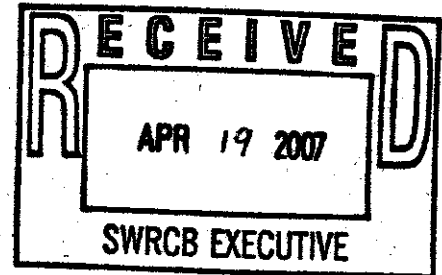


April 17, 2007

Wetland/Riparian Policy  
Deadline: 4/19/07 12 noon

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



Re: Comment Letter – Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy

Dear Board member,

Wetlands, streams and riparian habitats play a key role in preserving our State's water quality and recharging our groundwater supplies. They play a critical role in providing flood control. A majority of our endangered species spend time in wetlands and streams at some time in their life cycle. Over 85% of our sport and commercial fisheries and most of our migratory bird species are also dependent upon wetlands. In California, over 85% of our historic wetlands and 90% of our riparian habitats have been lost to development and industrial agriculture. It's no wonder we have so many endangered species.

Despite their important roles, hundreds of acres of wetlands and riparian habitat are lost every year. These losses will result in increased flooding, reduced water quality, loss of biodiversity and increases in threatened and endangered species.

The federal Clean Water Act once provided some protection for wetlands and streams (rarely for riparian habitat) but recent federal Supreme Court decisions (resulting from lawsuits by the development, mining and agricultural industries) have removed federal jurisdiction from many wetlands and streams.

The State's wetlands and streams need the maximum protection possible since we are continuing to lose wetlands and riparian habitats every day. This is a matter of environmental health and future sustainability. I urge you to adopt the most protective regulations to ensure the future of these important state resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Ehrgott".

Alan Ehrgott  
Executive Director