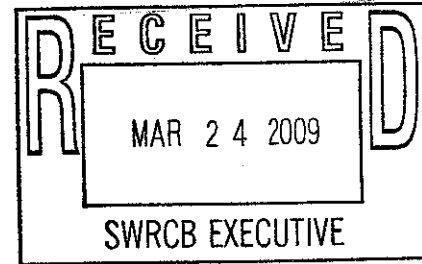


MENDOCINO WINE CO.

March 17, 2009

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



Dear Charles,

I am writing you as resident of Mendocino County and a fellow farmer. I have been living in Mendocino County as a winegrower and winemaker for the last 33 years. My children are now 5th generation winegrowers and the 6th is starting to sprout. I am also a business man with a huge commitment to the wine industry in Mendocino.

I have been an organic grape grower for many years and have had the opportunity to support and encourage farmers to make the transition to more sustainable farming practices. Mendocino County now has the reputation as the leader in organic and sustainable farming practices state wide, 2800 acres certified organic. I mention these elements, family business and commitment to environmental sustainability because they are the values by which I operate my business, Mendocino Wine Company, in Mendocino County every day, and I think are pertinent to the request that we are making to you.

As you know we have a very critical issue facing us this year, little water to go around. This following a very difficult '08 harvest as well. Mendocino experienced a 40% loss due to extreme frost last year. It would be very difficult for us to deal with another frost loss again this year. We have also been slowly recovering from a very difficult beginning to this decade due to over supply in our industry. The grower community in Mendocino has had several challenging years and we are hopeful the future will be more promising.

Grape growing alone brings over \$60 million dollars to the community and winemaking would contribute another \$15,000 million to the families of Mendocino County and the surrounding area. I know this is small compared some of the larger counties that surround us but nonetheless, the farming community is an integral part of our live and our lively hood.

I want you to know that as a community of farmers we recognize the delicate balance of nature when it comes to the importance of the Russian River and our water shed. Many farmers have made accommodations to build ponds or to reduce the demand for water through drip irrigations systems, as well as implementing other conservation measures. My family is going to considerable expense to supply water for our frost and irrigation needs through an onsite pond. This will of course reduce the demand on the river by 45 acre feet this year.

What we ask is for consideration in being able to manage the 8,000 acre foot of water that Mendocino County has been given the rights to. I trust that the leadership here in Mendocino County can manage their commitment to the environment along with their desire to provide for their families and community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Dolan', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Paul Dolan
Partner