

*Acorn Growers Association*  
Dedicated to the preservation of the native food supply

April 29, 2008

Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
Sacramento, California

Attn: Karen Niiya  
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7000 APR 29 PM 3:16  
OFFICE OF WATER RIGHTS  
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Re: Draft Policy on Instream Flow in Northern California Coastal Streams

Water conservation is a very large resource for protecting instream flows. The Water Rights Division should consider making conservation a major part of its policy.

People think of water policy as punishment. Give us an incentive to save water and we'll start thinking of water policy as reward.

In the valley of the Moon in Sonoma County, in Santa Rosa and in Novato there is a successful water conservation program called "Cash for Grass". You can get a reduction in building fees if you don't create a lawn.

Other incentives for water conservation come to mind: What if there were incentives for vineyard owners to install rootstocks that could be dry-farmed? Such incentives could be built right into the water rights application process. Other crops can also be dry-farmed in California's Mediterranean climate regime. These crops should all be encouraged with incentives.

The price of transport is very high and could get worse. We cannot sit calmly by and watch our agricultural land be taken over by development for lack of water. And we absolutely cannot let our great salmon runs become totally extinct. This is about food supply. This is about people eating or not eating. We need both farms and fish right here! The key is water conservation. We can do much, much better.

The Division of Water Rights can move away from the kind of non-cooperation typified by the response of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, ("It won't fly.") and move toward getting wide public support for water conservation. You can catch more flies with honey.

I'm sure that once you start thinking of water conservation incentives you will think of many more, like working with U.C. Davis to provide people with dry-farming

information and free plants for xeriscapes. Like working with the tax code people to provide tax incentives, much like the rebates people get for buying hybrid vehicles or installing solar power.

It's not like: Can we do this? No. Its like: We have to do this!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Faulkner".

Ellen Faulkner