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**To:** "AB2121Policy@waterboards.ca.gov" <AB2121Policy@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Sun, Apr 27, 2008 2:22 PM  
**Subject:** Comments on the Draft North Coast Instream Flow Policy

April 27, 2008  
Chair & Members Tam Doduc  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Tam Doduc,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft North Coast Instream Flow Policy. As all Californians know, the state's salmon and steelhead fisheries are in trouble. One of the biggest problems is clear: too many of our rivers and streams simply lack the water to support fish. I urge you to take decisive action with the Instream Flow Policy to conserve stream flows and to help put salmon and steelhead back on the road to recovery.

The final Policy must include a few basic things: scientifically-based criteria to limit diversions when stream flows drop below a certain level, measures to guard against the cumulative effects of multiple diversions, restrictions on new on-stream reservoirs, mandates for universal monitoring and reporting of both water diversions and stream flows, and provisions to periodically review the effectiveness of the Policy.

The Policy should take a broad, watershed-scale approach to the problem. It should provide incentives for landowners to go above and beyond the minimum required by the Policy, including measures to improve stream flows during the critical dry season. The State Water Board also needs to establish strong programs to ensure compliance with the law. Finally, the Board should conduct an honest assessment of the funding and staffing needed to implement the Policy and request adequate resources to get the job done.

With those steps, the Instream Flow Policy can be a crucial step forward for conservation in California. After more than 15 years of hard work by Trout Unlimited and others, it is time to finalize the Policy and get about the business of bringing back the fish.

Please do not be swayed by the resistance that you will face from the various special interests that do not support a more comprehensive and forward thinking policy such as the Instream Flow Policy. These are not regulations, but simply a position by the water board that the water levels in our northern streams are important for a variety of reasons, not simply to support agribusiness or over reaching development, that must finally acknowledge the limits of our fresh water streams and rivers and recommend accordingly.

The boards are taking action regarding TDML's in new MS4 permits throughout the state, this policy follows in that same sustainable spirit, please move forward.

Sincerely

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