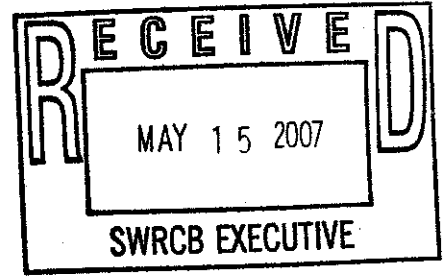


Wetland/Riparian Policy  
Deadline: 5/15/07 12 noon

Song Her, Clerk to the Board  
Executive Office  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

May 15, 2007



RE: Comment Letter- Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy

Dear Ms. Her,

On behalf of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation, I strongly support the strongest and broadest possible protection for wetland and riparian areas. With this in mind, we support and encourage implementation of Alternative 4 ("Develop a New State Policy to Regulate a Variety of Discharges and Activities that Impact Wetlands and Riparian Areas") since it would provide a level of protection far better than the other alternatives provided.

With this in mind, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation strongly recommends that the State Water Board and its regional representatives pursue Alternative 4 with the following important and necessary components:

- Priority should be given to protecting functional wetlands and riparian areas, rather than allowing them to be destroyed or degraded in lieu of mitigation compensation and/or re-constructed wetlands and/or riparian habitats.
- When examining the need and efforts to protect, restore and/or enhance existing wetland and riparian areas, preference should be given to protecting functional native wetland and riparian habitats over those recently established due to hydromodification (e.g. riparian habitat intruding into areas of native salt marsh habitat due to increased volume and frequencies of freshwater flows from the watershed).
- Restoration projects designed to restore, enhance and/or protect native wetland and/or riparian areas should not be given the same level of scrutiny and/or permitting requirements as development projects.

Sincerely,

Mike Hastings, Executive Director  
Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation