



**Sonoma  
Water**

April 22, 2021

Erik Ekdahl, Deputy Director of Water Rights  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

**PROJECT:** State Water Resources Control Board Order Dated February 4, 2021  
(Amended February 11, 2021)

**SUBJECT: TERM 3 WATER QUALITY MONITORING CONSULTATION**

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) submitted a temporary urgency change petition on January 7, 2021, for modifications to water right Permit 12947A that would implement an alternative hydrologic index to establish minimum instream flow requirements in the Upper Russian River (upstream of the Dry Creek confluence). On February 4, 2021, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order was issued approving Sonoma Water's petition. On February 11, 2021, the SWRCB issued an amended order (Order). This memorandum documents Sonoma Water's response to the requirements of Term 3, which was unchanged under the Order.

Term 3 of the Order states that "...By April 16, 2021, Sonoma Water shall consult with the North Coast Water Board to discuss possible water quality impacts of the reduced flows and whether additional water quality monitoring activities should be required to document water quality conditions in the Russian River. If any water quality issues of concern are observed from the continuous monitoring or water sampling required by this Order, Sonoma Water shall initiate additional consultation with the North Coast Water Board. Sonoma Water shall submit a summary report of consultation details and a description of proposed monitoring activities to the Deputy Director within one week of the consultation. Any necessary revisions to the terms and conditions of this Order may be made following consultation with the North Coast Water Board and approval by the Deputy Director."

On Wednesday, April 14, 2021, Sonoma Water and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Board) staff met to discuss water quality monitoring. Attendees were Don Seymour, Pam Jeane, Jeff Church, Keenan Foster, and Jessica Martini-Lamb from Sonoma Water; and Alydda Manglesdorf, Rich Fadness, Mike Thomas, and Bryan McFadin from the North Coast Board.

In anticipation of continued dry conditions through the remainder of the Order, Sonoma Water staff shared its proposal for water quality monitoring in the Russian River at the meeting. Sonoma Water staff proposed monitoring similar to that conducted in 2020, with a few changes. Sonoma Water is continuing to report water quality conditions recorded at the US Geological Survey (USGS) stream gages (Johnson's Beach, Hacienda, Digger Bend, Jimtown, Cloverdale, and Hopland) on the

mainstem Russian River in weekly hydrologic reports as required by Term 3. Sonoma Water would deploy datasondes at 5 stations in the Russian River Estuary (Russian River at Patty's Rock, Willow Creek, Russian River at Freezeout Creek, Russian River at Brown's Pool, and Austin Creek) and at 3 stations in the mainstem Russian River (Russian River at Pieta Creek, East Fork Russian River below Coyote Valley Dam, East Fork Russian River at Calpella). The changes from 2020 monitoring would be to remove the Patterson Point and Monte Rio datasondes stations due to access and security issues, and to add the Pieta Creek and Calpella stations. The East Fork Russian River datasonde will be downloaded on the same schedule as the Lake Mendocino vertical profiles are collected (see below).

Sonoma Water staff also proposed to complete weekly grab sampling in the Russian River estuary for nutrients, chlorophyll a, turbidity, and bacteria at the Patterson Point, Monte Rio, and Vacation Beach stations. Mainstem Russian River grab sampling is proposed for the same constituents on a bi-weekly basis at Syar Vineyards, Jimtown, Cloverdale, Hopland, East Fork Russian River, and Calpella. The changes from the 2020 monitoring would be to add the East Fork Russian River and Calpella stations.

Bi-weekly algae sampling is proposed to be the same as the 2020 monitoring and occur at the Patterson Point, Syar Vineyard, Jimtown, and Hopland sites. Sonoma Water staff will also share reach-scale observations of cyanobacteria distribution and abundance with Regional Board staff to assist with the Board's coordination efforts.

Sonoma Water staff also proposed new monitoring in Lake Mendocino for 2021. Bi-weekly monitoring would include vertical profiles and grab samples near the reservoir outlet structure, dependent on access to adequate boat launching at low reservoir storage elevations. Monitoring would include vertical profiles for temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, specific conductance, and pH. Grab samples would be collected for nutrients, chlorophyll a, and turbidity in the hypolimnion, metalimnion, and epilimnion.

Water quality monitoring results from datasondes, grab sampling, and vertical profiles would be shared via the weekly hydrologic reports as results become available.

Regional Board staff shared monitoring efforts that they are currently considering undertaking, including dissolved oxygen monitoring at select riffle crests and pools in the mainstem Russian River. Regional Board staff may have questions regarding access to ask of Sonoma Water staff as their plans are developed. As Regional Board staff have mentioned previously, they are evaluating if mercury sampling at Lake Mendocino may be needed. Questions being considered include whether sediment entrainment may increase spread of mercury downstream; it is difficult to know as we have not been in these conditions before. Sonoma Water staff may be able to offer assistance with boat access to the reservoir, if needed.

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Sonoma Water staff plan to begin water quality monitoring, including installation of datasondes, by the end of April. Sonoma Water and Regional Board staff will continue to meet weekly, along with NMFS and CDFW, and have opportunity to discuss water quality monitoring results.

Please contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Martini-Lamb".

Jessica Martini-Lamb  
WA Environmental Resources Manager

c: North Coast Board – Bryan McFadin, Alydda Manglesdorf, Rich Fadness, Mike Thomas  
Sonoma Water – Don Seymour, Pam Jeane, Jeff Church, Keenan Foster, Todd Schram

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