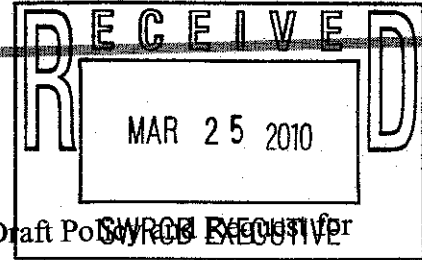


commentletters - Comment Letter-AB2121 Policy Strong Objection to this Draft Policy and Request for Extension of Time



From: "Michael A Taylor" <mktaylor@frontiernet.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/25/2010 9:25 AM
Subject: Comment Letter-AB2121 Policy Strong Objection to this Draft Policy Request for Extension of Time
CC: <ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org>

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

In response to AB2121, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff has recommended a proposed policy, applicable regionally, that would have drastic negative impacts on The Sea Ranch water supply. It would leave The Sea Ranch without water supply for days or even months each year.

If The Sea Ranch is to remain a viable community two components of the proposed policy must be lifted.

1. The proposal limits the diversion season to December 15 to March 31. The Sea Ranch Water Company has met the needs of The Sea Ranch under a set of permits allowing the diversion of water from the aquifer underlying the South Fork Gualala River. The wells may operate year round provided there are specified minimum surface flows bypassed. The Sea Ranch rigorously adheres to those bypass requirements.
2. The proposed policy will mandate huge volumetric river flows in the Gualala River before we can operate the wells. Estimates are that the bypass flows would have to be about 10 times greater than the state's current permitted policy for The Sea Ranch.

The effect would deprive The Sea Ranch of adequate water supply even in normal rainfall years. 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 relevant stream. Burden as well as benefit should be evaluated.

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. I am in the process of beginning construction of a retirement home for my wife and I. This was going to be our only residence in the future and we have worked very hard toward that goal. The policy would make us reconsider the construction, which would deny contractors and sub-contractors income, and finally render the property worthless.

I request that the SWRCB schedule workshops and hearing in the north coast region so that those citizens whose homes and livelihoods will be affected by the SWRCB's decisions may be heard.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Michael A Taylor