



NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

811 Jefferson Street Napa, California 94559 Telephone 707-224-5403 Fax 707-224-7836

Ms. Karen Niiya, Senior Engineer
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comment Letter – AB 2121 Policy

Dear Ms. Niiya,

Napa County Farm Bureau respectfully urges the State Water Board to reject the draft AB 2121 Policy, as it does not achieve the intended goals of the state legislation. The policy utilizes a flawed approach to improve fisheries habitat and certainly will not remedy the backlog of pending water rights applications.

Napa County Farm Bureau is a non-profit agricultural organization representing farmers and ranchers throughout Napa County. With over 1,000 members, we work to promote and protect agriculture. The proposed policy will negatively impact many agricultural businesses in Napa County and does not fairly balance the competing needs for water as is mandated by the fundamental principles underlying California water law and administration.

Over the last four months, Napa County Farm Bureau worked collaboratively with a coalition of agricultural interest, our local Resource Conservation District (RCD) and Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS), and professional consultants to review and comprehend the massive amount of highly technical and complex information in the draft policy and supporting documents. We agree with and incorporate by reference the details comments in the letter submitted on our behalf by Wagner & Bonsignore (Engineering Firm), Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girad (Law Firm), Ellison, Schneider & Harris (Law Firm) and HDR/Surface Water Resources (Fisheries Biologist).

We sincerely seek the Water Board's support in crafting a better policy and set of principals that provides water for both farms and fish. Napa County growers produce world renowned agricultural products and do so as committed stewards of the land. We ardently support and are engaged in the Fish Friendly Farming program and are willing to work with the California Land Stewardship Institute and our local watershed experts at NRCS and RCD in a pilot project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Again, we urge the Water Board to reject the current policy and work toward a policy that fairly balances the water needs of all beneficial uses.

Sincerely,

Peter Nissen
President

cc: Tam Doduc, Chair, SWRCB
SWRCB Members: Arthur Baggett, Jr., Charles Hoppin, Frances Spivy-Weber, Gary Wolff

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