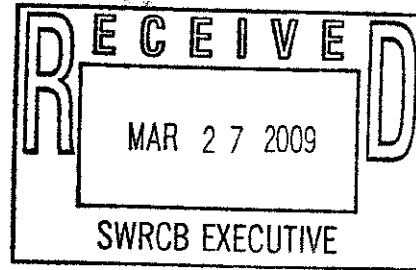


Chairman Charles Hoppin
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Devin W. Gordon
Whispering Oak Vineyards, LLC
AG Unlimited
759 S. State St. #131
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707)489-0261



Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing this letter regarding proposed limitations to using water for the purposes of frost protection in the Russian River Drainage in the North Coast of California. I am a farmer and a state certified crop adviser PCA/QAL/CCA. I have a water right issued by your office for one of my properties and use a combination of other legal ways to obtain water for other properties that I farm, including water purchases from the Russian River Flood Control Board.

Farming was a dream for me, a seemingly unobtainable one as I was not born into a family who had farm land. I started and grew my agricultural service business over the years and was able to purchase two pieces of property that I currently grow wine grapes on. The wine grape business has been dismal since 2000, grape pricing eroded as fuel, labor, insurance, fertilizer, compost, regulatory compliance, etc. continued to increase. We are now faced with the uncertain economic clouds that cover all of us.

This region relies heavily on the agricultural sector as its' economic base, if your board takes the stance that no water will be used for frost protection, this region's economy will suffer a much broader impact than the state as a whole, I for one will not be able to make my mortgage payment.

The migratory fish population is troubling to all of us but not just because the populations are dwindling, but the way that man is playing God with the politics that govern these natural resources. If you truly want to help the fish, than restore the Russian River habitat to pre Coyote dam. Let the Russian River go dry in the summer and purge itself of sucker fish and whatever else is unnatural to their habitat, just the way it was for thousands and thousands of years, quit playing with flows as if we actually know what they need (the God part).

I know the decisions in front of this board are complex both in scope and depth and I urge you to take into strong consideration the fact that livelihoods and economies are in fact at stake in a region where alternatives are scarce. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Gordon", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Devin W. Gordon