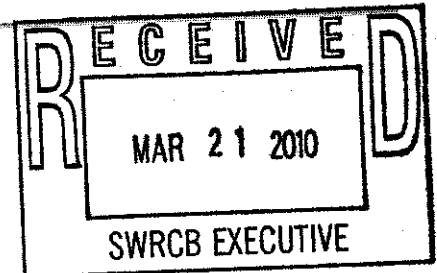


commentletters - COMMENT LETTER AB2121 POLICY

From: "Ron Limbaugh" <limbaugh@mcn.org>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/21/2010 10:50 AM
Subject: COMMENT LETTER AB2121 POLICY
CC: <ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org>, <infoalerts@TSRA.org>

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



Re: COMMENT LETTER AB2121 POLICY

We understand that SWRCB staff have proposed new policy changes intended to enhance instream flows in the north coast region, which includes the Gualala River. If approved and implemented these changes would be absolutely catastrophic for residents of the north coast who are totally dependent on north coast streams for potable water.

We are fulltime residents at the Sea Ranch, and have lived here for over 15 years. We care for the environment, as do our neighbors on this 10-mile stretch of coastal development that is home to nearly a thousand fulltime residents. We are not water wasters. But our quality of life would be irreparably harmed by any proposals that, if implemented, would adversely affect our current drinking water supply. The value of our property would be drastically reduced by new, more restrictive mandates.

The water we use in our home is pumped directly from the Gualala River watershed. The Sea Ranch Water Company adheres to strict, state-mandated guidelines to maintain stream flow and habitat preservation. Implementing new pumping restrictions is neither sound science nor sensible public policy. There is no consistent and compelling body of scientific research that directly links habitat degradation of the Gualala watershed to pumping operations by the Sea Ranch Water Company.

We understand the concerns of SWRCB staff to protect and preserve environmental quality and water resources along the northern California coast, but we implore you not to make any changes in current instream flow policy without fully and carefully investigating the causes of habitat degradation in the Gualala River watershed, and to fully disclose results of those investigations. Before any new guidelines are mandated, independent observers in the scientific community must have time to do a detailed analysis of the conclusions that may come out of SWRCB staff reports. Furthermore, we urge you to fully and carefully evaluate the economic impact that any proposed changes may have on the people that will be directly affected, and to make every effort to inform the public and seek their input at every step of the review process.

Sincerely,

Ron and Marilyn Limbaugh

cc:
Efren Carrillo, Sonoma County Supervisor, ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org
Wesley Chesbro, California State Assemblymember (<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/>)
infoalerts@TSRA.org <infoalerts@TSRA.org>