



GUNDLACH  
BUNDSCHU  
EST. 1858

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

electronic cc:  
Exec, OCC, EM  
VAW, SRH, LLE, RAS, JT

Ms. Debbie Irvin  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

February 28, 2005

Dear Debbie,

It is with alarm that I reviewed the notice of a public workshop considering the petition of Trout Unlimited and Peregrine Audubon Study. Let me explain why.

As background, my family has had a vineyard and winery located in Sonoma Valley which has been a working farm for six generations, establish in 1858. Because of our longevity, we tend to evaluate the sustainability of our land and vineyards in terms of decades and generations. It is with this forward thinking that we applied for water rights on February 1, 2002. The water rights applied for in #31323 and #31307 will help assure a water supply for our farm.

We have patiently waited three years for our applications to be processed. We have to date fulfilled the requirements of public notice, precipitation evaluation, watershed study, water availability study, Fish and Game filing fee and evaluation, Biological Resource study, field visits by Fish and Game and the hiring of an EIR firm named EDAW which we must pay for, but is actually employed by the Water Resource Control Board to be certain we will not harm the environment.

To date we have spent \$55, 585.60 diligently fulfilling all of the required studies referred to above. The water resource board should have most of the information required to pass judgment on our application. We made this investment knowing that obtaining water rights would be a bit more time consuming than drilling wells and using available ground water, but we felt that in the long run the use of surface water would be environmentally sound. The two proposed petitions are the last straw; as we have waited long enough and we are spending far more than planned for.

If the water rights application process is delayed any longer by further obfuscation of the issues, and beyond any common sense or reason, then it would appear that what you are trying to do is jeopardize our business while stealing from us at the same time. I look forward to your comments on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Jim Bundschu