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April 29, 2008



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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DEPT OF WATER RIGHTS SACRAMENTO

Ms. Karen Niiya
Senior Engineer
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comment Letter – AB 2121 Policy

Dear Ms. Niiya:

On behalf of Duckhorn Wine Company, I am writing to request that the Draft In-Streams Flow Policy be withdrawn.

Duckhorn Wine Company owns 650 acres in Napa and Mendocino counties. We rely heavily on water from numerous sources to irrigate and protect the 380 acres of vineyards that we farm. While the proposed policy will not currently impact our operations, it does have severe implications for vineyard owners and farmers throughout the North Bay.

We are concerned that the Draft Policy establishes restrictive and far-reaching limits on water diversion that do not take into consideration or provide a balance to the competing water needs of watersheds, agriculture, domestic and industrial users. If adopted, the policy will impose severe and costly compliance measures and punishes applicants who have had applications pending with the SWRCB for years.

We take great pride in being stewards of our land and watersheds. We understand the need for balanced, scientifically based policies that meet the needs of all involved. With that in mind, it would be in the best interest of the SWRCB to undertake a collaborative process involving all the major stakeholders (farmers, land and watershed stewards, domestic and industrial water users, SWRCB, Fish & Game, water consultants, scientists, etc.) to come up with a policy that includes geographically relevant analysis and scientific data.

It is imperative that this policy be rejected and replaced with a sound policy that balances the economic interests with environmental stewardship.

Regards,

Alex Ryan
President

cc: Tam Doduc, Chair, SWRCB
SWRCB Members: Arthur Baggett, Jr., Charles Hoppin, Frances Spivy-Weber, Gary Wolff

DUCKHORN VINEYARDS



NAPA VALLEY

