

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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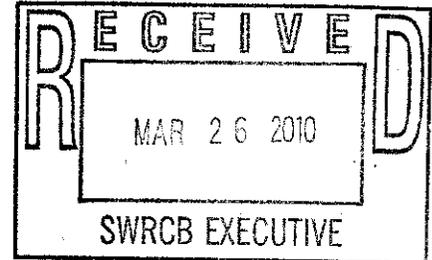


EFREN CARRILLO
SUPERVISOR FIFTH DISTRICT

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March 25, 2010

Chairman Charles Hoppin
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: AB 2121 Policy comment and request for comment time extension

Dear Chairman Hoppin:

I am writing to express my concern about the Draft AB2121 policies that are being proposed by the State Water Quality Control Board. I represent the coastal region of Sonoma County which includes The Sea Ranch community.

It was with great interest that I read the recent letter from the Board of Directors of the Sea Ranch Water Company and many Sea Ranch community members. The Sea Ranch is an established community which owns and operates its own modest water system. Their system has been modified over the years to reflect ongoing environmental concerns driven by fishery issues while maintaining its obligation to provide a safe, reliable clean drinking water supply for the residents. The Sea Ranch community's water supply stems from aquifers near the Gualala River. In order to protect local fisheries, an off stream water reservoir was permitted and constructed and strict bypass flow regimes were put in place.

The proposed Draft AB2121 policies potentially will have tremendous detrimental effect on the community's water supply. Concerns have been raised that there could easily be periods of time when their reservoir would run dry as a result of implementing the proposed policy. Particularly in dry years, a mild change in bypass flows could cut off the community's water supply for days at a time. These changes are driven by the Regional Criteria in the draft policy and do not adequately consider this community's situation. A site specific approach would be cost prohibitive, and there is no guarantee that this would create a better result.

Clearly, good policy is needed to help restore our native fisheries. I am a strong proponent of these environmental efforts. In my capacity, I have worked diligently to find new resources for fishery restoration. However, given the probable severe impact of the proposed policy, I am supporting the request of The Sea Ranch Water Company and community members that the public comment period be extended. I also request that a public workshop be scheduled in the North Coast area so that these concerns can be more fully examined.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this pressing matter. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if I can provide additional information. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



EFREN CARRILLO
Fifth District Supervisor