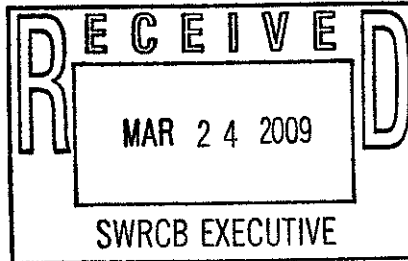


City of Ukiah



March 16, 2009

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



Dear Chairman Hoppin:

At the direction of a unanimous Ukiah City Council, I am writing to make a case for continuing availability of Russian River water for frost protection below Coyote Dam. We understand that a ban on such use has been raised as a possible way to conserve water and protect fish in a dry year. Certainly water conservation is a must at this point in time, but decisions about conservation must be made after involving all of the parties affected and with informed regard for the latest water supply information. It is our understanding that neither of these elements had been adequately taken into consideration at the time of the initial frost protection ban suggestion. Moreover, the suggestion ignored the fact that agriculturists in the region had worked out what is still a viable solution for protecting not only their resources, while at the same time ensuring an adequate water supply for both downstream users and fish support.

The City is concerned not only for the welfare of our agricultural neighbors, but for the economy of the region extending into northern Sonoma County. Agriculture is the big engine in the Mendocino County economy, with agriculture revenue being the primary support for many other businesses and service providers. What hurts farmers and vineyard owners in our region hurts us all, directly and powerfully.

We are told that a final decision on a ban on frost protection water use has not been made. We urge you not only to continue to allow its use this spring, but to set in place procedures that will lead to transparent decision-making that informs and involves all those affected by those decisions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Philip E. Baldwin".

Philip E. Baldwin
Mayor