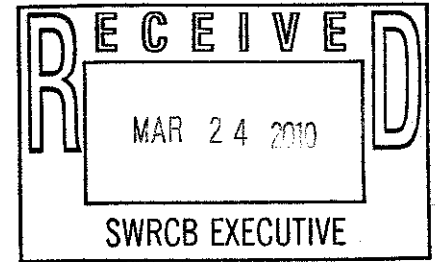


From: janet debar <jdebar@mcn.org>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/24/2010 4:03 PM
Subject: Strong objectiona to AB2121 in regards to Sea Ranch



From: janet debar <jdebar@mcn.org>
Date: Tue, 23 Mar 2010 16:04:30 -0800

Subject: /comment letter-AB2121 Policy Stong objection to this draft policy, request time extension

I request that these comments be made part of the administrative record for the proposed policy for maintaining instream flows in Northern California Coastal Streams.

It is my understanding that the State Water Resources Control Board response to AB2121 would leave The Sea Ranch, where I have lived for twenty years, without a water supply for days or even months each year. While I appreciate that balancing a large pottery jar on my head as I wend my way to the closest flowing stream would improve my posture, and that dodging the bullets fired at me as I attempt to steal this protected water would improve my agility, I would prefer to turn on the tap rather than resort to measures copied from third world countries.

For years the Sea Ranch Water Company has met the need of its residents while operating under a set of permits based upon specified minimum surface flow. If the water level of the Gualala river reaches a critical point, the water company stops pumping and provides our water from a reservoir. Typically the flow is adequate for the wells to operate from December to July, although in this past year of drought, pumping did not begin until February 2009. AB 2121 stipulates pumping occur only December 15 to March 31. I do not see how dates can reflect the possible state of the weather dependent water flow.

This proposed policy will mandate huge volumetric river flows going past our wells before we can operate the wells. It is estimated that the bypass flows would have to be ten times greater than the state's current permitted policy for The Sea Ranch. Even in years of normal rainfall, I'll be carrying that jug down to the riverbank, where I suppose the ladies will all be beating their clothes on rocks. Of course we are not demographically a young population so this may be a bit hard on us. The information I have before me from The Sea Ranch Association tells me that during a drought year our water supply will be reduced to 15-20% of NEEDED SUPPLY!

The proposed policy does not appear to be based upon the actual hydrology of the Gualala River watershed or to The Sea Ranch operation of diversion.

Surely our community must have some established right to water. I hardly thought that the state government could approve a water system, set up rules, and then change the whole game plan. We live so many hours from Sacramento, a hard drive. It seems hardly fair that our fate should be determined at such distance. Our property values will drop so much that many of us will not have the luxury of relocation. We'll be laboring to that

river with our water jars. Perhaps eco-tours could be a new source of income: see how old dogs learn old tricks as the North Coast of California becomes a new third world country. Fantasy ? I hope so.

Janet DeBar