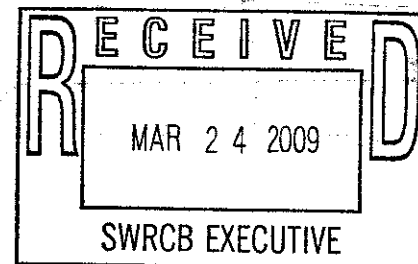


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Chairman Charles Hoppin
State Water Resource Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

March 17, 2009

Regarding: Russian River Frost Protection Prohibition

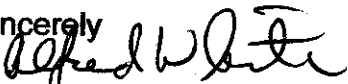
Dear Chairman Hoppin and Board Members,

I am a grape producer in Mendocino County and am very concerned with the action taken regarding the prohibition of drafting water from the Russian River for frost protection.

Residents of Mendocino County have a legal right to 8,000 acre feet of water from the Russian River. Frost protection is a necessary, allowable, permitted and established beneficial use of that water. We have agreed to significant water conservation guide lines to insure there will be enough water available for the Municipalities, public trust resources and agriculture. There is a very real possibility of over \$65 million in crop losses in Mendocino County alone. This does not take into consideration the ripple effect and impacts to related jobs and revenue.

It is imperative that a reasonable resolution is achieved that insures frost protection while minimizing impacts on all other water needs. In your 2008 Strategic Plan you state your goal is to "be forward thinking, use best science available, and conduct business in an appropriately consistent and transparent manner, while protecting water quality and balancing the competing demands on our water resources." If you follow your stated plan, I am confident you will not move forward with this Emergency Regulation developed by staff, and instead work towards developing a workable forward thinking long term resolution to the problem.

Sincerely


Alfred White, Viticulturist