

**From:** John Smith  
**To:** [commentletters](#)  
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To the California State Water Board:

A large number of small vineyards in El Dorado County have no access to a utility-supplied water source, and are dependent on the same well used to irrigate those vineyards as a source for family water supply. It is vitally important that these small vineyards, many as small as five or ten acres, be allowed to stay in Low Vulnerability status. The approach under the Sustainable Groundwater Act that lets locals develop the program best suited to their situation should be followed by the State Water Board.

Small vineyards are marginally profitable to break-even economically, and additional costs and overhead of High Vulnerability status will cause many of them to be ripped out, impacting the already-shaky economics of grape growing, and others will be allowed to go dry and become additional fire hazards in an area hard-hit by wildfires in recent years.

Unlike irrigated pastures, our vineyards require no added nitrogen, and are among the most water-thrifty of all crop choices.

John L. Smith, Ph.D.  
Small vineyard owner  
Former member, El Dorado Agricultural Commission