
State Water Resources Control Board

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

COUNTY: MENDOCINO, SONOMA

STREAM SYSTEM: RUSSIAN RIVER
PACIFIC OCEAN

The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division) on April 25, 2013, pursuant to California Water Code section 1435. On May 1, 2013, the Division approved the TUCP, with modifications, to temporarily reduce the minimum instream flow requirements for the Russian River as follows:

- (1) For May 1 through June 30, 2013, reduce minimum instream flow requirements for the upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork of the Russian River to its confluence with Dry Creek) from 185 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 75 cfs, and reduce the requirements for the lower Russian River (downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek) from 125 cfs to 85 cfs; and
- (2) From July 1 through October 28, 2013, reduce minimum instream flow requirements for the upper Russian River from 185 cfs to 75 cfs, and reduce the requirements for the lower Russian River from 125 cfs to 85 cfs, if, after July 1 storage in Lake Mendocino is above the calculated critical storage curve; or
- (3) From July 1 through October 28, 2013, further reduce minimum instream flow requirements to 25 cfs for the upper Russian River and 50 cfs for the lower Russian River, if, after July 1 storage in Lake Mendocino drops below the critical storage curve for more than three consecutive days.

With the TUCP, SCWA submitted a document titled, "Instream Flow Analysis for 2013 Temporary Urgency Change Petition" (Analysis) dated April 2013. The Analysis provides: (1) a summary of minimum instream flows required under State Water Board Decision 1610; (2) an assessment of current water supply conditions of the Russian River System; (3) an assessment of projected water supply conditions of the Russian River System; (4) a summary of the criteria for approving a TUCP; and (5) a description of the requested changes. The Analysis indicates that this TUCP is necessary to prevent depletion of storage in Lake Mendocino.

As described in the Analysis, Lake Mendocino's storage level is 62 percent and rapidly declining. Information provided by SCWA demonstrates that releases of water under existing instream flow requirements will substantially deplete storage in Lake Mendocino by October 1, 2013. If storage

in Lake Mendocino is depleted to extremely low storage levels, water will not be available for release in the fall to support threatened and endangered Russian River fish species, agriculture, domestic/municipal water service, and Lake Mendocino and Russian River recreation. The requested change is therefore necessary to prevent and mitigate damage to the environment, fishery resources, property, public health, and essential public services. Furthermore, if the upcoming Water Year 2014 is a *dry* or *critical* year, carryover storage in Lake Mendocino from 2013 will be crucial for the continued recovery of the Russian River salmonid fishery and water supply reliability during 2014.

This notice, SCWA's TUCP, the Temporary Order, SCWA's calculated critical storage curve, and related project information can be viewed at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/index.shtml.

Pursuant to California Water Code section 1438(d), any interested person may file an objection to the TUCP. The procedure for addressing an objection is described in Water Code section 1438. Objections filed in response to this notice should be submitted to the persons listed below and must be received by 4:30 p.m. on June 5, 2013.

Send objections to both:

Emily Wallace
Permitting Section
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
P O Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Grant Davis
General Manager
Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-9019

For more information regarding this project, including procedures for filing objections, please contact Emily Wallace at (916) 341-5803 or EWallace@waterboards.ca.gov.

DATE OF NOTICE: MAY 06 2013