



State Water Resources Control Board

March 6, 2026

CERTIFIED MAIL

California Land Stewardship Institute
Marita Oneto, Operations Director
550 Gateway Drive, Suite 104
Napa, CA 94558

CERTIFIED MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 1501 9816 73

Dear Mrs. Oneto:

ONGOING APPROVAL OF THE WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (WDMP) FOR DIVERSIONS OF WATER FOR FROST PROTECTION FROM THE TRIBUTARIES OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

On February 13, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division) approved the WDMP, proposed by the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI), pursuant to the Russian River Frost Protection Regulation (Regulation) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 862). The WDMP includes diversions of water for frost protection in the Russian River Watershed, except from the main stem of the Russian River, in Mendocino County between March 15 and May 15 of each year (frost protection season).

The State Water Board's continuing approval of the WDMP is contingent on compliance with the requirements of the Regulation. The requirements include submittal of an annual report by September 1, ongoing consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding development and implementation of a stream stage monitoring program (monitoring program) and conducting a risk assessment.

Division staff reviewed the annual report submitted by CLSI on August 31, 2025 and determined that the WDMP is in compliance with the reporting requirements described in subdivision (c)(5) of the Regulation. The annual report documents consultation with CDFW and NMFS and outlines the progress in development and implementation of the monitoring program and risk assessment. The annual report also documents the

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

individuals who are not in compliance with the program. These individuals will be notified by the Division. This letter serves as notification that diverters participating in the WDMP remain in compliance with the Regulation.

To ensure that the Division is aware of the diverters participating in the WDMP prior to the beginning of the 2026 frost protection season, please submit an updated list of participating diverters (participation list) and an updated inventory of frost diversion systems (frost inventory) to the Division by **March 14, 2026**.

The participation list should include the names of each participating member and their acreage frost protected with water from the Russian River stream system. The updated frost inventory should include detailed information about each participating member's frost protection diversion system(s), including:

1. Name of the diverter (or a unique identifier with an attached table identifying each diverter's name and unique identifier);
2. Source of the water used for frost protection and any associated water rights;
3. Location of the diversion (latitude/longitude);
4. Description of the diversion system and its capacity;
5. Acreage frost protected with water diverted from the Russian River stream system;
6. Acreage frost protected by means other than with water diverted from the Russian River stream system; and
7. Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) for each parcel frost protected by the diversion system;

The next annual report is due on **September 1, 2026**. The annual report should include updates to the frost inventory, including items 1 through 7 above for all participants, the rate of diversion, hours of operation, and the volume of water diverted during each frost event for each diversion system in the WDMP. The annual report should also include documentation of ongoing consultation with NMFS and CDFW.

The Division expects that initial stream stage gage installations and determinations of stream stages needed to prevent stranding mortality will have been completed, updated where necessary, and documented in the annual report, with the understanding that stream stage criteria or the streams being monitored may be revised in the future if additional data or information indicates a revision is needed. The risk assessment may need to be revised due to the completion of the determination of the stream stages needed to prevent stranding mortality. This annual report should also include a corrective action plan and implementation schedule if the risk assessment indicates corrective action is needed.

Thank you for your diligence in working towards the goals of the Russian River Frost Protection Regulation. Questions about the regulation and the updated participation list and frost inventory submittals should be directed to our Russian River Frost Protection Regulation Program email address RussianRiverFrostProtection@waterboards.ca.gov.

Written correspondence should be addressed as follows: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attn. Russian River Frost Protection Program, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Cervantes". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert P. Cervantes, PE
Assistant Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights

ec: Monty Larson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Monty.Larson@wildlife.ca.gov

Joshua Fuller, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Joshua.Fuller@noaa.gov

John Prager, Office of Enforcement
John.Prager@waterboards.ca.gov

Connor Bennett, California Land Stewardship Institute
connorb@fishfriendlyfarming.org

Russian River Frost Protection Program
RussianRiverFrostProtection@Waterboards.ca.gov