

Grower Meeting
Vineyard Conditional Waiver for Sonoma Creek and Napa River Watersheds

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011

TIME: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

LOCATION: Atwood Ranch, 12099 Hwy 12, Glenn Ellen

SPEAKERS:

David Lewis, UC Cooperative Extension Watershed Management Advisor
Charlette Epifanio, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Petaluma
Leandra Swent, District Manager, Southern Sonoma County RCD

TOPICS:

- What is a “conditional waiver”?
- What is the process for creating a conditional waiver and where are we in that process now?
- How can growers have input?

Sonoma Creek and Napa River are listed by the federal Clean Water Act as impaired water bodies due to fine sediment deposition and pathogens. Vineyards are considered a principle source of sediment in those watersheds.

Currently, a conditional waiver program is being developed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board - San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board) which will require vineyard owners and/or operators to enroll. On April 14, 2011, the Water Board will hold a Public Workshop on the Vineyard Conditional Waiver.

For many years, local grower and resource organizations in both Napa and Sonoma Counties have provided input to the Water Board. However many people may not be aware of where the process is NOW, what is at stake and how they can participate.

The meeting at Atwood Ranch will inform and increase growers’ awareness of the process of a conditional waiver program for vineyards in Sonoma Creek and Napa River watersheds and the role growers can have from this point forward in that process.

[Click to read article on water quality compliance in California.](#)

If there is sufficient interest for a similar meeting to be held in Napa County, one will be arranged by UCCE Farm Advisor Monica Cooper. **Follow the link below and answer the questions to let us know your plans.**

If you plan to attend on April 6 or would prefer a future meeting in Napa, click on the link! You may also RSVP by phone to UC Cooperative Extension Sonoma County – 565-2621.

<http://ucanr.org/growermeeting>