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12-30-11

attention - Russian River Frost Regulation

John O'Hagan
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, C.A. 95812-2000

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD
2012 JAN -4 AM 10:48
DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

Dear John,

listed below are comments
and answers to your letter on 12-9-11
as regards WDMP and Proposed Frost
Regulations on Russian River. I'll try and
respond as directly and to the point
as possible.

① Identification of Governing Body and
Numbers of WDMP's.

John Thomas will manage and administer
all WDMP's. There will be 3 different
WDMP plans identified as follows.

- 1 plan for Sibbett Ranch.
- 1 plan for Hyffer and Watson Ranch
- 1 Plan For Alessi Ranch

(#2) Inventory of Frost Diversion Systems

- The Frost Diversion For Watson Ranch is as follows. $15 \text{ acres} \times 50 \text{ gpm} = \underline{750 \text{ gpm}}$

- The Frost Diversion For Hopper Ranch is as follows. $2\frac{1}{2} \text{ acres} \times 60 \text{ gpm} = \underline{150 \text{ gpm}}$

- The reason for acre and water volume differences between application on Hopper Ranch and DFG 1600 Permit is that the Pear Orchard that use to comprise of 60 acres on Hopper Ranch has been pushed out and replaced with alfalfa.

Now there is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of grapes that need Frost Protection. The Pear acreage has been replaced with alfalfa which does not need or use Frost Protection.

We have kept Hourly Records of our Past Frost Season water use and the estimates we used for 2012 Frost season

are based on "Real Time" usage in the Past 3 years. We will identify and report this water use annually as per SWRCB request. The records kept and reported annually will be as follows. Hours of Diversions, Dates of Diversions, Amounts in acre/feet of water used and Rates of Diversion expressed in Gallons/per/minute per Location.

① Watson Ranch = 15 acres \times 50 gal/minute/acre
= 750 gallons/per/minute \times 60 minutes \times 8 HRS
= 360,000 gal used in 8 HRS = 1.10 ac/ft \times 8
Frost events per year = 8.84 ac/ft estimated
use at this location per Frost Season (Please
note that we average about 9 nights of
Frost events per year based on past records.)

② Hopper Ranch = 2 1/2 acres \times 50 gal/minute/acre
= 125 gallons/per/minute \times 60 minutes \times 8 HRS = .184 ac/ft

$\times 8$ Frost events per year = 1.47 ac/ft
estimated use at this location per Frost
season (This estimate is based on average
Frost use at this location in Passed years.)

① Oleksi Ranch = 30 acres \times 50 gal/minute/acre
= 1500 gallons/per/minute \times 60 minutes \times 8 HRS
= 720,000 gallons used in 8 HRS = 2.21 ac/ft.
 $\times 8$ Frost events per year = 17.68 ac/ft
estimated use at this location for
Frost Season (Please note that this estimated
is based on actual use in Passed years)

② Sibbett Ranch = 70 acres \times 50 gal/minute/acre
= 3500 gallons/per/minute \times 60 minutes \times 8 HRS
= 1,680,000 gallons used in 8 HRS = 5.15 ac/ft.
 $\times 8$ Frost events per year = 41.25 ac/ft estimated
use at this location per Frost Season (these
estimates are based on Pass Frost season
usage that actually happened)

#3

Stream Stage Monitoring Program

The 1600 agreement from DFG is Proof of Consultation with DFG and N.M.F.S. as regard protective criteria.

The 1610 specifically dealt with minimum By-Pass Flows For Frost Diversions.

Salmonids were declared endangered before N.M.F.S. Biological Opinion (table 3) was done in 2008, therefore, N.M.F.S. B.O. (table 3) included protective criteria for Salmonids in their 2008 B.O. as did DFG's 1600 in 2009. Also the N.M.F.S. B.O. of 2008 and DFG 1600 of 2009 cover this portion of the main-stream of Russian River. Both DFG 1600 and N.M.F.S. B.O. Table 3 dealt with protective water levels to prevent standing mortality of salmonids in the main stream of Russian River. The fish screens we have had on all Ranch

Locations since 2000 are accepted and approved by both N.M.F.S. and D.F.G. Please note that we were the 1st Farmers along the Russian River in all of Mendocino and Sonoma County to install Fish screens with specifications that met both N.M.F.S. and DFG joint approval.

(#4)

Risk assessment

There is no need to talk with individual growers because of the Gage at the Talmage Location (USGS 11462080). The Talmage Gage is an ideal Location for both Watson and Hopper Ranches to monitor Stream Flow every 15 minute with Real-Time data. For Hopper and Watson Ranches the Talmage gage is a measurement that reflects cumulative use in 15 minutes.

detail. For the Alessi Ranch, the Hopland Gage (USGS 11462500) provides an ideal location, and timely data with 15 minute intervals to accommodate this location. The Hopland gage benefits the Alessi Ranch location in all the same ways that the Talmage Gage benefits Hopper and Watson Ranch locations. Sibbett Ranch would get its water for frost protection season from Redwood Valley Water District from above the dam in Lake Mendocino, therefore is no risk to salmonids below the dam. The Sibbett Ranch in Redwood Valley has two-4" water connections from R.V.W.D. to serve this location. We have been charter members of the RVWD since its inception in early 1970's.

(#5)

the Sibbett Ranch

The Sibbett Ranch in Redwood Valley has one deep well and 2-4" connections from the Redwood Valley Water District. Our W DMP would like to use both those water sources for Frost Protection.

There seems to be no issues with the use of Redwood Valley Water District as principal source of Frost water in that the water is taken from above the dam at Lake Mendocino and poses no problem to stranding mortality of salmonids. The deep well located on Sibbett Ranch was drilled in early 1966. We have included with our application "PGE" well logs from efficiency test PGE conducted on the turbine pump motors at that time. Also included is the

original well log From weels Drilling Company (included). From this information, the pumping water level averages between 8'0" → 9'0". The West Branch of Russian River has a very thick layer of Blue Clay underneath its gravel strata and can be seen throughout this reach of the River. In addition, the well is located 650' due east of the West Branch of Russian River. Also, the N.W.P. Railroad tracks along with its compacted base of rock and dirt for Rail Road Tracks is located between River and well site at approximately 400' due east of River. From the above well-tests, well logs, Blue Clay present and visible in River bed of West Branch, and location of well sight in relationship to Railroad

Trucks and River bed location,
we believe this well has NO impact
on stranding mortality of Salmonids
in West Branch of Russian River.

(#6)

Olessi Ranch

at this location, there is an
11 acre-foot Pond we would use for
Frost Water Storage. We would only
Fill the Pond during NOV-Frost event
time period (i.e. Fill when NO Frost Protection
is needed) we would use the Hopland
USGS Gage # 14462500 in conjunction
with minimum By-Pass Flows stated in
our DFG 1600 Permit (which dealt speci-
fically with Frost water and Summer-time water
diversions). By using the above Protective
measures, we believe we can operate for

Frost Season with NO stranding mortality to Salmonids at any of the 4 Ranch locations as stated above. Please consider these WPMP's as described above and call if need colification or have questions. We want To work with SWRCB to resolve any issues that would hurt or damage salmonid populations! We also would like to stay in the Farming Business and be "Fair and Reasonable" in our endeavors to accomidate Both Fish and Corgers! Thank you for your help in this matter.

John Thomas

- 707-621-1357 (cell)
- P.O. Box 478
- Utiah, Calif. 95482