



Society of Wetland Scientists ~ Western Chapter

*The Society of Wetland Scientists is an international society
dedicated to the conservation, management and
scientific understanding of the world's wetland resources*

Bill Orme
California State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Orme:

I am writing, with concurrence from the Chapter's executive committee, on behalf of the Western Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientist (SWS) to support your application for an USEPA Wetland Program Development Grant to develop the tools necessary to support establishment of a State policy to protect wetlands from dredge and fill activities (Phase 1) and subsequently to expand the scope of State policy to protect wetlands from other activities impacting water quality (Phase 2).

California's Porter-Cologne Act establishes the State's authority to protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems in California. Changes in the Federal regulatory program over the last several years, associated with recent Supreme Court decisions, have reduced the scope and extent of wetland protection under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. We believe it is therefore incumbent on the State's program to supplement Federal protection by addressing waterbody types or activities not regulated by the Federal programs. The resolutions being proposed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and the associated technical tools that would be developed with support of the USEPA grant, are important steps in ensuring that California's wetlands and riparian areas are appropriately protected.

The Western Chapter of SWS supports the SWRCB efforts. SWS members include some of the leading wetland professionals in California and through the Chapter these members are available to provide technical support to the development of the State policy.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at erics@sccwrp.org or by phone at 715-755-3233. Good luck on the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Stein".

Eric D. Stein, D.Env.
President, Western Chapter Society of Wetland Scientists