

R/W

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Dr. Ofer Zur
Sonoma Medical Plaza
181 Andrieux Street, Suite 212
Sonoma, CA 95476

2008 MAY -2 AM 11:16

DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

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

Dorothy R. Rice, Executive Director, SWRCB
Charles R. Hoppin, Board Member, SWRCB
Arthur G. Baggett, Jr., Board Member, SWRCB
Frances Spivy-Weber, Board Member, SWRCB
Tam M. Doduc, Board Member, SWRCB
Gary Wolff, Vice Chair, SWRCB

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.

We live within the town of Sonoma. Our home is a wonderful place to raise our children and find solace from day-to-day stress.

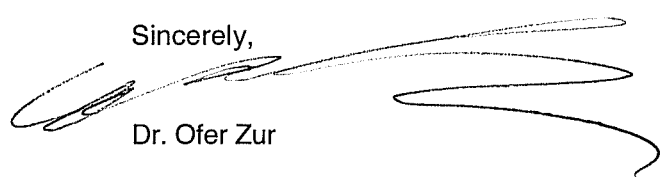
A very real threat to our home is flooding. We have had multiple instances of this over the years. **During winter storms, it is common to see a river in front of our house, not the small road accessing our neighborhood.** Our across-the-street neighbors were flooded out of and abandoned their home in 1999.

It has come to my attention that the SWRCB, in their attempts to comply with AB2121, may force pond owners in our community to bypass, or remove their ponds -- and to do so at ungodly expense. If this is true, this is unconscionable.

Although these small ponds store an insignificant fraction of our winter rains, they are likely to mitigate and delay downstream flows. This can give our community a better chance to weather large winter storms. **Winter flows in our Sonoma streambeds are very robust and it does not seem possible that they would be enhanced by bypassing or removing small ponds.**

Please rethink how you will implement AB2121, and make sure to create a balanced policy which takes into account all parties, citizens and fish alike.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ofer Zur