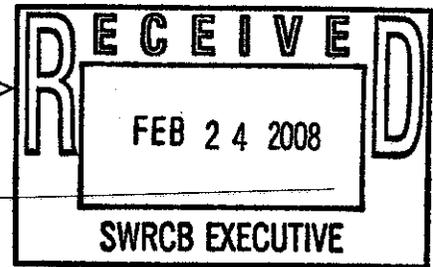


commentletters - Comments on the State watger change

From: Nathan Botwinik <nathan@wetlandservices.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>, <pclmail@pcl.org>
Date: Sunday, February 24, 2008 2:59 PM
Subject: Comments on the State watger change

**Protect California's Wetlands**

Under the US Army Corps of Engineers there is the NO NET LOSS on wetlands across our nation - and state of California

Under the federal Clean Water Act - CWA - that now provides present protection for wetlands and streams (but rarely for riparian habitat) with Corporate conquests and Lobbyist on the House, Senate and Mr. Bush - has resulted in now famous federal Supreme Court decisions (resulting from lawsuits by the development, mining and agricultural industries) have removed federal jurisdiction from many wetlands and streams.

The goal of the CWA was to protect what I see with my eyes and hopefully my children's children - now the process has slowed down to a crawl and that will lower the number of folks even considering doing something about setting up preservation sites across our state.

I am not a **GREENIE** but a real estate broker of some 24 years and a wetland consultant for 13 years in that field.

APPROVAL review and certification needs to be streamlined.

One of the problems that I face as a Wetland Consultant is that when you have a read - willing and able principal or developer that owns land or has the property under contract to gain the regulatory agencies approval - Federal and State - *AS YOU KNOW THE CITY AND COUNTY OFFICES ARE NOT IN THE LOOP* - the proposed project is under review by the USACE and CDFG - with endangered species and habitat - you bring in USFWS.

The EPA - Regional Water Quality Control Board will want to be in the loop and any state regional water shed district (San Pablo Bay -SF) are also in the loop.

I agree that the data gathered needs to be two years WET & DRY to determine highs and lows and species count verification... but after that the approvals process can linger on for 1 to 4 more years.

I only ask that the CDFG - THE NORMAL Steward of all the projects that I have worked on in Sonoma County (about 10 banks since 2005) MOVE THINGS ALONG faster. The local agency agents in my area of the State are some of the finest folks you can want to work with but the entire approval process will take normally 3 to 5 years.

THE ECONOMICAL cost to the owner - banker of the wetlands is continuing to increase - NETTING a result of less folks seeking to go thru this process and the HOLDING COSTS are just too much to tolerate for the average person or groups - unless they have DEEP POCKETS (Large Amount of Money) and in the current and short term outlook that is almost a ENDANGERED PERSON

I want to thank you for reading my comments and hope that my comments are read and passed on to the correct person... Say Hi...to Arnold.. just kidding 😊

If you would like additional comments or a face to face - I would be honored (*I like my coffee black - no cream or sugar*) and I can have my associate Ecologist present as well.

Please review my website below Vernal Pool Technologies, LLC - and you can

see that I seek approvals of mitigation and preservation sites that are worthy and work with the private and city/county organizations to deal with there impacts to comply with Federal and State Regulatory agencies.



Vernal Pool Technologies, LLC
The Wetland Guy (Biologist)
www.WetlandServices.com
Nathan@WetlandServices.com

Homes and Acreage Realty
Nathan Botwirik (Broker Owner)
www.Homes-Acreage.com
Nathan@Homes-Acreage.com

475 Noonan Ranch Lane
Santa Rosa, California 95403
Office: (707) 569-9404
FAX Line: (707) 569-9488

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