

Alan & Sharon Grinnell  
115 Wappo Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
March 16, 2009

NCRWQCB

MAR 17 2009

Mr. Matt St. John  
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

<input type="checkbox"/> EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMgmt	<input type="checkbox"/> Admin
<input type="checkbox"/> AEO	<input type="checkbox"/> Timber	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal
<input type="checkbox"/> Reg/NPS	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleanups	<input type="checkbox"/> Date

RE: 2008 Integrated Report for 305(b) Surface Water Assessment and 303(d) List of Impaired Streams

Dear Matt:

My husband and I live on Wappo Road adjacent to Mark West Creek in the upper Mark West watershed. We have lived here for 30 years. Both the main stem and north fork of Mark West Creek are adjacent to our small farm. Both ran freely year around with many fish. Pride Vineyards started planting in the late 90's with the installation of huge wells and ponds. We saw an immediate loss of water in the main stem and in 2007, it was down to a small trickle and in 2008 it went dry with a total loss of fish.

When Cornell Vineyards started to plant in 2003 and installed large wells, the north fork slowed down and two years ago it went dry even after very heavy rains. This year it was dry almost immediately after a rain, though the last few weeks have brought a trickle. The fish are all gone. After every rain, a wall of black sediment-filled water sweeps through both of these forks and is soon gone.

My husband and I have worked with staff at the NCRWQCB and they seem to be as frustrated as we are. The enclosed letter from David F. Leland at the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors sums up how severely "impaired" it has become, especially in the last few years. Page 3 even recommends to the PRMD that a "full environmental assessment, including an assessment of cumulative impacts" be done on all projects.

Staff did see significant fish populations in 2004 and in 2003, etc. Cherie Blatt (NCRWQCB) recommended against the installation of vineyards on such steep slopes with the resulting deforestation and degrading of the north fork and the loss of fish. She also indicated the increased runoff would cause serious erosion with bank destabilization. Cherie's predictions turned out to be 100% correct. In January 2006, a huge slide occurred on the north fork just below the vineyard and adjacent to the proposed winery site and she indicates this will continue.

First they kill the fish due to lack of water and high temperatures, then they pollute the creek far beyond the original impairment which was probably caused by Pride Vineyards and now they want to "drive the last nail into the coffin." I have included a similar report by CDFG.

We ask in the name of the fish that NCRWQCB take immediate action by implementing the TMDL standards.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Grinnell



Sharon Grinnell

P.S. Please see Paul Keiran for photos

Enclosure