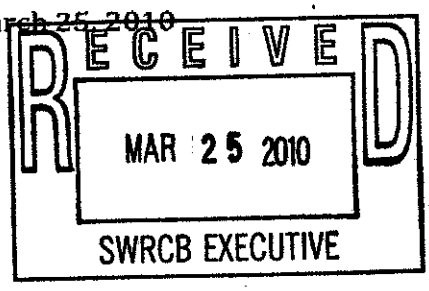
To: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax of: March 25, 2010



COMMENT LETTER---AB2121 POLICY
February 2010 Draft North Coast Instream Flow Policy

STRONG OBJECTION to Draft Policy and REQUEST for EXTENSION of TIME

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

In response to AB2121 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff has recommended a regional proposed policy that:

- would have drastic negative effects on the water supply for the community in which I live, The Sea Ranch.
- could leave The Sea Ranch without water supply for significant time periods of the year—weeks or MONTHS
- removes waters which are essential DRINKING water, DOMESTIC USE water and FIRE PROTECTION water.
- Such changes would make living here difficult and would have a long term SIGNIFICANT IMPACT on the local economy and make most properties unsaleable!

The Sea Ranch is my full time permanent residence. Policies as proposed would have long term significant impacts on The Sea Ranch, and on other isolated communities of the region.

Regional Criteria as proposed would significantly and negatively impact The Sea Ranch water systems, which have already been developed and put in place to meet both fish protection and "municipal" water service. Assumptions in development of the proposed policy should have been validated by rigorous science and in various river systems, not only in inland conditions far different than ours. We are living in the San Andreas Fault Zone; water movement underground is not a simple aquifer, nor a predictable situation.

The Sea Ranch has focused on a very low gallons-per-capita-per-day usage and has an excellent water conservation program.

With the proposed policy announced on Feb 18, 2010, having ONLY a 45 day comment period is INAPPROPRIATE considering the massive harm proposed to viable communities of people. I certainly ask for extensive of the comment period to a minimum 90 days.

The proposal is very complex and very technical. Even with an initial evaluation of impacts it is not an adequate time period to evaluate the specific impacts on my property, which is my primary and full-time residence in Sonoma County, on the permanent community named The Sea Ranch, and on the larger coastal community.

Also there should be workshops and hearings throughout the North Coast region to allow participation of the citizenry. To hold a hearing in Sacramento--a 4-5 hour drive down Highway 1—is totally inadequate. Few local citizens have the luxury to be able to make that trip in order to be heard...due to age, work, family, distance, economics.

I STRONGLY OBJECT to the Draft Policy proposed in response to AB2121 and REQUEST an EXTENSION of TIME as well from the State Water Resources Control Board,

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Very sincerely,

Diane Hichwa

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The Sea Ranch, CA
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Cc: Supervisor Efren Carillo, Fifth District Supervisor, County of Sonoma
Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro
Senator Pat Wiggins
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Dan Pellissier, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor