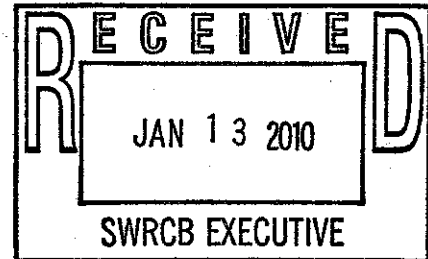


From: Dorothy Rice
To: BoardMembers
CC: Townsend, Jeanine; Whitney, Vicky
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 11:15 AM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Russian River Frost Protection Draft Regulation for the January 19th SWRCB Workshop

>>> "Rich Shaefers" <RichS@beckstoffer.net> 1/13/2010 8:57 AM >>>
Executive Director, Dorothy Rice

State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
January 12, 2010



Re: Russian River Frost Protection Draft Regulation for the January 19th SWRCB Workshop

Dear Chairman Hoppin and Board Members,

I am writing in response to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) draft regulation relating to the effects of water diversion practices for frost protection of crops on salmonids in the Russian River watershed in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties and the related workshop scheduled for January 19, 2010.

I fully support continued efforts to better understand and effectively manage the impacts that the use of Russian river water has for all purposes. For reasons stated by my colleagues in Agriculture at previous workshops and in letters that you will receive from Mendocino Farm Bureau, The Sonoma County Farm Bureau, URSA, MRSA and numerous other groups, I feel that the current path is not one headed towards successful resolution.

The use of water from the Russian River watershed for frost protection purposes is not an unreasonable use of water. Beckstoffer vineyards operates over 1000 acres of vineyards in Mendocino County. Nearly all of it relies on overhead sprinklers for frost protection. As has been demonstrated in earlier workshops, there is no viable alternative to this approach. We have taken a very active role in sharing and implementing 100% of Frost Protection Best Management Practices. We have always been very aware of what our water rights do and do not allow us to do. Our record of reporting and compliance in this area is (I believe) exemplary. Most recently, we embarked on a program of pond construction at our own considerable expense because we felt it was the right thing to do. It is our intention to continue to add to our storage capacity as we can. Simply cutting off the use of water for frost protection does not represent the intelligent solution that the SWRCB, affected growers and interested parties can come up with if we continue to TRULY work together in good faith. Aside from the poor construction of the proposed regulation, it will further serve to divide a group with diverse interests. The solid progress that has been made

can only be attributed to brief, cooperative efforts. Please don't let this go to waste.

I have resisted the simple path of forwarding the same letter for the sake of volume. I appreciate your time in considering this difficult issue and feel confident that once you have carefully considered the impact of poorly developed regulation versus continued cooperative efforts to resolve the problem, we will happily resume our efforts towards a more constructive end.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard K. Schaefers

General Manager

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