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Karen Niiya, Senior Engineer

Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
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Charles R. Hoppin, Board Member, SWRCB
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DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

SUBJECT: Comment Letter – AB 2121 Policy

Dear Ms. Niiya and the Board,

Firstly, Ms. Niiya, I would like this letter to be delivered to all the addressees listed above.

My wife and I live within the County of Sonoma, very near the Plaza in the City of Sonoma. Every winter, we are faced with the very real threat of flooding. Two years ago, our property was underwater, our home experienced significant flood damage. The recovery was financially difficult. In addition, as a general contractor, I am often called upon to assess and/or repair other properties that have incurred flood damage due to winter runoff.

Our good friend live on a property in Sonoma that has a small pond. They have informed us that the SWRCB, in attempts to comply with AB2121, will force them, and other pond owners in our community, to bypass or remove their ponds at exorbitant expense.

Although these small ponds store an insignificant fraction of our winter rains, they in fact mitigate and delay downstream flows. This gives our community a better chance to weather large winter storms. Winter flows in our Sonoma streambeds are very robust and could not possibly be enhanced significantly by bypassing or removing small ponds.

Please rethink how you will implement AB2121. Create a balanced policy which allows us to keep our small ponds, which mitigate downstream flows and help protect our community from flooding.

Sincerely,


Paul Baumbach