

AgOrder - water quality regulation update

From: Kathy Tucker <adasvines@wildblue.net>
To: <AgOrder@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 1/3/2011 11:25 AM
Subject: water quality regulation update
CC: 'Kris O'Connor' <kris@vineyardteam.ccsend.com>

Dear Water Board,

I am writing to you as an owner of a small vineyard. We have 8.5 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon. I participate in the sustainable practices recommended by the Central Coast Vineyard Team. I use a cover crop, we use organic sprays and pesticides whenever possible and we drip irrigate to minimize run off. We use organic fertilizers yearly to build healthy soil. Like most small farmers, I care deeply for the land and our environment.

As a small farmer, I have been burdened by regulations regarding all chemicals we apply, farm labor regulations and the record keeping for our farm plan.

I have real concern that the increase in regulatory monitoring requirements for water quality will place such a burden on small vineyard owners that we cannot continue to pursue farming our crops.

In addition, our vineyard is located about two miles downstream from a city which uses the Salinas River as a place for runoff from housing, sewer plant and other drainage. To blame the small local farmers on any contamination of this water source is questionable to me.

I understand and commend the water quality control effort, but I feel the burden on small farmers and vineyard owners is onerous and will put us in a position where we can no longer afford to farm.

Please consider using the Central Coast Vineyard Team participation as a monitoring source and ease the burden on small vineyards.

Sincerely yours,

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