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Subject:	Comments in Support of Proposed Vineyard Order
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For the last 35 years I have watched the degradation of our beautiful waterways due to pesticide, herbicide, and sediment run off from the vineyards. It is unconscionable for an industry to use and destroy the most vital of our commons for their personal profit.

As a citizen of Sonoma Counties I pay my taxes so you folks can be paid to represent us to ensure the health of our shared water resources and the ecosystems that rely on them. An effective Vineyard Order will establish a program that helps ensure that those relying on our waterways are not responsible for further harm. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Vineyard Order that is up for adoption at the June 2025 North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board ("RWB") Meeting.

Our community is incredibly fortunate to have the Russian, Gualala, and Navarro Rivers, as well as many others in our backyard as they offer a unique blend of natural beauty, recreational opportunity, community growth, ecological significance, and provide an important drinking supply. However, in return, it is our community's duty to ensure that our waterways are protected from anthropogenic harms and that we collectively do our part to restore their important ecological functions. Similarly, the RWB has a duty to "preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations."
Let's do that!

Excess sediment has negatively impacted the health of our waterways and critical salmonid habitat for years by increasing turbidity, smothering spawning gravel beds, reducing salmonid prey populations, and altering streamflow dynamics that are essential for the natural life cycles of protected species. Left unchecked, this excess sediment has contributed to long-term habitat degradation, making recovery efforts more difficult and costly for both the environment and the
local communities that depend on a healthy river system. Addressing sediment impairment is essential to preserving the river's ecological integrity and ensuring it remains a healthy, thrivingresource for future generations.
Although there are several economic uncertainties for vineyards right now, that does not change the need for this important Order. Economic uncertainties will always exist in some form and while we remain sympathetic to today's hardships, it is not the role of the RWB to delay or avoid necessary regulations because of today's economic circumstances.

This proposed Order is the culmination of multiple years of effort by staff and technical stakeholder engagement.

Discharging to our waterways is not a right, but a privilege.

Though we believe there can and should be more requirements in relation to transparency and increased monitoring requirements, we do believe the RWB is taking a major step towards addressing the historical and ongoing sediment discharges caused by vineyard activities with this Order—especially since v***ineyards remain one of the last unregulated industrial sources of sediment discharge to our waterways.*** As a result, adoption and implementation of this Order will
help restore water quality for the beneficial uses that depend on our waterways for survival.

Jane Eagle Voter, Taxpayer, Citizen

The root of all evil is the idea that some lives matter less than others.