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

From: \<jalco1@comcast.net\>
To: \<commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov\>
Date: Tue, Apr 10, 2007 10:22 PM
Subject: Comment Letter –Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy

Chair Tam M. Doduc and Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board

Dear Board members:

I have been a personal witness in the small stream (Marsh Creek and its tributaries) that goes through our town of Brentwood CA of the thoughtless treatment of a potentially wonderful resource. Salmon who try to swim up this stream to spawn are stymied by a channelized concrete stream bed, a flood control drop structure (falls) (that could easily be redesigned to permit fish passage) and ultimately a dam. Everyone is talking about the decline in Salmon and other fish in the delta and the ocean. Our fish populations will only be restored one stream and one wetland at a time!!! Each creek and the accompanying riparian corridor and wetland is so important to our beloved salmon and steelhead populations ability to reproduce, and to the mental and physicial health of the communities through which they flow. A natural creek and riparian corridor adds something that cannot be quantified to the quality of the lives of those in the community.

Please make the protection and restoration of riparian habitat a priority, and help to give the communities tools to prevent degradation and restore riparian environments that need to be restored. Both land and aquatic life require this, and our communities so badly need your leadership and expertize to recognize and protect these resources.

I am excited that the State Water Resources Control Board is developing a "Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy". Please make the policy as strong as possible. Your leadership in this vital effort will allow us to begin to turn the tide from degradation to restoration of these valuable environments. It will be of untold benefit to current and future Californians.

Sincerely

John Alcorn
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