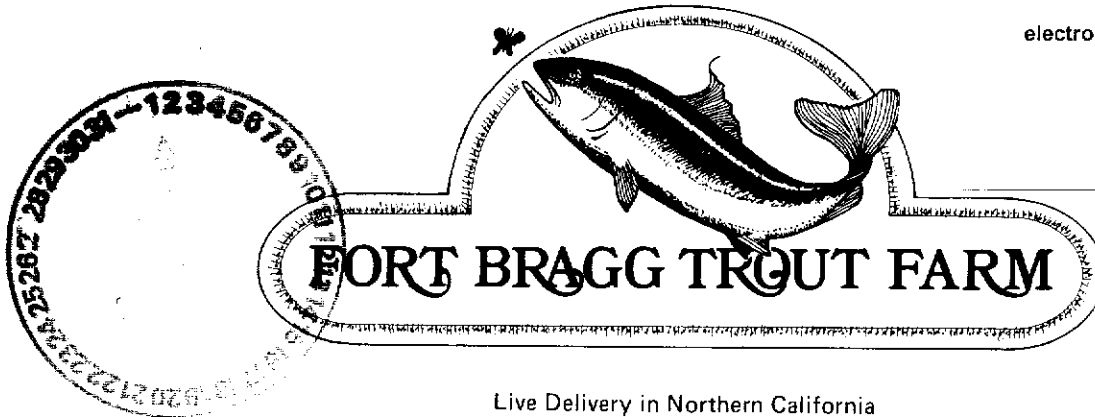


Since 1932

Trout Unlimited Public Workshop
March 17, 2005
hard cc: Board, Debbie Irvin

electronic cc:
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23 February 2005

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights

Once you let the politics of special interests steer policy, many small innocent hard working, productive water users will be victimized by unreasonable and impractical rules. The feel-good verbiage used by lawyers and zealots of Trout Unlimited and Berkeley related organizations once put into realistic practice will later be found to be false, impractical and in the end, destructive and not helpful. History bears this out. What is often thought to be good science later is found to be bad science and in the end does more harm.

As the owner-manager of the oldest licensed fish farm in the state, since 1932, I do not have time or desire to "push my agenda" as the petitioners do. I just want to be sure that if I am put out of business by the unrealistic views of the petitioners, that provisions are in place to pay damages to those harmed. My wife and I barely are able to support our 4 children in state college and pay a decent wage to my 2 employees.

Once your petitioners get their way and my livelihood of over 30 years is taken away, I believe we should be compensated. It would only be fair and just as I'm sure the petitioners and the state would agree that if they intend to take my business away, they should pay for it.

This business is absolutely unique and basically irreplaceable. We have built it up from nothing out of poverty. We would need to be compensated annually in perpetuity since we plan to pass the business to our children and have designed it in this way.

One final note: our little creek has never had native fish in it. However, in the past 2 to 3 years little fish have mysteriously appeared. I suspect they were secretly planted by someone who may believe eco-terrorism is okay. Therefore, in conclusion, our resolution is to have the state first put into place a fair value relief fund designed to save small family farms and have this fund firmly in place before implementing any of the petitioners complaints. And the addition of stipulations that guarantee exemption for well established, clean and safe, grandfathered-in water users from frivolous regulations and permits and other trivial rules the petitioners are attempting to burden the system with.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Domenici". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Michael Domenici

Copies to
Natural Heritage Foundation
Trout Unlimited