

**From:** "R. Simcoe" <roberta@simcoefamily.com>  
**To:** "Karen Niiya Senior Engineer" <AB2121Policy@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 16, 2008 7:29 PM  
**Subject:** Comment Letter - AB 2121 Policy

R. Simcoe  
General Partner  
Mast Ranch Vineyard, FLP  
6001 Solano Avenue  
Napa, CA 94558-9787

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.

The Draft Policy is not based upon sound science. It sets standards for very small watersheds, less than a couple square miles, even though the science supporting the policy comes from large watersheds.

Protection of habitat is very important, but so is the ability of the farmer to efficiently produce food for the tables of the world. Do not cripple the farmer by instituting policies which will do more harm than good, overall.

As a member of a family who has been farming in California since the 1800's I urge you to consider all possible consequences to habitat, food supply, and economics before you make any decisions.

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,

R. Simcoe  
707-258-8233  
General Partner

STATE WATER RESOURCES  
COUNTY BOARD  
2008 APR 17 PM 5:00  
DIV OF WATER RIGHTS  
SACRAMENTO

Mast Ranch Vineyard, FLP