

# Information Meetings for Russian River Tributaries

July 8, 2015

Forestville, CA

## Note Taker – Esther Tracy

- Private well owners:
  - Office of Emergency Services should help private well owners during water shortages
- Long term solutions:
  - Work with vineyards to restrict water use
  - Frost protection restrictions by February 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Working for too long
- Higher cost of Regulation and forms
  - Money and time
- Concern of metering and charges from county
- Fine of noncompliance
- Fire concern:
  - Fire protection falls under health and safety and is therefore not subject to the conservation measures of the regulation
- Implement emergency regulations for vineyards first instead of homeowners
- Some homeowners did not receive letter, why? Answer: The Water Board used parcel numbers
- Measurements of success
- Concern about new wells being dug deeper because of vineyard development
- As an emergency action, the state should not allow county to allow new permits for vineyards
- Recommendation:
  - Do not allow fishing to allow for spawning
  - Water plants at rising temperature; start at 3 am
- Increased community outreach at this time is not sufficient
- How to provide feedback to community
  - Community meetings
- Complaint that fish, vineyards, etc. are valued over people
- Water scarce area / fragmented geology and watersheds
- Focus on thinning willows – 20% thinning
- Spring diversions and vegetation surrounding
- Need stream flow
  - Farmers and vineyards can provide
- Focus outreach to people with wells along the tributaries
- Enforcement of conservation measures
  - Monitoring
- Illegal water diversions by marijuana growers
- Long term we need to consider unnatural sediment loading
- Question about how Information Order data will be used and other studies:
  - Scientific studies published with information order results and how watersheds/local geology work
- Question about timeframe for date of issuance of information order
- Maintain fish in hatcheries longer to ensure survival

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- Legalize marijuana due to it being placed with other drugs
- Regulations for agriculture
- Need more government transparency and cooperation with homeowners and community
- Community wants to feel respected. This regulation makes them feel like criminals instead. Need more communication
  - Consider probation period and lowering fines
- Most water use in vineyards goes to processing of wine not to watering plants
- We need innovation in wine processing to reduce water use; Need to work with vineyards
- The public was not given adequate notice or involvement in the creation of regulations; Need to rescind the regulations
- Start with wineries instead of the community
- Correct the presentation to correct the cost of the hatchery program
- Suggestion: Remove the clause that gives access for purposes of “rescuing” or planting coho
- Fish rescue and new location of rescued fish should be updated into the regulation
- Build desalination plants and hatcheries funded by wineries
- Not a water shortage, it is a water distribution problem; develop pipelines to bring water to California
- Develop reservoir (shunt reservoir); quarries used as reservoirs – flood every year
- Agricultural problem will have a long term effect on the coho