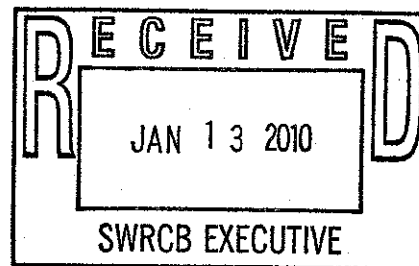




January 12, 2010

Mr. Charlie Hoppin, Chair  
and Members of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Via email to [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)



**Re: 1/1/2010 Board Meeting Russian River Frost Protection**

Dear Mr. Hoppin and Members of the Board:

On behalf of California Trout, I support immediate action by the board to implement staff recommendations related to diversions for frost protection measures in the Russian River watershed.

The rulemaking is urgently needed to eliminate take of listed salmon and steelhead by diversions for frost protection in the Russian River. Failure to do so will continue to result in take, as water diverted for frost protection will continue to pose a future threat to ESA listed salmonids, some on the verge of extinction, throughout the entire Russian River watershed.

We support the inclusion of real-time monitoring and reporting of diversions, as well as groundwater that is hydraulically connected to the river. Ensuring full participation of landowners while allowing unique regional solutions is warranted. The frost program should include a focus on compliance with existing laws including a certified water right by SWRCB, compliance with F&G Code 1600, and required incidental take authorization.

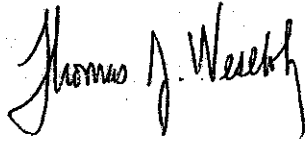
Russian River fisheries are at a critical juncture. All anadromous salmonids are listed as either threatened or endangered. We are running out of options and no longer have any margin for error. Meaningful action on water usage is imperative. Given the precarious state of our salmon and steelhead populations SWRCB must take immediate action to proceed with the staff recommendation and move to formal rulemaking expeditiously.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

1976 Archer Road, McKinleyville CA 95519

Phone: (707) 839-1056 Fax: (707) 839-1054 E-mail: [caltrout@sbcglobal.net](mailto:caltrout@sbcglobal.net)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Weseloh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. Weseloh, Northcoast Manager