

FROM : LOEB'S INK SPOT INC

FAX NO. : 7072630576

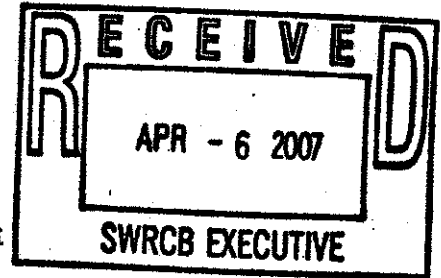
Apr. 06 2007 10:06AM P1

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

To: Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board

From: Cheri Holden, cherileeglenn@gmail.com  
conservation chair  
Sierra Club, Lake Group, Redwood Chapter  
Lake County, California

Date: April 3, 2007

Comment Letter:  
Wetlands and riparian areas protection policy scoping document

The Sierra Club, Lake Group, Redwood Chapter commends Governor Scharzenegger in supporting an *Action Plan for California's Environment*. Additionally, we applaud the Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board of the California Environmental Protection Agency for its efforts to improve the viability of our wetlands and riparian areas.

It is clear to our group members that a wetland policy in which the definition of protection is no net loss is not sufficient. Each watershed is unique, where its needs and sustainability varies. As noted the benefits to the health of a watershed community including its human residence is dependent upon healthy wetlands and riparian areas.

Wetland and riparian area protection policies should include:

- a. Clear and straight forward language that assists stake holders and the general public in understanding those policies, protections, and consequences of noncompliance in terms of culpability and negative impacts on our environment, health and safety.
- b. Sufficient tools, finances, and expertise to evaluate the conditions of California's wetland and riparian resource areas.
- c. Strong and binding regulations that determine actions necessary to avoid, minimize, and mitigate any potential impacts in protecting wetlands and riparian areas.

With these and those factors cited in the State Water Resources Control Board's informational documents, we recommend Alternative #4 as an action that could improve and increase the overall level of water quality protection in California.

**Alternative 4: Develop a New State Policy to Regulate a Variety of Discharges and Activities That Impact Wetlands and Riparian Areas.** Alternative 4 would:

"Develop a new state policy using California Water Code authorities to regulate a variety of discharges and activities that impact wetlands and riparian areas including, but not limited to, dredge or fill material discharges; discharges of other pollutants (e.g., nutrients); hydromodification; land and vegetation clearing activities; and invasive species."  
(water board informational document)

Finally, though developing and implementing Alternative #4 will be a difficult task, we believe that development should go forth as quickly as possible. Please feel free to contact for assistance.

Sincerely, Cheri Holden

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheri Holden".