

KYN

DWIGHT MONSON
3400 Geyser Road
Geyserville, CA 95441
707-857-3508
415-265-5630 (Mobile)
707-857-3757 (Fax)
DL7Monson@aol.com

April 30, 2008

2008 APR 30 PM 12:57
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

VIA FACSIMILE
916-341-5400

Ms. Karen Niiya, Senior Engineer
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: State Water Resources Control Board
Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Coastal California Streams
Comment Letter – AB 2121 Policy

Dear Ms. Niiya:

My family is a landowner in Sonoma County and the above-referenced proposed policy (the "Policy") will directly impact our family. Since 1957, we have owned approximately 240 acres of ranch and farm land, including more than 70 acres of planted winegrapes, and divert water from tributaries of Gird Creek for irrigation purposes. On or about June 1, 2006, we filed Water Rights Application No. 31622 to appropriate water for storage in two onstream storage reservoirs.

I hereby wish to incorporate by this reference the comments submitted with respect to the Policy by the California Farm Bureau Federation, the Wine Institute, the consulting engineering firm of Wagner & Bonsignore, and the law firms of Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard and Ellison, and Schneider & Harris, which include the following points:

- The Policy will directly impact the farming interests of my family.
- Implementation of the Policy will result in further delays in water right processing because the majority of applicants and petitioners will need to seek a variance due to the stringent bypass and diversion rate limitations in the Policy. The variance criteria are not clearly defined in the Policy; therefore, we believe that processing of numerous variance requests will exacerbate the already back-logged workload of the State Water Board staff, and further delay approval of our pending action.
- I have cooperated with State Water Board staff in the processing of our water rights application which has been pending for approximately two years.
- The Policy does not provide a balance to the competing needs for water as it fails to weigh the many benefits derived from the agricultural, domestic and industrial uses of water.

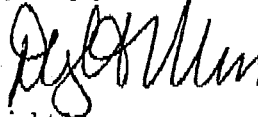
Division of Water Rights

April 30, 2008

Page Two

- I am concerned that the severe and costly compliance measures imposed on our project (estimated in the documents published in connection with the Policy to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars) will result in drastically reduced water yields and possibly loss of my productive farmland. There is no indication in the Policy that the fishery resources would actually benefit from my implementation of such measures.
- The State Water Board should concentrate on fixing the water right process. Applicants deserve clear and effective guidance as to how to obtain a water right permit. The Draft Policy should be rejected and replaced with one that balances economic interests and environmental protection.

Very truly yours,



Dwight Monson

cc: Tam Doduc, Chair, SWRCB
SWRCB Members: Arthur Baggett, Jr., Charles Hoppin, Frances Spivy-Weber, Gary Wolff