

**From:** "Pat Geib Alexander" <pat@generallogistics.com>  
**To:** "Karen Niiya Senior Engineer" <AB2121Policy@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 16, 2008 10:59 AM  
**Subject:** Comment Letter - AB 2121 Policy

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April 16, 2008

Karen Niiya Senior Engineer  
Division of Water Rights  
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Niiya:

The Draft Policy is not a workable approach to protecting instream flows. Instead of providing water users guidance on appropriate instream flows, the Draft Policy establishes restrictive, regional criteria that severely limit the ability to divert water when it is most plentiful. This misguided attempt to preserve instream flows for the benefit of salmonids fails to follow California water law, fails to help fish, and actually impairs the ability of many farmers to make improvements to fish habitat.

Water in California must be used to its full potential - to benefit habitat as well as agriculture.

In addition, the State Board has not been able to determine the extent in which instream flows are necessary to maintain the fishery in north coast streams, nor have they accounted for the many factors impacting fish populations besides flow.

As a lifelong farmer/rancher and recreational salmon fisherwomen, this current draft policy is not the answer.

I urge the State Water Board to adopt an alternative policy that is based on sound scientific facts, provides the appropriate balance between economic development and protecting natural habitat and wildlife species, while using water to its full potential.

Sincerely,

Pat Geib Alexander  
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Partner  
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STATE WATER RESOURCES  
COUNTY BOARD