

From: "Alfred Edelbacher" <orchards4@hughes.net>
To: "Karen Niiya Senior Engineer" <AB2121Policy@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sat, Apr 19, 2008 8:49 AM
Subject: Comment Letter - AB 2121 Policy

Alfred Edelbacher
owner
Orchard Farmer
17297 Ave 16 1/2
Madera, CA 93637-9065

April 19, 2008

Karen Niiya Senior Engineer
Division of Water Rights
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Niiya:

The Draft Policy is not a workable approach to protecting instream flows. Instead of providing water users guidance on appropriate instream flows, the Draft Policy establishes restrictive, regional criteria that severely limit the ability to divert water when it is most plentiful. This misguided attempt to preserve instream flows for the benefit of salmonids fails to follow California water law, fails to help fish, and actually impairs the ability of many farmers to make improvements to fish habitat.

Water in California must be used to its full potential - to benefit habitat as well as agriculture. Water is the lifeblood of California farmers - without it there will be no farms and no economic benefit to the State.

I urge the State Water Board to adopt an alternative policy that is based on sound scientific facts, provides the appropriate balance between economic development and protecting natural habitat and wildlife species, while using water to its full potential.

Sincerely,

Alfred Edelbacher
559-674-8312
owner
Orchard Farmer

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD
2008 APR 21 PM 12:21
DIV. OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO