



Hand delivered
by Nick Frey
on August 6, 2008

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Ms. Tam Dudoc, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Workshop on AB 2121 Policy: Watershed Management Approach

The Sonoma County Winegrape Commission represents more than 1,800 vineyard owners in Sonoma and Marin Counties. The Commission's mission is to increase the value of Sonoma County grapes and to preserve this agricultural resource for future generations. Over 270 vineyard entities who farm nearly 27,000 acres have participated in the Sustainable Winegrowing Program and submitted their self assessments for inclusion in the CA Sustainability Report. Sustainable production must be environmentally sound, socially equitable and economically viable, and includes several elements to protect water quality and riparian habitat.

As proponents of environmentally sound agriculture production we would like to offer our support for the watershed-based management approach that will meet the needs of preserving fish and other natural resources while simultaneously serving the needs of agriculture. A viable watershed approach needs to include the following:

- 1) A baseline assessment of water demand and allocation, both individual and cumulative, within a given watershed.
- 2) Region specific scientific and technical data that identifies demands on resources
- 3) Encouragement of winter offstream storage.
- 4) A collaborative approach to managing resources that provides improved efficiency, accuracy and cost effectiveness.
- 5) Facilitate compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, Water Quality laws and the State Water Code.

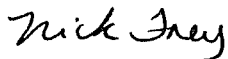
In the Dry Creek, Alexander and Knights Valleys of Sonoma County many of the growers that we represent are participating in a collaborative process, the Sonoma County Salmon Coalition. The Salmon Coalition promotes all the above. Working with Dr. Merenlender, UC Berkely Cooperative Extension, and Dr. Deitch, this group has supported the development of their spatially explicit GIS model that details demand and

supply. Along with NMFS and DFG the Coalition is in the process of reviewing and developing best management practices applicable to the agriculture producers land use activities. As part of the Salmon Coalition many of our members have worked with federal and state agencies responsible for managing fisheries and water resources in identifying restoration and enhancement projects. Once implemented, these projects will contribute to recovery of fisheries and stream flow in many of our streams.

The Sonoma County Winegrape Commission appreciates the opportunity to express its support for the watershed-based approach to managing our local resources. We are confident that working cooperatively with a broad spectrum of interests we can indeed develop a watershed-based management plan to protect our water and agriculture resources and address watershed and water use interests.

Thank you in advance for supporting our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nick Frey".

Nick Frey, President

Sonoma County WineGrape Commission