

# OFFICE OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Tony Linegar  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights and Measures



133 Aviation Boulevard , Suite 110  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-1077  
(707) 565-2371 Fax (707) 565-3850  
[www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm](http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm)

January 17, 2012

Dear Grower,

In February 2011, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors adopted the Vineyard and Orchard Frost Protection Ordinance. This ordinance was adopted in conjunction with the agricultural industry in an effort to proactively address and manage the potential conflict that can arise between water used for frost protection and habitat for salmonids. The ordinance requires inventory of frost protection systems and annual registration of sites in the Russian River watershed that use water for frost protection. Growers within the watershed must register with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and pay a site registration fee of \$64.

You are receiving this letter and the attached registration invoice(s) for the Frost Protection 2012 Registration for each site(s) you registered for frost protection with our office in 2011. Completed registration forms and payment are due no later than March 1, 2012. A separate registration and fee is required for each site. Any forms received after March 1, 2012, will be assessed a late penalty fee of \$64 per site.

Please review the information, note any changes in writing, sign, and remit the form along with your registration fee. If you have new sites to register for 2012, you can go to our website at [http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/frost\\_protection.htm](http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/frost_protection.htm) to download the registration application form to complete and submit to our office along with the required map and \$64 payment. Detailed instructions are also available on this webpage. If you still have questions, please call our office during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at 707-565-2371 or email us at [sonomaag@sonoma-county.org](mailto:sonomaag@sonoma-county.org).

Also, we want to take this opportunity to update you on the Frost Protection Regulations approved by the State Water Resources Control Board in September 2011. In summary, these regulations require any diversion (direct or hydraulically connected) for the purpose of frost protection from March 15th through May 15th (starting March 15, 2012) for the Russian River watershed to be made in accordance with a state board approved water demand management program (WDMP). Grower groups and individuals have begun working together and submitting programs to the board for approval. Under the state regulation, these programs need to be submitted to the state by February 1, 2012. For more information on the state requirements and WDMPs you can go to the State Water Resources Control Board at [http://waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/hearings/russian\\_river\\_frost/prtctn\\_reg.shtml](http://waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/hearings/russian_river_frost/prtctn_reg.shtml) or our Agricultural Commissioner's Frost Protection webpage at [http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/frost\\_protection.htm](http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/frost_protection.htm).

These recent developments will necessitate a modification of the county frost protection ordinance as it is currently written, which calls for one WDMP for the entire Russian River Watershed. Staff will be going to the Board of Supervisors with recommendations on how the ordinance might be modified to reflect these changes. You can receive future information on this and other frost related information by signing up to receive automatic email updates at <http://www.sonoma-county.org/Main/esubscribe.htm> . Or, if you have questions, please call our office during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at 707-565-2371 or email us at [sonomaag@sonoma-county.org](mailto:sonomaag@sonoma-county.org).

In closing, remember to review the attached registration invoice(s), making any necessary changes and submitting the required documents and \$64 per site registration payment to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office no later than March 1, 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Linegar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Linegar  
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures

Enclosure(s)