

commentletters - AB2121, the State Water Resources Control Board

From: Richard Alman <tobydoby@yahoo.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>, <ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org>
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Subject: AB2121, the State Water Resources Control Board

I wish to express my alarm and concern about the AB 2121 North Coast Instream Flow Policy. I don't know where to begin. I and many other Sea Ranch residents found out about this issue from an e-mail from the Ranch Water Company less than a month ago. The public comment period, we were told, would expire 12:00 PM on 3/26, one week after the SRWC board of directors met to consider the steps to take in response to this proposed catastrophe. Apparently, AB2121 is a broad brush policy that treats all communities on the North Coast the same. The term "catastrophe" is not an inappropriate description when one considers the social, economic and environmental impact on The Sea Ranch and nearby communities. There are the obvious impacts. A drastic cut-back in water availability would devastate an already struggling community which depends heavily on tourism. The golf course would turn brown and largely die. Real estate values would plummet even further. Can you imagine the impact on local and county government and services as property taxes dry up? How can fire departments operate without water? Can you imagine turning on your sink faucet and having nothing come out? There is so much conjecture and speculation as I write this message that it is impossible to give you hard and fast numbers about what would happen. As we lose our homes to foreclosure and bankruptcy, where do our retired residents go? Have you ever heard the saying that "Many things are too strange to believe but one is too strange to happen"? Thank you for reading my random thoughts. If I had more time to respond (I can reach you by noon tomorrow) with the kind of scientific analysis so apparently lacking in the proposed implementation of AB2121, my thoughts would be a bit more organized and, as we peel away more layers of the onion, more extensive as the ripples move out from this patently absurd policy. Richard Alman, 42 Leeward Road, The Sea Ranch, California
(tobydoby@yahoo.com)

