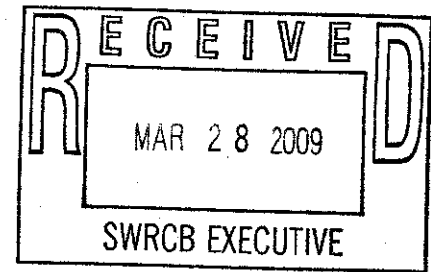


4/7/09 Bd Wrkshp
Russian River Frost Protect.
Deadline: 4/2/09 by 12 noon

From: "Robert Muelrath" <rmes5@cs.com>
To: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: Sat, Mar 28, 2009 10:29 AM
Subject: 4/7/09 Russian River Frost Protection Workshop

Robert Muelrath
Owner
Muelrath Ranches
3800 Walker Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95407-8005



March 28, 2009

Charlie Hoppin
State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Hoppin:

I am writing with concerns that the State Water Resources Control Board will cut off water for frost protection purposes in the Russian River Basin.

Growers in Mendocino County have been actively participating in a coalition to manage the water needs of agriculture, municipal and environmental interests. I understand the need for conservation, but also believe steps can be taken to ensure a healthy agriculture economy, while avoiding harmful impacts to fish and other species.

Unfortunately, this year brings unusual circumstances which some feel there is a need to call for immediate action. No one knows how long of a frost season we will have so making a knee jerk reaction to limit any frost protection is absurd.

If the SWRCB feels it is more important to put fish before people then any losses should be compensated with some of the departments resources.

While agriculture has had to cut back, the SWRCB is mandating artificially high releases based upon a normal rain year, when in fact there is precious little water left in the lake. Instead of continuing to require these releases, the SWRCB should act quickly so the water we will need later is not lost today.

We are regulated enough. People are ready to stand up and say "NO MORE!"
(See AB 885 hearings turnout)

Last year's frost event was an extreme and rare occurrence. Since that time farmers have taken proactive measures to protect instream flows. Emergency regulations prohibiting frost protection are not needed and are not the right answer. Please consider the alternatives available to ensure simultaneous protections.

Sincerely,

Robert Muelrath
707 585 2195
Owner
Muelrath Ranches