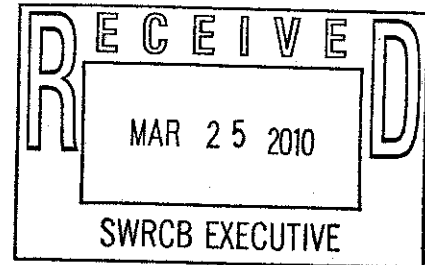


**From:** "Dean" <d.r.wolf@comcast.net>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**CC:** <ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org>  
**Date:** 3/25/2010 10:32 AM  
**Subject:** COMMENT LETTER - AB2121 POLICY

March 25, 2010

State Water Resources Control Board  
Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Subject:  
Comment Letter – AB2121 Policy  
February 2010 Draft North Coast Instream Flow Policy  
STRONG OBJECTION TO THIS DRAFT POLICY AND REQUEST FOR TIME EXTENSION

I request that these comments be made a part of the administrative record for the Proposed Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams.

In response to AB2121 the State Water Resource Control Board staff has recommended a proposed policy that would drastically reduce water availability to existing residences at the northern Sonoma County community of The Sea Ranch, potentially making them uninhabitable for weeks or perhaps months even in normal years without trucking-in, or otherwise obtaining, water at a prohibitively expense cost (in terms of both monetary expense and negative environmental consequences) to this remote area. The implications of this policy for the tourist-based economy of this portion of the north coast are enormously negative. This is not a time to be putting more people out of work. The alternative, contained in part of the policy, would be for The Sea Ranch to develop and present a "site specific" study, which is another needlessly costly concept.

The proposed policy unnecessarily penalizes local supporters of water conservation. Its one-idea-applies-everywhere concept is simplistic and inappropriate when applied to the Gualala River. Surely the SWRCB can do better than this proposed policy. Although it may be reasonable elsewhere on the north coast, the SWRCB's proposed policy is overkill for the Gualala River and The Sea Ranch community. The Sea Ranch has already voluntarily obtained lower than average water consumption. These residents should be rewarded, not penalized.

It is incumbent on the SWRCB to slow down the process and modify the proposed policy to create a more appropriate instream flow policy that reduces threats to people as well as to fish. The silt and high temperatures of the Gualala River are a result of de-vegetation caused by years of clear-cut timber harvesting and more recently by conversion of lands to vineyards. The river wasn't this shallow 50 years ago, and increasing river flow requirements by 10 times without addressing land use in the watershed isn't going to do anything other than create new problems. I believe that SWRCB's policies should more clearly address the specific watershed land use and maintenance issues that created the reduced river flow rather than try to "back-into" a solution by applying what turns out to be unreasonable burdens on existing residents who could potentially be your

allies in implementing a more enlightened policy.

Sincerely,

Dean R. Wolf  
42100 Leeward Road  
The Sea Ranch, CA

copies to:

Efren Carrillo, Sonoma County Supervisor  
Wesley Chesbro, California State Assemblymember (separately transmitted)  
Pat Wiggins, State Senator (separately transmitted)  
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (separately transmitted)