

commentletters - Comment Letter AB2121

From: "Richard Schimbor" <schimbor@mcn.org>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/20/2010 2:03 PM
Subject: Comment Letter AB2121

My wife and I live at the Sea Ranch. I am a retired scientist, age over 70. My wife is also a retired scientist and a little younger. We have lived at the Sea Ranch for several years and have established strong roots in this area. I have been involved in studies related to the aquifer beneath the Gualala River from which our community draws its water supply. I believe the data clearly show that the aquifer is very large and that supplying water to our community from beneath the river does not hamper surface flows. We would be happy to share the data with you. Nevertheless, we have just learned that the State plans to impose restrictions on our ability to draw water that will likely leave our community at risk for running completely out of water in even moderately dry years. Should that condition arise, my wife and I will lose the entire value of our home which represents our biggest investment and will have to move to another place to try to begin again with little or no chance of earning enough to replace what we will lose. While we support the intent of the law to try to protect and enhance the return of migratory fish to the Gualala, surface flows without significant remediation will not accomplish this objective. However, the proposed rules will certainly leave us and a number of our neighbors effectively destitute. For those who try to remain here, the cost of periodically trying to decontaminate our water system once it has gone dry will be prohibitive and can not succeed over the long term.

We will, of course, try conservation in order to try to survive but because of our community policy of emphasizing native plants and philosophy of "living lightly on the land", we already use only half of the water per household used by average Californians. A low flush toilet replacement program is already up and running here, but beyond that, opportunities to conserve without creating real sanitation and health issues appear slim.

We ask that you delay approval of the pending regulations or their application to our Community until you have carefully assessed the billions of dollars of property values (and the accompanying taxes) which will be lost and the many lives, like ours, which will be impacted, for no real benefit.

Richard and Connie Chamber
The Sea Ranch, CA

