns were resolved, and have no objection thereto, except to the extent that SWRCB's focus on those stakeholders' concerns resulted in the failure to address the legitimate and substantive concerns of municipal users.

The new red-line draft policy reflects very minor changes in response to the significant concerns raised by the Sea Ranch Water Company and other municipal water users. Fundamentally, municipal water users' concerns were simply not addressed. Although we participated in good faith in the process, at considerable expense -- including meetings with each Board member, several red-line drafts, multiple offers to sit down with Board members and staff to identify and resolve any differences in how to address our concerns, and were repeatedly assured that our concerns would be taken care of -- no opportunity to meet with staff or work out our concerns was provided. There was no discussion, negotiation or other substantive engagement with the municipal users. Ultimately, our concerns were not dealt with or resolved. This is very unfortunate.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank M. Bell, PhD
Sea Ranch Community Manager
CEO The Sea Ranch Water Company