

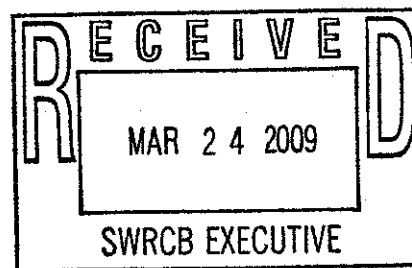
John Milovina
P.O. Box 302
Hopland, CA 95449

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

March 16, 2009

Russian River Frost Protection

Chairman Hoppin and Board Members



My name is John Milovina, and I am a grape grower in Mendocino County along the Russian River. We depend on the river for frost protection and irrigating the vineyards. It has been brought to my attention that your staff and NMFS have been working together without involving members from Mendocino County, on taking away our right to use the river for frost protection. This is not acceptable.

Mendocino County has rights to 8000 acre feet of water from the Russian River. Because of frost issues in Mendocino County, the Russian River becomes a viable entity in our farming operation. We cannot afford to lose our crop if we do not have access to water for frost protection. We know water conservation is imperative to all parties concerned to get through these tough times. We also need to find other alternatives to storing water. Back up water in the dam to the amount that it was built to hold or raise the wall on the dam to store more water. We need to be looking ahead to fix the storage problems rather than chasing the problem, and eliminate a lot of the red tape that slows down the process of getting things done. Water is too important a commodity.

We need to have a plan implemented quickly that will insure that there is water for frost and irrigation for growers as well as benefiting other parties that are dependent on the river for water consumption. We need to be acting now rather than reacting later.

Sincerely,


John Milovina