

From: [Earle \[Redacted\]](#)
To: [California Water Commission](#)
Subject: Comments on proposed regulations
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I was pleased to read the proposed regulations for "Methods for Quantification and Management of Public Benefits" for water storage projects funded by the Safe Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012.

During my career, I worked in a similar field of Urban Stream Restoration at DWR, and in retirement I have done retired annuitant work for the Natural Resources Agency River Parkways and Urban Greening programs.

As a result of that experience, I've become impressed by the often uncaptured economic value of aesthetic appreciation and enjoyment of waterways and water bodies that are surrounded by a functioning natural environment. The real wake-up call was when John Loomis and Carol Streinor compared housing prices in the vicinity of streams that the DWR Urban Streams program had funded a project to address urban flooding, erosion or sedimentation problems in ways that restored natural values to the waterway. It turned out that there was a significant increase in the market value of homes that changed hands within a quarter mile of a project compared to matching properties without a funded project. This may be captured by the "monetized benefits" definition under Section zz.2. of the Working Draft. The willingness of the public to pay for property in the vicinity of projects, or the willingness to accept compensation for losing access to a water body are appropriate considerations in prioritizing funding for projects that are in the State's interest.

I am concerned that under Section zz.3.(5) that only outdoor recreation benefits that result from stream flow or reservoir surface area improvements will be quantified. This might preclude the quantification of aesthetic appreciation and willingness to pay simply to be in the vicinity of an attractive water feature, without actually undertaking water-based recreation.

I hope to follow the further course of your efforts in the development of regulations.

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