



From: [R Capelli](#)
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State--Public Comment
Date: Sunday, August 27, 2017 8:14:54 PM

Dear Members of the California State Water Board:

Protecting and restoring California's wetlands should be a priority because of the major role they play in ecosystem health. The filtration of water by wetlands, removing sediment and other pollutants, improves water quality, as you know. Coastal wetlands provide a buffer from storm surge and control erosion, both of which will help address sea level rise from climate change. Wetlands provide important habitat for migratory birds and numerous other fish, reptiles, and amphibians that are found only in California.

But sadly, California has lost over 90% of its historic wetlands. This is extremely disturbing, and you should be both very alarmed, as well as very committed to stop further loss under any circumstance. State jurisdiction over waters and wetlands is much broader than federal law, so the Water Board has clear authority to do what's necessary to prevent wetland destruction and restore some of what we've already lost.

The proposed "State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State" (Wetlands Rule) makes it clear when a wetland is subject to state protections. It clearly states that we should not lose any more wetlands, and sets up procedures that prioritize avoiding damage to wetlands when development occurs. My family and I fully support the Wetlands Rule and implore you to ratify and enforce it, in order to save what remains of California's wetlands.

Thank you,

Roman LoBianco

Sent from my iPad