

Russian River Tributaries Followup Meeting

November 2, 2015

Santa Rosa, CA

Note Taker - Rae Bell

- Cumulative impact i.e. Santa Clara County pledge to stop developments
- Fair and accurate monitoring system -> sustainability honest reporting wineries don't frighten those with water rights
- How do we differentiate what is ok to water and what isn't; community ornamental; residential lawn is just as important; what are we doing to clean the Russian River?
- Residents want more regulations on public/recreation lawns/area
- Resident disappointed on meeting attendance today vs previous and few responses to letter. How will data be used and when will residents know what is coming next; is board surprised at response level? What point of data would be sufficient?
- Resident informed neighbors of meeting today; wine industry is still watering; concern about el Nino where it will hit; it's not new news about coho endangered therefore not fair to enact emergency regulations
- Vineyards and pipes are taking water, is wine industry reporting?
- How can we know what is going on with 50% reporting? What will we do with funds from residents? Concerned about confirmation from reporting; vineyard/orchards are still being watered; frost protection and summer watering; what are we going to do for next year? Have we done dry farming? What are we doing with vineyards and solving problems?
- Occidental Sanitation Plant 20K gallons per day of water for salmon \$1.6 mil (this is a recommended solution)
- Is there a difference of tertiary treated water or drinking water?
- Some vineyards would like to use tertiary water but expensive to run tertiary plant; vineyard are being demonized, they're good at checking levels, cant always use fans and must use water, they're using water from their own lands not neighbors; would like to use storage water and less groundwater; apples are coming from Washington; a lot of miss info on vineyard water use; can take up to 3 hours to do the form; RCD wouldn't assist with form; how does current drought compare to 70's? Can you use cumulative/storage water from a pond - from runoff winter rains?
- Thank you and take each step beyond and continue down the road to ensure responses; can we get 5 streams on the groundwater priority list? County thinks SGMA will solve issue
- Would like to see data sorted by source AG vs Domestic use

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- Board of Supervisors has allowed vineyards to expand/ no permit if groundwater irrigation is used; vineyard do not have to irrigate; Every 300 feet = 5 acres of vineyard; frost protection should be stopped immediately; 1 acre uses as much as household in 1 year 24 hours/day
- What do you gain from removing Russian River off the water quality list?
- Vineyard/wineries explosion - 30 years and irrigation combined is the problem; how much is enough and how much is too much? Never seen assessment; CA River Watch urging to protect river flows less rhetoric and more action; wants action plans to be fruitful; inter-agency participation; technology to find illegal diversions and need to act on it
- Happy to see interagency cooperation; large AG industry important part of area and need to learn to balance; maybe we don't need more vineyards; general plan amendment land use on central coast area; limit coastal growth
- Inaccuracies stated about grape growers checked yes on form that they use water to grow grapes; #1 topic is how to save water; France rain season may-September; many growers have done the form; Water Board knows how many growers have reported; farmers need still water - bumper stickers in central valley; loss \$100K and expenses have gone up
- Residents are upset with big wine and loss of habitat not growers
- This is AG town - bottom line population increase therefore change habits; concern about water in creeks that are dry; chart says creek is wet an its dry on my hike; perhaps creek is going away like others have; everyone needs to change habits - it's not just AG