

commentletters - COMMENT LETTER AB2121 POLICY

From: Sandy Bush <sandyb@mcn.org>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/25/2010 7:58 AM
Subject: COMMENT LETTER AB2121 POLICY

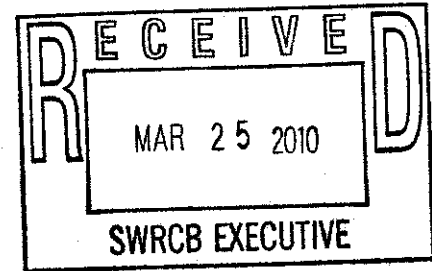
March 23, 2010

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the SWRCB Board

Re: AB2121 POLICY

Dear Water Control Board,



We, as permanent residents of Sonoma County in unincorporated area known as The Sea Ranch, are asking that you extend the comment period (March 26, 2010) for 90 days and provide a LOCAL public hearing on this proposed change in water usage.

The Gualala River watershed is a damaged watershed due to historical logging practices that have now been upgraded. The Sea Ranch Water Company provides water service to our part-time community made up of 1/3 full time residents, 1/3 rental and 1/3 part-time owner-users. Historically we have used water from the aquifer until the instream flow is reduced during the summer months. We draw our water from the aquifer less than five miles from the mouth of the river, and only during the high-flow months and feel that our practices DO NOT IMPACT THE FISH OR ENVIRONMENT or affect SUMMER instream flows. We have spent considerable money to create a reservoir to meet our needs in the low stream flow times.

The community has been frugal with its water use since 1970 or so at our beginnings. To have an arbitrary usage allowed per calendar is not a fair distribution of the resource. The proposed policy would require huge flows in the Gualala River, 10 times greater than the present requirements before we could even operate our aquifer wells! The coastal communities will not be viable with the proposed water flows mandated by this policy bill. One size will not fit all and since we have carefully husbanded water usage, we are WAY below city users in northern California, to say nothing of the Southern California cities.

The two hearings on this bill evidently were held inland with little notice to all residents of Sonoma and Mendocino counties. I would further request public hearings before this comes to a hearing on April 27th in Sacramento. Moving the hearing at the Capitol to sometime in the future will allow all who will be seriously impacted to get a fair chance to discuss this with Water Board officials. To say this has blind-sided many who depend on potable water for existence in these scattered coastal towns is an understatement.

Thank you for your consideration on this very important matter-

Sandra Bush

George Bush

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Governor Arnold Swarzenegger
Dan Pellissier, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Hon. Wesley Chesbro
Hon. Pat Wiggins