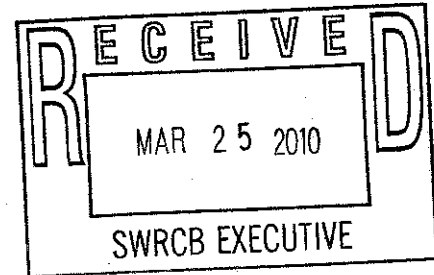


From: "Bonnie Plakos" <bplakos@mcn.org>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
CC: <ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org>
Date: 3/25/2010 8:36 AM
Subject: COMMENT LETTER - AB2121 POLICY



TO: State Water Resources Control Board
Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: February 2010 Draft North Coast Instream Flow Policy

I request that these comments be made part of the administrative record for the Proposed Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams.

The SWRCB should revisit and revise the proposed policy re: its application to the Gualala River and the communities along it, including The Sea Ranch. The proposed policy is a blind "one size fits all" application of policy that does not take into account the specific situation at The Sea Ranch. Implementation of such a policy could result in the destruction of a community that has been in existence for 50 years, is home to many hundreds of people and which ALREADY has an excellent water conservation program and very low per capita water usage.

The proposed policies should be revised to require that economic impacts on current water users be considered, and that existing communities which already have permits and follow excellent water-use policies be exempt. The larger rural communities of both The Sea Ranch and Gualala could suffer permanent economic damage, if not collapse, if the amount and duration of pumping from our aquifer is reduced as suggested.

The government should not be blindly applying policies that could destroy existing, long-established communities!

There are hundreds of real people living and working here. People's lives and livelihoods are at stake and in jeopardy, if the proposed policy is implemented without revision.

I urge the SWRCB in conjunction with the RWQCB to hold regional hearings on this matter.

I request the SWRCB postpone the closure of the public comment period from March 26, 2010, until a future date. In this regard we request a 90 day extension of the comment period.

In addition I request the SWRCB postpone the Public hearing on April 27, 2010, to a future date, and that regional hearings and/or workshops be held at locations more accessible to the citizens who may be affected.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Bonnie Plakos
The Sea Ranch

cc: Supervisor Efren Carrillo, Fifth District Supervisor, County of Sonoma
Assemblyperson Wesley Chesbro
Senator Pat Wiggins
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Dan Pellissier, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor