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State Water Resources Control Board
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Attn: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board

RE: Comment Letter – AB2121 Policy

Feb. 2010 Draft North Coast Instream Flow Policy

Strong Objection to this Draft Policy and Request for Extension of Time

I request that these comments be made part of the administrative record for the Proposed Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in the Northern California 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. Those parts of the proposed policy with regard to limiting the diversion season, and the mandate for huge volumetric river flows would in effect deprive this community with the adequate water supply to sustain its viability even in normal rainfall years. The Sea Ranch water rights and facilities were developed under a program of excellent water conservation and wildlife protection. The geology, hydrology, and biology of the Gualala River watershed are dramatically different from the conditions of the areas served for validation of the proposed policy. All these should be considered in the development and application of a policy which recognizes that a site specific study is required for measuring reasonable exceptions to a 'one size fits all' policy.

It should not be the purpose of any policy to be so restrictive that it causes extreme damage to both the economic well being and environmentally sound (and in this case recognized worldwide) existing uses.

Sincerely,

Philip and Aasa Copland

Cc: Efren Carrillo, Sonoma County Supervisor ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org
Wesley Chesbro, Calif. State Assembly member
(<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a01/default.aspx>)
Pat Wiggins, State Senator (<http://dist02.casen.govoffice.com/>)
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (<http://gov.ca.gov/>)

