

commentletters

# LATE COMMENT

**From:** Harris, Bradley <BGH2@pge.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 6:15 AM  
**To:** commentletters  
**Subject:** FW: June 17, 2015 mtg. Russian River Watershed



To Whom It May Concern –

I received your letter last Saturday, June 13, 2015, notifying property owners that the State Water Board is going to consider the adoption of an emergency regulation to require: (1) enhanced water conservation; and (2) information on water use, regarding residences lying in the areas of the four Russian River Tributaries. The consideration of the emergency regulation will be discussed at the Board's June 17, 2015 meeting in Sacramento. The letter further explains the enhanced conservation measures apply to "*non-economic*" users of water, which would allow the hundreds of vineyards in the four tributary areas to be exempt from these emergency regulations. The vineyards are the major users of water in the four tributary areas, where parcel sizes of 5 to 50 acres are common and many have been commercially (non-economically) developed with vineyards. It is my understanding that in Sonoma County, a residential application requires the applicant to prove to the County that there will be sufficient water resources for their improvement while the vineyard applicant does not have to meet the same sufficient water requirement for improvements. You would think you would start with the major users of water, not the residential property owners who use water for domestic use and to water a few garden plants to decorate their properties. By nature of the living conditions, people in residences are very aware of their surroundings and are very conservative using the water resources they have.

I ask the Board to please revisit the emergency regulation and be more certain who is using the majority of the water before it is adopted. The State Board should make decisions with fairness in mind & not consider "economic" users as innocent with regards to water use. Don't make a decision based on the least amount of resistance method by targeting residential parcels versus the economic power of the vineyards. One final consideration I ask the State Board to consider is, not just consider water re-use systems that have met all NSF 350 guidelines as a potential solution, but implement the systems as a method to gain access to additional water resources.

Thank You,

Brad Harris  
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