

April 30, 2008

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

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

2008 MAY -1 AM 11:56

DIV OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

Subject: Comment Letter AB 2121 Policy

Dear Ms. Niiya,

Representatives from a broad spectrum of interests in Sonoma County coalesced two years ago to create a sustainable watershed partnership: the Salmonid Coalition (Coalition). The goal of the Coalition, which includes participants from private stakeholders, public agencies and conservation groups, is to create programs that will contribute to the recovery of protected salmonids in Alexander, Dry Creek and Knights Valleys of Sonoma County while balancing the need to provide for regional economic viability and regulatory certainty.

A number of participants in this Coalition have developed a *Watershed Approach Work Plan* (Attachment A) to restore ecological flows for salmonids and provide increased water security for rural agriculture. This Watershed Approach promotes collaboration and provides the framework for water users to effectively manage the water resources of a watershed by maximizing the beneficial uses of water while protecting the environment and public trust resources.

The purpose of the Coalition's *Watershed Approach Work Plan* is to establish water management solutions, to improve water supply reliability, and maintain instream flows for fish. In this endeavor we have benefited from the support of Federal and State resource agencies. As participants in this collaborative process we submit, for your review, the *Watershed Approach Work Plan*.

Thank you for your consideration.

United Winegrowers
Sonoma County Farm Bureau
Cadd Ranch
Rued Vineyards
Jackson Family Winery
Dayton Ranch
Robert Young Vineyards

Sonoma County Winegrape Commission
Trout Unlimited
Dry Creek Valley Agriculture Water Users
Alderbrook Winery, LLP
Syar Family Winery
Rodney Strong Vineyards
Russian River Property Owners' Association

Attachment: Work Plan
NMFS November 2007 Assessment