

4/7/09 Bd Wrkshp  
Russian River Frost Protect.  
Deadline: 4/2/09 by 12 noon

**From:** "Steve Reese" <stever@cds1.net>  
**To:** commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov  
**Date:** Sat, Mar 28, 2009 6:56 AM  
**Subject:** 4/7/09 Russian River Frost Protection Workshop

Steve Reese  
4242 Denner Ranch Rd  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401-3855

March 28, 2009

Charlie Hoppin  
State Water Resources Control Board  
PO Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Hoppin:

I am writing with concerns that the State Water Resources Control Board will cut off water for frost protection purposes in the Russian River Basin.

Due to the reduced levels of Lake Mendocino, many growers have already received a 50% cutback on water from their usage in 2008. The allocated water could be used for irrigation or frost protection, but the proposed regulations would take that option away.

While agriculture has had to cut back, the SWRCB is mandating artificially high releases based upon a normal rain year, when in fact there is precious little water left in the lake. Instead of continuing to require these releases, the SWRCB should act quickly so the water we will need later is not lost today.

Growers in Mendocino County have been actively participating in a coalition to manage the water needs of agriculture, municipal and environmental interests. I understand the need for conservation, but also believe steps can be taken to ensure a healthy agriculture economy, while avoiding harmful impacts to fish. The SWRCB should continue to support these efforts.

Last year's frost event was an extreme and rare occurrence. Since that time farmers have taken proactive measures to protect instream flows. Emergency regulations prohibiting frost protection are not needed and are not the right answer. Please consider the alternatives available to ensure simultaneous protections.

Sincerely,

Steve M Reese

