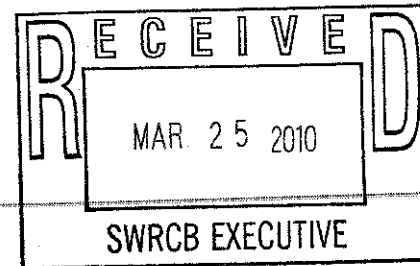


commentletters - COMMENT LETTER AB2121 POLICY

From: Laurence Rowinsky <lrowinsky@comcast.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/25/2010 4:28 PM
Subject: COMMENT LETTER AB2121 POLICY



Dear members of the Board,

Regarding the proposed changes in water supply and usage at The Sea Ranch and Gualala, California, please consider the following remarks, both personal and general.

From a personal standpoint, my wife and I consider the proposed changes to be arbitrary, draconian and financially devastating. We are retirees living on a fixed income. Purchasing our Sea Ranch home came as a result of our desire for a source of rental income in retirement, and involved a swap of our old business property for the Sea Ranch property. Given the present state of the nation's economy and its subsequent impact on both the California and local economies, our rental income here is now decimated. Depriving The Sea Ranch and Gualala of their water for any time during the year will cause a further drop in our rental activity and place hardships on us for which, at this time in our lives, there would be no remedy. Our income and well being would suffer greatly. Such action on the Board's part would be shortsighted and callous. In a word, were the current proposal to be adopted as policy, we would be victimized. We ask you therefore, to consider what alternates might be available, and to base your decision on community as well as environmental values.

Beyond our personal concerns, please consider an important aspect of the lifestyle at Sea Ranch, which focuses on the preservation of an extraordinary environment, and where the desire for a successful and nurturing coexistence with nature is uppermost in the minds of all residents. I say this without reservation. Ask anyone you meet here just why they love this environment, and you'll understand in short order exactly what I mean. An essential part of the commitment that people have to this community requires strict adherence to the principle that one should use no more than is necessary for maintaining each household. This pertains to open space, and more to the point, to water use and conservation. The use of water saving toilets and flow restrictors is nearly ubiquitous. Water districts and the Sea Ranch Association have worked diligently to raise consciousness and to eliminate waste. To put it simply, we have all done a good job.

The communities of Gualala and The Sea Ranch have done more than just a good job, however. They are exemplary. They also know what is at stake were they to give this issue anything less than their best effort. Now, however, despite our best and highly effective efforts, we are threatened with an action that could pull the rug out from under our communities, or more literally, the water. Drastic cuts in water supply, including dry months and periodic shutdowns, would send discouraging signals to vacation renters and prospective new residents. It would impair many businesses in their day-to-day operations, and would cause others to close. Property owners like ourselves would face massive reduction in property values, and many, like us, would suffer drastic cuts in income. If the proposed cuts in water supply turn out to be your choice, please consider our future here at The Sea Ranch, where our full build-out on buildable lots will not take place for years, and ensure that a plan be adopted to project our water needs into the future when our build-out is completed. Please do not truncate our legal right to provide for that future need.

In your deliberations, please give your full attention to what I've said. Understand that in serving on this

board you must not simply commit to doing your best in performing the task before you, but that the impact of your decision on the lives of thousands of residents and businesses here will be monumental. I urge you therefore to stop and think carefully, and most important of all, to put yourself in our place.

Many thanks for you consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurence Rowinsky
360 Sea Stack
The Sea Ranch, California

cc:

Efren Carrillo, Sonoma County Supervisor
Wesly Chesbro, California State Assemblymember
Pat Wiggins, State Senator
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger