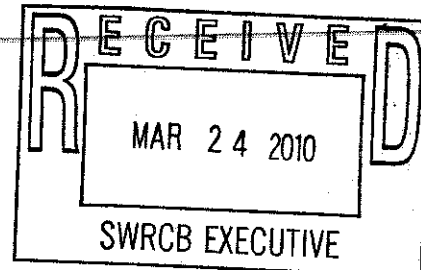


commentletters - Comment Letter AB 2121 Policy

From: mmk <m_keller4381@earthlink.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/24/2010 10:24 PM
Subject: Comment Letter AB 2121 Policy
CC: <ecarillo@sonoma-county.org>

24 March 2010

To: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA



Dear Ms. Townsend:

Please make these comments a part of the administrative record for the Proposed Policy for Maintaining Instream Inflows in Northern California Coastal Streams.

I learned just two days ago that the State Water Resources Control Board acting on AB 2121 is considering adopting a sweeping policy to enhance instream flows in the North Coast region of California. Of great concern is the fact that the date for submitting written comment is March 26. The many humans who will be gravely impacted by this proposal have little or no knowledge of it.

I own property in northern Sonoma County at The Sea Ranch a community that prides itself in "living lightly on the land." The current proposal would eliminate water for a substantial portion of the year to the 1800 homes of The Sea Ranch, creating major public safety issues in regards to fire safety as well as causing public health issues. The mere threat of this proposal has the effect of immediately reducing property values because such would need to be disclosed to any potential buyer.

Quoting from the Joint Recommendations for the North Coast Flow Instream Flow Policy, dated April 30, 2009:

"The State Water Board will administer water rights within the Water Code's context of balancing multiple beneficial uses of water (including agricultural, municipal, domestic, industrial, and instream beneficial uses), protecting the public trust, and providing for water quality control."

I see no consideration of municipal use of the Gualala River in this broad-brush proposal. The state-identified problem with the Gualala River; namely, silt and high water temperatures, is caused by de-vegetation of riparian zones far upstream. Instream flow is not the issue. A "one-size fits all" approach to a very complex problem does not work. It seems that fishing concerns have been well aware of the workings of this proposal but ordinary citizens who stand to lose thousands of dollars as their community is effectively wiped out have not been part of the process or the consideration.

Please extend the time for written comment by 90 days to the end of June, so that the many people who

are most affected by this proposal will have an opportunity to make the impact of this proposal known to the Board. No proposal of this magnitude should move forward without those most affected having a say in the formation of the proposal. We citizens who would be most affected never received formal notice nor was it ever published in local papers. We deserve to be heard.

Sincerely,

Mary Keller