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To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
CC: <ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org>, <greenmv@aol.com>  
Date: 3/26/2010 10:39 AM  
Subject: Comment Letter - AB2121 Policy

TO: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)  
FROM: Drew McCalley and Marilyn Green, homeowners at The Sea Ranch

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed AB2121 water withdrawal policy that you recently announced. We are very concerned about the dramatic impact this policy will have on our water supply in Sea Ranch and neighboring communities on the northern Sonoma/southern Mendocino coast. We respectfully request that you amend the proposed policy to provide our communities with more flexibility in meeting our water needs.

Specifically with regard to our community, The Sea Ranch, it is our understanding that this new policy will reduce our water supply to essentially zero for several months during a normal water year, and could eliminate our water supply entirely during a severe drought year. This would essentially condemn our community to extinction and reduce our property values to essentially that of a coastal campground.

What puzzles us about this situation is that our community is very advanced in its attention to reducing its water usage. Lawns are completely outlawed here, and rigorous water conservation practices are observed on a normal and ongoing basis. We find it ironic that this policy is targeting communities such as ours, which truly makes a sincere effort to live up to our stated concept of "living lightly on the land", while the major metropolitan areas of our state continue to guzzle huge quantities of water, imported hundreds of miles through taxpayer-funded mega-billion dollar water delivery systems, with almost no attention to the effects of these vast engineering projects on fish, wildlife, and ecosystem health (and almost no regulation by the SWRCB, as far as we can tell). Our water system, by contrast, is entirely local and is designed very carefully to minimize its impact on the health of the Gualala River system. We are unaware of any sound scientific evidence that the careful water withdrawals of our water system cause any discernable negative impact on the resources of this river system.

We are aware of the recent exchange of letters between our water board and the SWRCB, in which you are essentially accusing our board of negligence in failing to respond to earlier announcements by SWRCB on this issue. If our board is at fault here, please don't take it out on us, the innocent residents of The Sea Ranch. May we add, in some defense of our local officials, that we ourselves were completely unaware of this process until a week ago, even though we regularly read three daily newspapers, as well as the local weekly paper, and consider ourselves to be generally well informed.

Thank you for your attention.

Drew McCalley and Marilyn Green  
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