

State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE PETITION FOR PERMITS 12947A, 12949, 12950, AND 16596 (APPLICATIONS 12919A, 15736, 15737, AND 19351) OF SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

On October 13, 2023, Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) filed temporary urgency change petitions with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division) requesting approval of temporary changes to water right Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16596 (Applications 12919A, 15736, 15737, and 19351) pursuant to California Water Code section 1435. The petitions seek authorization to implement a hydrologic index based on Lake Mendocino storage values, rather than the current index based on cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury, starting January 1, 2024.

This temporary change is requested to ensure that the water supply condition for the Russian River is determined by an index that is reflective of watershed conditions. Sonoma Water states there is an urgent need to implement the proposed changes due to the significant reduction of potential Eel River water imports through Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) Potter Valley Hydrologic Project (PVP). The influence of Eel River imports on downstream hydrologic conditions in the Russian River will be greatly diminished, and thus use of the Eel River hydrologic index is not a reliable metric for Russian River water supply conditions.

In the absence of the proposed changes, the applicable minimum instream flow requirements may require releases of water from Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma at levels that would risk significant depletions of storage levels that could cause impacts to human health and welfare and reduce water supplies needed for protection of listed salmon species in the Russian River. Therefore, Sonoma Water proposes that the monthly storage values listed below be used, in lieu of cumulative Lake Pillsbury inflow, to define the water supply conditions that determine which minimum instream flow requirements in Term 20 of Permit 12947A, Term 17 of Permits 12949 and 12950, and Term 13 of Permit 16596 will apply to the Russian River:

- a. *Dry water supply conditions will exist when storage in Lake Mendocino is less than:*

68,400 acre-feet as of January 1
68,400 acre-feet as of February 1
68,400 acre-feet as of March 1
77,000 acre-feet as of March 16
86,000 acre-feet as of April 1

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

91,000 acre-feet as of April 16
93,000 acre-feet as of May 1
94,000 acre-feet as of May 16
94,000 acre-feet as of June 1

b. *Critical water supply conditions exist when storage in Lake Mendocino is less than:*

42,000 acre-feet as of January 1
49,000 acre-feet as of February 1
57,000 acre-feet as of March 1
67,000 acre-feet as of March 16
73,000 acre-feet as of April 1
74,000 acre-feet as of April 16
75,000 acre-feet as of May 1
76,000 acre-feet as of May 16
76,000 acre-feet as of June 1

c. *Normal water supply conditions exist in the absence of defined Dry or Critical water supply conditions.*

More information regarding the temporary urgency change petitions, including copies of the petitions, is available at: <https://www.sonomawater.org/tucp>

Pursuant to Water Code section 1438, subdivision (d), any interested person may file an objection to the temporary change. Objections filed in response to this notice should be submitted to the persons listed below by **4:30 p.m.** on **November 27, 2023**. Please be advised the State Water Board may issue an order approving or denying the TUCPs before the end of the noticing period. All objections received will be considered promptly, and an amended order may be issued if necessary to address objections.

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
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For more information regarding this matter please contact Ken Emanuel at Kenneth.Emanuel@waterboards.ca.gov.

DATE OF NOTICE: OCTOBER 26, 2023