

From: Jim Newsome <jim@newsomellc.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 11:05 AM
Subject: Comment letter - Proposed Russian River Frost Regulation

Hello,

1) Could we please have all future deadlines concerning Russian River Frost, or any other matter concerning our water, happen during winter months. July 5th is tough. Summer is a grape growers busiest time. It's hard for us to focus on such important issues as water(the life blood of our business) during the busiest time of the year. I don't think it's fair.

2) "Unreasonable Use". You have no basis for this! First of all, saving our crops from frost damage using overhead sprinklers is a "reasonable use". There is more than enough water for this, in fact a small ocean of ground water. It ironic, one agency of our government wants to install a diversion pipe line from Dry Creek to Russian River because there is too much water. You say there is not enough. Get a biologist up here to figure things out! Not a bunch of water cops driving around wasting tax payer money. It's shameful. It's stupid!

As for frost protection. If your house was on fire, would you use a fire hose to put it out? Of course you would. We feel the same way about protecting our crops as you would about your house. It's not unreasonable at all.

3) Question for you. The Sonoma County Water Agency. Will they too be affected by this? They are by far the largest user of water from the Russian River. Pumping Station #6 alone removes up to 21 million gallons a day from the Russian River(How come we don't hear about this? How come the news papers don't report this?). Please tell me the average daily water consumption during frost season by the Sonoma County Water Agency(from all Russian River pumping stations).

4) Before the Warm Springs dam, Dry Creek along with many of its tributaries dried up every year stranding fish. It's nature at work. We have a seasonal creek on our property located at 6062 Dry Creek Road(come check it out), that has been dry since the last rains. It is this way every year.

5) Your proposed fees are crazy. It will simply put us, and most others out of business.

6) We don't abuse our water rights. Never have. We too care about the fish and our environment. We are good stewards to our land.

Sincerely,

Jim Newsome
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