

Schultz, Daniel@Waterboards

From: Heather Kraus <heatherk2175@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 6:30 PM
To: Schultz, Daniel@Waterboards; OAL Reference Attorney
Cc: efren.carrillo@sonoma-county.org; james.gore@sonoma-county.org
Subject: Actions due to insufficient flow for specific fisheries in tributaries to the Russian River

I'm hereby submitting to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) the following comments for consideration in connection with emergency actions.

Considering what an important matter this is, it's both shocking and disquieting how poorly it's been handled from the start. First of all, with the plethora of communication options available nowadays it's extremely disturbing that some of the hardworking taxpayers who the water regulations will affect only received the letter three days prior to the meeting in Sacramento while others, who live not 20ft away and are on the same exact watershed, received no notice at all, at least not until after the meeting had already taken place, giving us nowhere near adequate time to respond. That in of itself gives cause for concern as it violates our fundamental rights.

But as if that wasn't enough, the proposed water regulations themselves are severely unbalanced – asking homeowners to sacrifice greatly while vineyards, that use at least three times the water we do, are exempt. Last I heard, the salmon are the endangered species, not a grapevine that can be replaced at any time so why are the hardworking average joe's who pay thousands a year in taxes being asked to relinquish control of their water usage when the big vineyards can water seven days a week without restriction? I'm certain that the salmon, the supposed reason for these regulations, would greatly appreciate some help from the grape owners who use more water than we ever will.

The entire affair lacks any sort of common sense, especially when you factor in that new vineyards, which will draw from the same depleted watersheds we're being told to conserve, are currently in development. It truly baffles the mind. After all, a person never has more rights than they do in comfort of their own home. To forcibly remove some of those rights and transfer them instead to the government is egregious. I don't dispute that the Coho salmon are important nor that we're in a drought, but if we are in such a serious drought emergency as to sanction regulating what hardworking taxpayers do with the water on their own property then, by rights, development on all new vineyards should be immediately halted. It's extremely difficult to take the proposed regulations seriously when the grape growers are not only given a free pass to water as they please, but are also able to start new wineries as though there's no drought at all which will only serve to further deplete the limited water resources. It's an outrageous abuse of power and a poorly thought out course of action that doesn't respect let alone consider the needs and feelings of those whose daily lives it will affect. In fact, it seems as though only the vineyards are being taken into consideration, not the drought, not the fish, and certainly not us.

Stop the madness and start using your brains. Then ask yourself: Are the consequences of these actions, which make no logical sense, worth the fallout? Are they worth allowing government intrusion on private properties in a country which is known for being the land of the free and the home of the brave?

The Kraus Family
13393 DuPont Rd.
Sebastopol, CA, 95472