

August 26, 2015

Ms. Jeannie Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resource Control Board
1001 I Street 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



Comment Letter: Grazing Regulatory Action Project

Members of the State Water Resource Control Board,

I am writing to express my strong support of the Board's consideration to discontinue discussions regarding a statewide approach to addressing water quality impacts from livestock grazing. As a fourth generation rancher whose family has grazed cattle on the family ranch in Calaveras County for over 150 years, I am keenly aware of the impacts that grazing can have on a watershed. I am also aware that there are but a few situations that would warrant the type of statewide regulation that the Board is or was considering. A one size fits all approach will not work.

I would recommend that the Board consider indentifying those specific areas within each of the Regional Water Quality jurisdictions where water quality impairment has been directly linked to grazing activity. It is true that hydrology, topography, climate and land use can all play a role in the degree in which grazing can have an impact. Likewise, stocking rates, grazing duration, amount of residual dry matter, salting and supplement location and off stream watering facilities can even be more of a factor as to the impacts of grazing. Without additional regulations, UC and NRCS are continually updating best management practices that address these issues and provide this information, through publications and workshops, to the ranching community.

To regulate for the sake of regulating would be unfortunate. If there is an actual problem, then identify the problem and its location and focus your time and money on educating rather than regulating. Please try to avoid subjecting those who are doing a good job to unnecessary and onerous regulations.

Thank you.

Bob Garamendi

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PS: In the draft resolution, under Whereas: #2, I would be interested to know what staff considers to be a "nuisance" in the context of grazing regulations.