

1/19/10 Bd Mtg/Wrkshp Item 7
Russian River
Deadline: 1/13/10 by 12:noon

From: Stephen Hawkes <hawkes@sonic.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 1/12/2010 3:33 PM
Subject: 1/19/2010 Board Meeting

Gentlemen,

Considering the content of the draft proposal in question, it is clear that the time has come to review rules for water diversion by farmers in Northern California.

If we have adequate savings to install a pond to impound water during the winter it would be possible to store enough water to protect vineyards during the spring frosts—that is, if you would allow us to build ponds and store water. But we are not allowed to do that.

No one from your agency has ever told me why I can't take water from a creek in flood and store it in a reservoir for use in the dry season. Who benefits from these regulations? Who would be harmed if I were to take water from a creek during a rainstorm? Who would be harmed if I used stored water during the dry part of the year instead of pumping creek underflow in the summer? Why does your agency react to the notion of storage ponds as if they were a menace?

I imagine that you have noticed that in some parts of the year in the Russian River Watershed there is too much water, and that at other times there is too little. Why can't we save some when there is too much?

Thanks for you consideration,
Stephen Hawkes
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