



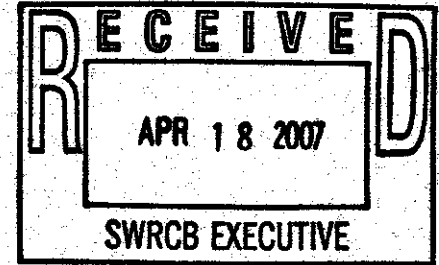
Wetland/Riparian Policy
Deadline: 4/19/07 12 noon

Friends of the Santa Clara River

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April 15, 2007

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RE: Comment Letter – Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy

With over 90% of its historic wetlands already gone, the State of California needs a strong and comprehensive approach to protecting its remaining wetlands and streams, and the wildlife that depends on them. Such protection, which also provides water quality, flood control, and groundwater recharge benefits, is in the long-term economic interest of the state.

The *only* alternative that would address the full range of adverse impacts, and adequately protect our wetlands and waters, is the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed Alternative 4. **Alternative 4 should become the preferred alternative in the draft environmental impact report.** This is especially important because California can no longer rely on the federal government to protect its unique wetlands.

Please proceed expeditiously, and adopt Alternative 4 as Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy by the end of 2007.

Sincerely,

Ron Bottorff, Chair