
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF A TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE PETITION BY SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY REGARDING PERMIT 12947A (APPLICATION 12919A)

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 December 20, 2013, pursuant to California Water Code section 1435. On December 31, 2013, the Division approved the TUCP. The TUCP requests implementation of a hydrologic index based on Lake Mendocino storage values starting January 1, 2014. This hydrologic index is requested in lieu of the current hydrologic index, which is based on cumulative Lake Pillsbury inflow, to define the water supply conditions that determine which minimum instream flow requirements in Term 20 of Permit 12947A will apply to the upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork of the Russian River to its confluence with Dry Creek).

With the TUCP, SCWA submitted a document titled, "Supplement to the December 2013 Temporary Urgency Change Petition" (Supplement) dated December 2013. The Supplement provides: (1) a summary of the water supply conditions defined State Water Board Decision 1610; (2) an assessment of current water supply conditions of the Russian River system; (3) a description of the requested changes; and (4) a summary of the criteria for approving a TUCP. The Supplement indicates that this TUCP is necessary to prevent significant depletions of storage in Lake Mendocino and potential elimination of water supplies for spring, summer, and fall of 2014.

As described in the Supplement, on December 18, 2013, Lake Mendocino's water supply storage level was 42 percent of the available winter water supply pool and 26 percent of the summer water supply pool. The current low storage level is the result of severely low rainfall in the region since January 1 of this year. Information provided by SCWA demonstrates that without a significant storm event Lake Mendocino storage will continue to substantially decline, due to releases required under the current hydrologic index. If storage in Lake Mendocino is depleted to extremely low storage levels there would be serious impacts to human health and welfare, and reduce water supplies needed for fishery protections and stable flows in the upper Russian River. The requested change is therefore necessary to prevent and mitigate damage to the environment, fishery resources, property, public health, and essential public services.

This notice, SCWA's TUCP, the Order approving the TUCP, 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 February 3, 2014.

Send objections to both:

Emily Hyland
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 Hyland at (916) 341-5803 or Emily.Hyland@waterboards.ca.gov.

DATE OF NOTICE: January 3, 2014