



# Media Release

## **Russian River Growers Join Water Demand Management Programs for Frost Protection Diversions**

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Growers in the Russian River watershed have joined together to address the effects of frost on salmon and steelhead. Today the State Water Resources Control Board approved three Water Demand Management Programs (WDMP) allowing growers in the WDMPs to continue diversions of water from the Russian River stream system for frost protection from March 15 through May 15.

Growers in the Russian River watershed can still join one of three approved WDMPs for the upcoming frost protection season. These are: Russian River Mendocino County main stem; Russian River Mendocino County tributaries, and Russian River Watershed in Sonoma County.

Participation in a WDMP is necessary because during frost events in the Russian River watershed, high simultaneous demand for water by many growers can lower stream levels to a point that strands and kills fish. The death of salmon and steelhead through stranding can be avoided by coordinating frost diversion between growers under a WDMP. In the covered areas, only participants in a WDMP may divert for frost protection.

For more information, visit:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/hearings/russian\\_river\\_frost/prtctn\\_reg.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/hearings/russian_river_frost/prtctn_reg.shtml)

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