



June 27, 2011

Dear Chair Hoppin and S.W.R.C. Board Members:

I am a Sonoma County 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farmer in Alexander Valley. I have been on my property since 1948. Since my family owned this land, it has been in prunes, grape nursery rootings and now grapes.

I'm not opposing a frost water regulation, but I do want it to be correct as possible the first time around. I'm requesting that you continue working with us as we are breaking our fannies to work and educate you on what's really happening in our area.

We have fulfilled the board's request to achieve grower participation with a county ordinance. This was a huge task and many of us have spent endless hours getting farmers registered and willing to participate. It will educate growers, correct or have the regulatory agencies deal with diverters that are de-watering tributaries

We are organizing, educating, monitoring, working with regulators and sharing our information all at our own expense even though 90% of grape growers in Sonoma County are on the main stem aquafier not affecting river levels.

By including ground water in your regulation, you are unjustly robbing many growers of a solution to their problem if one does exist. We already have proven through monitoring that hydraulically connected ground water in not affecting the main stem and nearby tributaries in Alexander Valley.

Both fish strandings, one and only one in Mendocino County have been corrected by growers spending millions of their dollar and federal dollars on off site storage. Sonoma County only stranding was corrected with ground water. We are all doing our best to correct a grossly exaggerated problem. Why should one 4 acre vineyard in Sonoma County and one 10 fish stranding in Mendocino be changed to 24,000 stranded by some kind of unknown method? There is absolutely no sound science to this hypothetical formula that N.M.F. Used.

And to top off the problem, you as a board are trying to put forth that frost protection water is not a reasonable use of water. I oppose this statement and request you to pull it out of the draft regulation. This term "unreasonable" could be interpreted incorrectly by any person in power and will erode historic water right's process.

I hope you take this letter seriously as we growers feel the board is not taking our efforts seriously.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Sincerely,

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