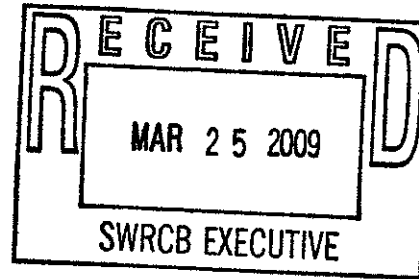


March 20, 2009

Chairman Charles Hoppin
& Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board
Post Office Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



RE: RUSSIAN RIVER FROST PROTECTION PROHIBITION

Dear Mr. Hoppin & Board Members,

I have worked in the wine industry in Mendocino and Sonoma counties for the past twenty-five years. I am sending this letter to protest any plan to ban Russian River water diversions for frost protection purposes.

Water for frost protection each spring is a necessary, allowable, permitted and established beneficial use by agriculture. It is **not** an unreasonable use of water. Extreme action by implementing restrictions will cause permanent crop loss and severe economic impacts. Areas of extreme concern are Ukiah, Hopland and Redwood Valley. Agriculture is the economic engine in Mendocino County. The related jobs and revenue that any such measure would impact in Mendocino County would be catastrophic, not to mention crop losses in excess of over \$65 million. 2008 proved to be a "killer frost", and 2009 has no guarantee.

If not such a serious situation, the mere suggestion at the end of winter and the beginning of spring to restrict water for frost protection is almost laughable. Mendocino County grape and pear growers and other residents have water rights for irrigation and frost protection. We are extremely concerned that any action of this kind would be suggested.

Please work toward developing a workable, forward thinking, long term resolution to the problem that is not going to go away.

Respectfully,

Kathy Dogali
Administrative Assistant
Patianna Organic Vineyards
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(707) 744-8706