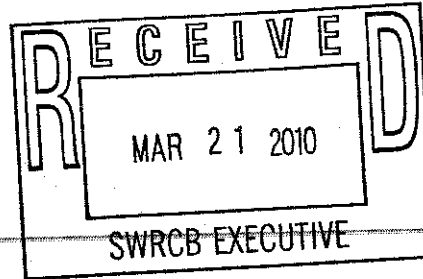


**commentletters - Comment Letter - AB2121 Policy**

**From:** "Elaine Reed" <epreed@sonic.net>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 3/21/2010 6:48 PM  
**Subject:** Comment Letter - AB2121 Policy  
**CC:** "Elaine Reed" <epreed@sonic.net>



State Water Board:

You can imagine my surprise, no shock, on hearing about the Regional Criteria, which would limit diversion from the Gualala Rivier from December 15 through March 31. Historically, and currently, The Sea Ranch (TSR) has been allowed to operate its wells, diverting from the aquifer underlying the South Fork of the Gualala River, year-round as long as river flows are within the permitted range. The TSR Water Company adheres rigorously to the required water volume bypass flows for fish protection. The proposed policy would require huge flows, 10 times greater than the flows required by the current policy, before the wells could be operated!

The Sea Ranch is a world renowned community established over 40 years ago. It is a model of environmental sensitivity in design and life style. It has an excellent water conservation program and a very low gallons per capita per day usage.

The consequences of the proposed policy change would be to cut off water to Sea Ranch residences for a few days to a few months every year depending on the year's rainfall. This would not be good. This would be devastating.

Property values would plummet because few people would be willing to live in or buy into a community without a dependable source of water. The economic loss would be catastrophic for the 2290 property owners and the local community which depends on them. Sonoma County would lose millions in property tax revenue.

The proposed Regional Criteria does not take into account the specific hydrology of the Gualala River nor the primary threats to the water supply for fish (droughts, meth labs, pot farms, and wineries). It should be revised to reflect the Gualala River's specific characteristics and the economic impact to the current water users, the Sea Ranch and Gualala communities.

For the proposal to totally ignore the economic consequences of an undependable water source on The Sea Ranch community and surrounding area must just be an oversight. It couldn't have been done deliberately. Please correct the policy's egregious flaws before considering its adoption.

Thank you,

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cc via U.S.P.O.: Efren Carrillo, Patricia Wiggins, Wes Chesbro, Governor Schwarzenegger