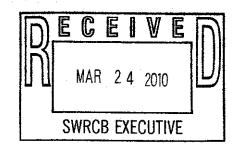
4/27/10 Board Hearing **AB 2121** 

Deadline: 3/26/10 by 12 noon

Jan M. Christofferson 16180 Stagecoach Road Meadow Vista, CA 95722

March 20, 2010

Charles Hoppin Chair State Water Resources Control Board P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



Comment Letter - AB 2121 Policy RE:

Dear Mr. Hoppin:

I understand that the SWRCB is considering adopting a policy intended to enhance instream flows in the North Coast region, which includes the Gualala River. I am a property owner at The Sea Ranch, which would be irreparably harmed if this policy were approved.

The proposed policy could leave The Sea Ranch without water supply for days or even months each year, decimating property values and destroying the community. Many property owners are long term, full-time residents, who would be forced to move out of the area if the water supply was compromised and they would logically be unable to sell their properties as a consequence.

The proposed Regional Criteria would limit the Gualala River diversion season to December 15 - March 31, instead of allowing the operation of the Sea Ranch wells year round as is now the practice. The proposed flows are about ten times greater than the current permit requires. As I understand, the proposed policy was not validated for the Gualala River, but instead extrapolated from studies for inland areas, and it does not take into account the hydrology of the Gualala River.

What are the alternatives? This small community would be faced with prohibitive costs to either fund extremely expensive new storage facilities or to fund site-specific studies to challenge this policy. With a very small rate base in the community, this is neither feasible nor reasonable.

The imposition of this policy could result in a significant loss of the \$2 billion in property value at The Sea Ranch. Personally, my retirement "nest egg" is in my property at 35414 Fly Cloud Road. I am not a wealthy person, just a single mother with a daughter in college and a grown son struggling in the bad economy. I know retired librarians, artists and firefighters who live at The Sea Ranch full-time and their investments and lives would be ruined if this policy is imposed.

Please do not allow the mystique of "science" to sway you into approving a policy that defies common sense, is based on a questionable premise and would decimate an entire community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan M. Christofferson

Cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Senator Pat Wiggins Senator Dave Cox

Assemblymember Wes Chesbro Assemblymember Dan Logue

Efren Carrillo, Sonoma County Supervisor