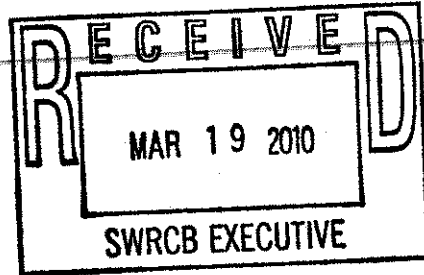


commentletters - COMMENT LETTER - AB2121 POLICY

From: <dennis_s@comcast.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/19/2010 11:19 PM
Subject: COMMENT LETTER - AB2121 POLICY
CC: <ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org>



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

**Subject: Comment Letter - February 2010 Draft North Coast Instream Flow Policy
Objection to this Draft Policy and Request for Extension of Time**

I request that these comments be made part of the administrative record.

In response to AB2121, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff has recommended a proposed policy, applicable regionally, that would have drastic negative impacts on The Sea Ranch water supply. It would leave The Sea Ranch without water supply for days or even months each year.

As a public health practitioner and an educator in occupational and environmental medicine, I have always sought to ameliorate negative environmental impacts of human activities. The Sea Ranch has historically served as an example of low-impact rural living, which is why my wife and I chose it for retirement.

While I generally applaud water use decisions that enhance estuarine functions, I would find the current proposal personally devastating. I have retired from the University of California and contemplate retirement from the California Department of Public Health in the not-too-distant future. As our sole real property is at the Sea Ranch, loss of use of that home would render retirement an impossibility for my wife and myself.

Rather than turning an inhabited area into a ghost town, the Water Resource Control Board would do well to use its influence to curtail continued logging in the Gualala River watershed. Loss of shade and enhanced erosion are potent factors in destroying fish habitat. Please consider the human impact of cutting off the water supply to our community!

Sincerely,

Dennis Shusterman, MD, MPH
Professor of Clinical Medicine, Emeritus
University of California, San Francisco

(for identification purposes only)

P.O. Box 424

The Sea Ranch, CA 95497

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