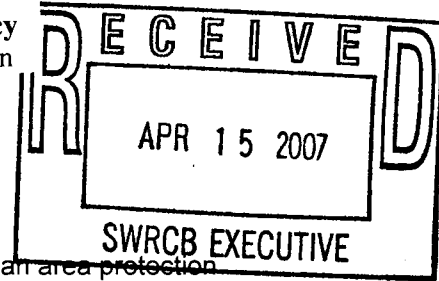


Wetland/Riparian Policy

Deadline: 4/19/07, 12 noon

From: "Everette Phillips" <Everette.Phillips@sourceglobally.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Sun, Apr 15, 2007 3:32 PM
Subject: Comment Letter – Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy



I understand that you are seeking scoping feedback on scope for wetland and riparian area protection policy.

Please consider to include in your scoping adjacent ecosystems, such as coastal bluffs and mesas.

With only 10% of wetlands left in California, we need to focus on protecting the entire associated ecosystems where possible.

Coastal bluffs and mesas not only often have vernal pools and other related isolated habitats, they usually provide balance for the adjacent wetlands from an ecosystem point of view. Coastal sage provides gnatcatcher habitat which feed off insects in the wetlands and coastal bluffs and mesas often support raptors and owls which keep the rat populations under control, and rats are natural enemies of the ground nesting birds such as the least tern.

You can see these interactions between habitats of the coastal bluffs and mesas of Banning Ranch and the wetlands habitats of Newport Salt Marsh, Semeniuk Slough, Talbert Marsh and related wetlands and riparian areas at the mouth of the Santa Ana River in the collective area we refer to as the Orange Coast River Park and adjacent land under consideration of open space acquisition like Banning Ranch (200 acres of wetlands + 200 acres of coastal bluffs and mesa)

Please make sure that your revised scope will offer protection to adjacent or bordering habitats that share an ecosystem with the wetlands and riparian areas in the your scoping for wetlands and Section 401 revisions.

Kindest regards,

Everette Phillips

300 Canal St

Newport Beach, CA 92663

Background

The California State Water Resources Control Board is considering how to protect California's wetlands,

streams and other waterways – and the wildlife that call these places home. As you know, streams and wetlands not only provide essential wildlife habitat, but also flood control, clean water, and groundwater recharge. With more than 90% of California's historic wetlands already lost, and with recent weakening of federal protections, strong steps on the part of the state are absolutely necessary.

The California State Water Resources Control Board has formulated a series of options for wetlands protection and asked the public for input. Development interests will be opposing positive change. Your voice must be heard!

For more information, see:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/cwa401/index.html#new>

Requested action

"Alternative 4" is the only option that would fully protect wetlands and water resources. Please submit comments no later than Thursday, April 19, at 12 noon. To do so, send an email to:

commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov?subject=Comment%20Letter%20%E2%80%93%20Wetland%20and%20Riparian%20Area%20Protection%20Policy

The "Subject" line should read: Comment Letter – Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy. Electronic transmission is preferred, but letters can also be faxed or mailed to the address below.

If possible, also testify at a public hearing:

Thursday, April 19, 2007

10:30 a.m.

Carmel Room – First Floor

Junipero Serra Building

320 W. 4th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90013