



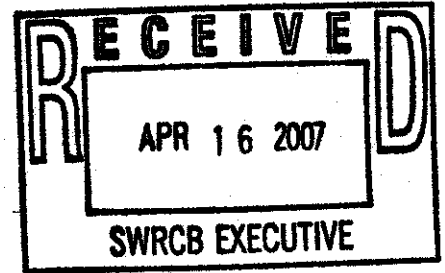
## SIERRA CLUB MARIN GROUP

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April 16, 2007

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

State Water Resources Control Board  
Attn: Song Her, Clerk to the Board, Executive Office  
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100  
[commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)



RE: Comment Letter - Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy  
Support for Alternative Four as the Preferred Alternative

Dear State Water Resources Control Board:

Please protect California's wetlands, streams and riparian habitats, which play a key role in:

- Enhancing water quality
- Recharging groundwater supplies
- Decreasing flood damage
- Providing habitat for most of our endangered species and migratory birds
- Providing habitat for over 85% of our sport and commercial fisheries

Despite these clear public and private benefits, over 85% of California's historic wetlands and 90% of our riparian habitats have been lost to development and agriculture. Still now, hundreds of acres of wetlands are lost every year. These losses will result in increased flooding, reduced water quality, increases in endangered species and declines in our fisheries.

The federal Clean Water Act used to provide some protection but recent 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. I urge you to adopt the most protective regulations to ensure the future of these important state resources as described in Alternative Four of the Proposed Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bennett  
Sierra Club