

>>> "Felice Pace" <unofelice@gmail.com> Monday, September 03, 2007 8:48 AM >>>

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from the desk of Felice Pace

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September 2, 2007

Tam Doduc, chair
SWRCB

Via e-mail: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Lester Snow, director
DWR

Via e-mail: Lester Snow ddeanda@water.ca.gov, ssims@water.ca.gov

**SUBJECT: Climate Change Resolution at SWRCB and
Climate Change within the context of Water Plan Update**

Dear Ms. Doduc and Mr. Snow:

California is moving to lead the nation in addressing climate change, including water supply implications. But there is one factor that is not being discussed. That factor is our state's largest reservoir. That reservoir is the upland forest soils of the Sierra, Klamath and other California mountain ranges.

When asked why she chose tree planting as a focus for women's organizing in Africa, Nobel Peace prize winner Wangari Matei said she chose trees because "everyone knows" that where there are trees there is water. Matei has obviously not toured the American West where the role of forests in protecting base flows is not widely recognized. In our state and region there is virtually no discussion of how we would manage our upland forests if we wanted to maximize base flows in our streams.

About 1/3rd of healthy forest soil is empty space. These spaces fill with water in the wet season; the water is slowly released to springs seeps and streams through the dry season – so long as the supply is not exhausted.

The science is very clear that when forest cover is removed and forest soils are compacted, flood flows will increase and base flows will decrease (see, for example, long-term paired watershed studies in the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest in Oregon and other PNW work (USFS PNW Research Station: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/about/programs/ali/index.shtml>))

I want to encourage each of you as key leaders in California's efforts to address the impacts of climate change on California's water supply to include upland forest

management as a prominent feature in efforts of SWRCB and DWR to address climate change. In this regard:

- ◆ The September 18th agenda for the SWRCB lists a global warming resolution but the draft resolution is not available for review. I want to encourage you Ms. Doduc to include **forest management for baseflow maximization consistent with fire risk management** to that resolution if, as I suspect, it is not currently there.
- ◆ The California Water Plan Update currently underway should include an exploration, along with the SWRCB, Board of Forestry and other interested parties, concerning managing upland forests to maximize base flows.

There was a discussion of forest management for water supply as part of consideration of the Quincy Library Group's forest management proposals a few years back. Some QLG members claimed that the aggressive "thinning" they advocated would increase water supply. However, a literature review completed by the Sierra Nevada Protection Campaign found that vegetation management would need to be radical and that the water would come in winter with lots of sediment. The larger question of how we would manage our forests if one of the prime objectives was baseflow protection/restoration has not been addressed. It is this question which I hope you both will work to include in current climate change and water plan update processes.

If I can be of help in this regard, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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