



## DRY CREEK RANCHERIA BAND OF POMO INDIANS

Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians  
3250 Highway 128 East  
Geyserville, CA 95441

December 1, 2024

Mr. Greg Guisti, Vice Chair  
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Email: [NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov)

**RE: Recommendations to Improve Proposed Order No. R1-2024-0056 General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Vineyards in the North Coast Region.**

Vice Chair Guisti,

Bella Cana Vineyards owned by the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians is one of the first tribally owned wineries in the United States. Bella Cana Vineyard is fueled by the Tribe's vision to demonstrate present day vineyard practices that also celebrate the land, culture and traditions that shape the Tribe's history. Current winemaking practices embody the Alexander Valley community as well as nurture the environment. Over the years the Tribe has strived to implement water quality standards and advocate water quality regulations that will improve California's wine industry, as well as those who steward the land.

We are writing to request additional time to resolve issues in the permit and the clarifications needed the General Order of Waste Discharge Requirement for Commercial Vineyards (Vineyard Order) in order to support the vision of improved water quality objectives. Although positive changes have come from previous comments to shape the Vineyard Order, the current proposal could adopt practices that would greatly hinder many vineyard owners and managers.

The Dry Creek Rancheria Tribe would like to acknowledge the work done towards Vineyard Order and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board time in the field to address concerns of the vineyard owners and managers. The Tribe would also like to acknowledge and support the concerns posed by the California Association of Winegrape Growers that request

clarification and changes to ensure the Vineyard Order can be implemented with minimal disruptions to vineyard operations and water quality concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lacie McWhorter', written in a cursive style.

Lacie McWhorter  
Environmental Resources  
Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

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