



Comment Letter – Cannabis General Order

Dear State Water Resources Control Board,

I have read the drafts of the Cannabis General Order, and appreciate the opportunity to comment. I support legalization and regulation of cannabis, and thank the SWRCB for taking the time to draft a well-supported document.

My main concern is that there aren't enough mandatory protections for wildlife, specifically in regards to lined reservoirs and ponds. Lined reservoirs and ponds can drown wildlife, and need specific policies need to be in place to prevent wildlife entrapment. Reducing slope angles, constructing wildlife escapement structures, and fencing off reservoir using small fencing material are possible solutions that could be required by the SWRCB.

As a passionate citizen, I am concerned about the number of animals drowning each year in lined reservoirs. I've seen dozens of animals, including deer, squirrels, salamanders, raccoons, mice, and snakes dead at the bottom of lined reservoirs and worry that many more animals are affected. I feel strongly that this is a statewide wildlife catastrophe. Please add language to the policy to protect California's wildlife, including our endangered and threatened species, from lined ponds and reservoirs.

This comment applies to both the General Order and the Cannabis Policy.

Thank you for your time,

Natalia Nelson
Environmental Scientist and Planner