

From: [Jean Redus](#)
To: [NorthCoast](#); [Sullivan, Brenna@Waterboards](#); [Watt, Chris@Waterboards](#); [Kuszmar, David@Waterboards](#); [Quinto, Valerie M.@Waterboards](#)
Subject: Comments in Support of Proposed Vineyard Order
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North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-1072

Chair Bedolla, Members of the Board, and Staff:

I live in Sebastopol and have been a teacher here for more than 25 years. I have been involved in watershed education since 1999, and have led many creek cleanups, tree plantings, storm water diversion projects, and once raised salmon in my classroom for release in Dutch Bill Creek.

My mom moved us to Santa Rosa in 1978 and we now have a large, extended family rooted in western Sonoma County. As residents, we depend on our groundwater for our very lives. As a family of naturalists, we have personal interest in the abundant diversity of flora and fauna here. We're keenly aware of our responsibility, as human beings, to preserve their habitat and pass this garden of Eden down through the generations, hoping to leave it healthier and more diverse than we found it.

As an advocate for riparian protection, I have seen first-hand how destructive commercial vineyard practices can be to our waterways. Sediment runoff from vineyards has disturbed the life cycle of salmon over many decades by increasing turbidity and smothering gravel spawning grounds, drastically reducing their population. I am overjoyed that the proposed Vineyard Order is finally up for adoption next month. If only we had this type of regulation 40 years ago, when salmon were still abundant in the Russian River watershed! It is vitally important that government agencies act as stewards of our natural resources and regulate commercial uses so that the ecological functions of our waterways can be restored.

Honestly, so much more needs to be done to protect our waterways and riparian zones. But the proposed vineyard order is a major step in the right direction and I applaud the many hours of work, expertise, and negotiation that went into crafting it and bringing it to fruition.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this order. I look forward to its adoption.

Sincerely,

Jean Redus

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