

From: "Donald Gordon" <don@gordonvalley.com>
To: "Karen Niiya Senior Engineer" <AB2121Policy@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sat, Apr 19, 2008 12:14 PM
Subject: Comment Letter - AB 2121 Policy

Donald Gordon
Owner/Manager
Gordon Family Ranch
6060 Gordon Valley Rd
Napa, CA 94558-8611

April 19, 2008

Karen Niiya Senior Engineer
Division of Water Rights
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Niiya:

The Draft Policy is not a workable approach to protecting instream flows. Instead of providing water users guidance on appropriate instream flows, the Draft Policy establishes restrictive, regional criteria that severely limit the ability to divert water when it is most plentiful. This misguided attempt to preserve instream flows for the benefit of salmonids fails to follow California water law, fails to help fish, and actually impairs the ability of many farmers to make improvements to fish habitat.

Water in California must be used to its full potential to benefit habitat as well as agriculture.

We in Agriculture are working hard at conserving water without impacting our food supply. We must maintain accessible water and preserve our rights to use that water.

We of Gordon Family Ranch have been going through the application process now for 8 years and the bureaucratic process that is impeding the processing of this permit is ridiculous and needs to be streamlined but what is proposed is just going to further the log-jam.

I urge the State Water Board to adopt an alternative policy that is based on sound scientific facts, provides the appropriate balance between economic development and protecting natural habitat and wildlife species, while using water to its full potential.

Sincerely,

Donald Gordon
707-425-7310
Owner/Manager
Gordon Family Ranch

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SACRAMENTO

