

Wetland/Riparian Policy

Deadline: 4/19/07 12 noon

From: <GROAT99@aol.com>
To: <gmarsh@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 4/19/2007 5:49:00 PM
Subject: Proposed Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy

Hi Glenda,

How fun is it that your last name should be Marsh! My husband is a dentist, and his initials are GAG!

I am a biologist and an instructor at California State University and am currently researching salinity tolerance in a specific plant species. While doing my research I became aware, during a year of particularly heavy rainfall, that we have a vernal pool on campus, and I think it is the only vernal pool in existence in an urban CSU campus. The campus also has two other wetlands on campus, which are currently being studied in addition to the vernal pool area. Please support any parallel research which would enhance protection of wetland and riparian areas. It is my belief, and it is supported by others, that vernal pools in the South Bay area protect the Santa Monica Bay and the Los Angeles Harbor from the harmful effects of runoff containing pollutants such as heavy metals and bacteria by sequestering them. They also protect groundwater and provide important habitat for wildlife. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to learn that the loss of coastal prairie vernal pools has contributed to the current problems which plague the Santa Monica Bay. There are very few vernal pool wetlands and riparian areas left in urban areas, including the San Diego area, where over development might threaten the health of the ocean there, too, if it hasn't already.

I support the adoption of the phase plan of Alternative 4 of the proposed Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy. California wetlands and riparian areas are unique, as are these areas in every other state. We, however, have allowed over development to lead to the loss of many habitats which are linked to water quality. I am in favor of sustainable developments in watershed areas, and I am optimistic that these goals can be achieved.

Thank you very much for your good work,

Candice Groat

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