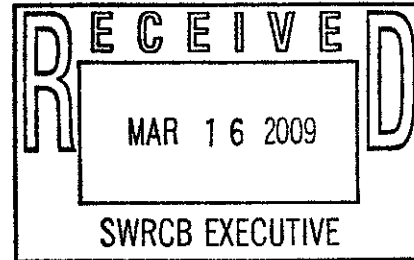


Charles and Nancy Sawyer  
1305 Rafello Dr.  
Ukiah, Ca. 95482

Mr. Charles Hoppin Chairman  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, Ca. 95812-0100



March 16, 2009

Re. Russian River Frost

Dear Mr. Hoppin

We have a ranch and vineyard along the Russian River in Ukiah Valley. We purchased the property in April of 2003. When we bought the property there was already in place a licensed water right with the state. We worked with your dept to have it transferred into our name and confirmed use for agricultural growing of crops including frost protection. We also became a contractor with the Russian River Flood Control District in order to provide water from the Lake Mendocino Project.

With this all in place we then planted and developed a 45 acre vineyard, investing over \$1,000,000 in the last 5 years. This young vineyard is now just coming into full production and the only water we currently have is from the Russian River. With Frost season just around the corner I was shocked to hear that there could be a prohibition for use of water to protect our vines during frost, without which we could loose the whole crop and possibly cause long term damage to the plantings.

We fully understand that there is a severe water shortage this year and we have been planning to work with the district in water conservation efforts to get us all through the season. We also understand that with last years intense frost season there were some concerns as to down stream flows for the fisheries during frost. It is my understanding that all the agencies were working closely together to prevent a similar occurrence through better communication during these events.

I have attended various meetings on this subject and I had thought that we were going to "manage" our way through this. When the word of an all out prohibition was proposed last week I felt I needed to write about our concerns. Please consider the following;

1. No notice or opportunity to develop an alternative to save our crop.
2. That all the stakeholders have and are committed to work in a cooperative effort together.
3. We plan on doing our share in conservation through out the year.
4. Working with our local suppliers we can use discretion on best use of the available water while conserving and protecting the fisheries.
5. We only use what we are permitted, place of and type of use.

I understand there are many issues around the State that demand the Boards attention and some tough decisions have to be made, I ask that you give the local agencies that are charged with compliance to various issues and laws to work together for a resolution to this situation WITHOUT the need of an Emergency Regulation by the Board.

All of us in America are suffering from economics issues that are out of our control; please do not add another burden which will result in more economic loss the our community.

With My Regards,



Charles A. Sawyer

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