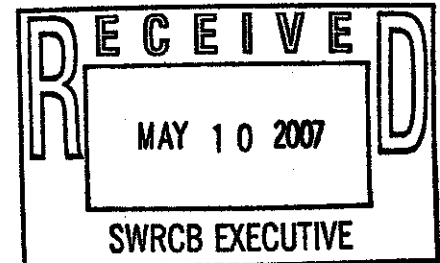


**From:** Arthur D Unger <alunger@juno.com>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, May 10, 2007 2:49 PM  
**Subject:** Please restore and preserve Wetland and Riparian Areas .

**Wetland/Riparian Policy**  
Deadline: 5/15/07 12 noon

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Song Her, Clerk of the Board  
Executive Office, State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100  
Fax: 916-341-5620  
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



Dear Song Her,

Here are my comments on the scoping process for a Statewide Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy.

California has lost 95% of its original wetlands. We may never recover some areas, like Tulare Lake. We need to buy or secure easements on wetlands and land along rivers statewide. Here are Kern County examples:

A decade or so ago a landowner offered to sell land along Poso Creek to the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan for four hundred dollars per acre. The HCP refused because there was cheaper land. I wish I had had sense to inform you. In future the Board should automatically be notified of all offers to sell wetland and riparian areas .

CDFG and Audubon Society have bought land along the western end of the South Fork of Kern River. This land contains the biggest cotton wood - willow forest in California; please buy more or get easements.

In the 1970's houses and a church were built along the Kern River in Bakersfield, just East of Manor Drive. If Lake Isabella Dam goes, so will these houses. The land around the houses attracts walkers, but the houses fence us out of some of the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, Arthur Unger