

commentletters



From: ann maurice <annmaurice954@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:39 PM
To: commentletters
Subject: March 1, 2016 Meeting: "Division of Water Rights Consideration of Proposed Resolution to Update and Re-adopt a Drought Related Emergency Regulation..."

Ad Hoc Committee for Clean Water
P.O.Box 484 Occidental, Ca 95465
707 874-3855 2/24/16

To commentletterswaterboards.ca.gov from Ann Maurice

Re: Item 7, March 1, 2016 Board Meeting, "Division of Water Rights Consideration of Proposed Resolution to Update and Readopt a Drought related Emergency Regulation..."

Residents told you last year you were **wrong**. You did **not** listen then and you are **not** listening now! For decades **prior** to the drought there has been inadequate attention to the de-watering of the tributaries by the outrageous number of irrigated vineyards threatening rural residents' water supply as well as coho survival.

Over and over hundreds of residents at town hall meetings told you the problem was mainly **vineyard irrigation!**

We don't have fountains, pavement or lawns. So you are obviously satisfying wineries who want their summer-green lawns and ridiculous fountains back! So you want to lift those related prohibitions. You have the public trust -- your responsibility to residents, property owners and taxpayers and **instead you kow-tow to unreasonable agricultural industry demands!**

The Press Democrat and the San Francisco Examiner and local rain gauges have all reported less rain this year at this time than last!!!! And you are recommending lifting conservation measures instead of expanding them????!!! More proof this decision is serving the wrong political interests and not rational or scientific and certainly not in the best interest of the coho!

Do something about the wine grape industry in our watershed! Summertime drip irrigation and using water for frost protection are disastrous. In just **24 hours** of drenching vines against frost, a 40 acre vineyard uses more water than 40 homes would use in **one year**. And drip irrigation of that 40 acres uses at least as much water as 8 homes according to the wine grape industry's own figures!

Our county planners would **never** have allowed that level of housing density in our water scarce community. But they have permitted thousands of acres of new vineyards. No wonder the creeks are dry, residents feel threatened, and coho on the verge of extinction.

For the 4 critical watersheds Dutch Bill, Green Valley, Atascadero and Mill Creek:

- 1. No new irrigated vineyard;***
- 2. Ban water for frost protection;***
- 3. Promote fans in frost-prone areas;***
- 4. Expand, not contract, emergency drought regulations to include vineyard water use;***
- 5. Promote dry farming of vineyards;***

6. **Ban all lawn watering, even night time watering, from May to November.**

In the interface between vineyard and residential water use residential use is insignificant compared to agriculture! ***Rein in the vineyards!***