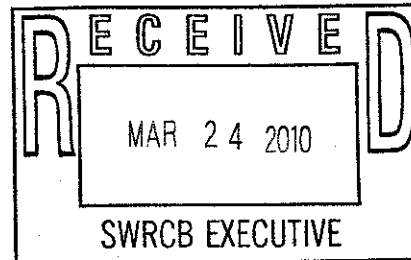


commentletters - Re:North Coast Instream Flow Policy AB2121 Draft

From: Sandra Edwards <bozeedwards@yahoo.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/24/2010 2:02 PM
Subject: Re:North Coast Instream Flow Policy AB2121 Draft

March 24, 2010



State Water Resources Control Board

Jeanine Townsend, clerk to the Board

1001 I Street, 24th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comment Letter on AB2121 Policy re: Strong Objection to 2/2010 Draft or North Coast Instream Flow Policy: Strong Objections to this Draft Policy and Request for Extension of Time

Dear Members of the Board:

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

Two components for the proposed policy 's Regional Criteria are especially onerous, and their burdens must be lifted if The Sea Ranch is to remain a viable community. The proposal is to limit the diversion season to December 15 to March 31 and the proposed policy will mandate huge volumetric river flows (commonly referred to as bypass flows, or river water flows that go past the well's location) in the Gualala River before we can operate the wells. The combine effect would be to deprive The Sea Ranch

of adequate water supply to sustain the community's viability even in normal rainfall years.

The Sea Ranch water rights and facilities were developed and conditioned to meet both fish protection and municipal water service needs based upon assumptions far different from those reflected in the proposed policy. The Sea Ranch has an excellent water conservation program and very low gallons per capita per day usage. The opportunity for additional conservation is at most limited. **The impact on property value in The Sea Ranch would be enormous.** If the proposed policy is put into effect, property values will drop precipitously, causing loss of jobs and decreased property tax revenues in the region. Presently, these Regional Criteria would dedicate far more water to one use than is reasonably needed, while causing enormous damage to other reasonable existing uses.

The proposed policy provides for an exception to application of the Regional Criteria. Although a welcome concept given the drastic and harmful impact threatened by the Regional Criteria the site-specific studies alternative appears to be inadequate to those of us whose residences and economic well being is seriously threatened. The proposed policy provides limited, and generally constraining, criteria by which a "site specific" alternative would be evaluated. Any alternative could be subjected to an ill-defined and arbitrary concept rather than a scientifically justified standard. **The proposed policy should be scrapped or revised to require that economic and other impacts on water users be taken into account and avoided.** The policy should employ science applicable to the relevant stream. The policy should be evaluated including burden as well as benefit.

The proposed policy was announced on February 18 2010. Forty-five days is an inadequate time for evaluation of the impact of a very complex and highly technical policy on specific sites. While The Sea Ranch has had the opportunity to do an initial evaluation of its impacts, **I have not had the time needed to evaluate the economic effects on my property on The Sea Ranch. I request that the SWRCB extend the comment period for 90 days.**

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Harry and Mrs. Sandra Edwards

Sea Ranch Residents

bozeedwards@yahoo.com

cc: Supervisor Efren Carrillo, Fifth District Supervisor, County of Sonoma

Assemblyperson Wesley Chesbro

Senator Pat Wiggins

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Dan Pellissier, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor