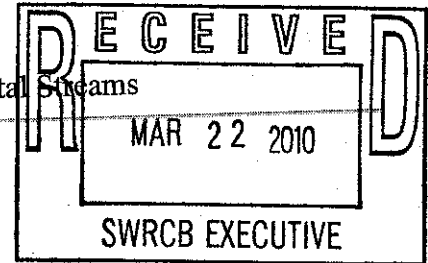


commentletters - AB2121 Proposed Instream Flow Guidelines for Northern Coastal Streams

From: David Robertson <dgrtsr@gmail.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/22/2010 10:52 AM
Subject: AB2121 Proposed Instream Flow Guidelines for Northern Coastal Streams



March 22, 2010,

SWRCB:

As residents at The Sea Ranch, we implore the SWRCB to reconsider and revise the proposed policy "intended to enhance the instream flows" of the Gualala River. As environmentalists, we know that this misguided proposed policy will cause far more environmental damage and economic dislocation with respect to the Gualala area than it will cure. The life of the River does not require the policy; the life of the affected communities demands its rejection.

We believe that the proposed measures would have draconian effects on the environmental communities of both The Sea Ranch and Gualala. The proposed policies should be revised to require that economic impacts on current water users be considered, so that both the unthinkable burden of the restrictions and negligible benefit to the River are properly and accurately balanced. The larger rural communities of both The Sea Ranch and Gualala would suffer permanent economic damage, if not total economic collapse, with devastating impacts on Sonoma and Mendocino counties, under the proposed policy.

The residents our small rural communities would have to abandon the full time use their properties, many of the workers in these communities would lose their livelihood, and visitors would cease coming back to the North Coast, without an adequate water supply. In short, people's lives and livelihoods are at risk, if you adopt the proposed policy without revision.

We urge the SWRCB in conjunction with the RWQCB to hold regional hearings on this matter. We request the SWRCB postpone the closure of the public comment period from March 26, 2010, until a future date. A 90 day extension of the comment period.

In addition we request the SWRCB postpone the Public hearing on April 27, 2010, to a future time, subsequent to conclusion of regional hearings.

We thank you for your consideration,

David G. Robertson, Esq.
Margaret C. Crosby, Esq.
181 Pelican Close,
The Sea Ranch, California 95407