

2011 JUN 14 AM 9:26

**Dempel Ranch
P.O. Box 456
Hopland, CA 95449**

RECEIVED
JUN 13 2011
DIVISION OF WATER *Right*

June 9, 2011 RIGHTS

State Water Resources Control Board
P.O.Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812



I strongly oppose the proposed Russian River Frost Protection Regulations.

I have "pre-1914 established water rights" for my property that dates back to the use of the water before 1900. I have thorough investigated and reviewed my family succession to my property located at Hopland, Mendocino County, California and found that these water rights have been in existence since the early 1900's.

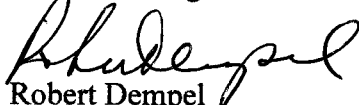
I have found the following documentation to substantiate my findings.

The railroad was established in 1889. (Mendocino County Historical Society; "Purdy, My Life and Times", 1976). The train passed through my family property. The train engine was powered by charcoal. Firewood was cut on my property by a colony of Italian immigrants. The wood was piled on a flattened area, covered with soil and burned to create charcoal. The charcoal was then hauled to a siding on my property named Largo and sold to the North Western Pacific Railroad. Historical evidence of this process exists today on my property to substantiate the charcoal process.

Secondly, the Italian colony grew wine grapes on the property and constructed a winery. Recent excavation at the winery site dug up containers dated 1906 which coincides with the dates of the establishment of the rail road. The historic containers are in my possession. I also by memory confirm the presence of an old winery building on the property in my youth years of 1940.

The "pre-1914 water rights" is derived from springs which have been used since 1900 and are in continual use today to produce wine grapes. This use includes use of the water for frost protection, supplemental irrigation, and heat suppression.

I object to any proposal to control or otherwise limit my use of long established water rights. I consider your proposal unlawful, causing me undue stress that I may loose a legacy that has survived five generations.


Robert Dempel
Crawford Ranch Road
Hopland, CA