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## State Water Resources Control Board

FEB 10 2016

Russian River Watershed Conservation Council  
Mr. Pete Opatz, President  
855 Bordeaux Way, Suite 100  
Napa, CA 94558

Dear Mr. Opatz:

### ONGOING APPROVAL OF THE WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (WDMP) FOR DIVERSIONS OF WATER FOR FROST PROTECTION IN THE RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED IN SONOMA COUNTY

On February 13, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division) approved the Water Demand Management Program (WDMP), proposed by the Russian River Water Conservation Council (Council), pursuant to the Russian River Frost Protection Regulation (Regulation) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 862). The program is for diversions of water for frost protection in the Russian River watershed in Sonoma County.

The State Water Board's continuing approval of the WDMP is contingent on compliance with the requirements of the Regulation. This includes submittal of an Annual Report by September 1 and ongoing consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding development and implementation of a Stream Stage Monitoring Program (Monitoring Program), and conducting a Risk Assessment.

Division staff have reviewed the Annual Report submitted by the Council on September 1, 2015, and have determined that the WDMP is in compliance with the reporting requirements described in subdivision (c)(5) of the Regulation. The Annual Report documents consultation with CDFW and NMFS and outlines the progress in development and implementation of the Monitoring Program and Risk Assessment.

This letter serves as notification that diverters participating in the WDMP, and identified in the Inventory of Frost Diversion Systems (Frost Inventory), remain in compliance with the Regulation.

Please provide an updated Frost Inventory and an updated schedule for consultation with NMFS and CDFW by February 26, 2016. The Frost Inventory should include an up to date list of all diverters participating in the WDMP, and for each participating diverter, a description of the frost diversion system and its capacity, acres frost protected, and the source of water diverted for frost protection. The consultation schedule should include documentation of consultation with NMFS and CDFW to date, as well as a schedule for future consultation.

The second Annual Report must be submitted by September 1, 2016. The Division expects the report will contain updates to the Frost Inventory, stream-stage monitoring data, and documentation of the progress toward the installation of medium priority stream gages, as well as installation of gages in the four watersheds identified in the Drought-Related Emergency Regulation adopted by the State Water Board on June 17, 2015 (Dutch Bill Creek, Green Valley Creek, Mark West Creek, and Mill Creek in Sonoma County).

The Division anticipates that enough stream stage monitoring data will have been accumulated so that a risk assessment can be performed, and preliminary corrective actions, including notifying diverters of the potential risk, can be made. The report should also include documentation of ongoing consultation with NMFS and CDFW regarding the stream stage monitoring program and risk assessment, and an explanation of any deviation from recommendations made by NMFS or CDFW during the consultation process.

Thank you for your diligence in working towards the goals of the Russian River Frost Protection Regulation. The updated Frost Inventory and related materials should be directed to Kyle Wooldridge at [kyle.wooldridge@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kyle.wooldridge@waterboards.ca.gov). WDMP program questions may be directed to Ms. Kathy Mrowka at (916) 341-5363, or by e-mail at [kathy.mrowka@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kathy.mrowka@waterboards.ca.gov). Written correspondence should be addressed as follows: State Water Resources Control Board, Russian River Frost Regulation, Attn.: Kathy Mrowka, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Barbara Evoy, Deputy Director  
Division of Water Rights

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