

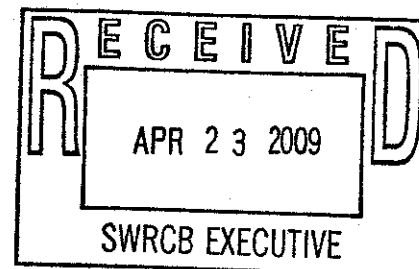
Public Comment TUC  
Sonoma Co. Water Agency  
Deadline: 4/24/09 by 5:00 p.m

**From:** Diego Pacheco <diego.j.pacheco@gmail.com>  
**To:** randy.poole@scwa.ca.gov; commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov  
**Date:** Thu, Apr 23, 2009 4:21 PM  
**Subject:** Comments for May 6th Workshop on Order WR 2009-0027-DWR

April 23, 2009

Jeannie Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Randy Poole  
General Manager/ Chief Engineer  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
PO Box 11628  
Santa Rosa, CA 95406



RE: Comments for May 6th Workshop on Order WR 2009-0027-DWR

Dear Chairman Hoppin and Members of the Board,

My name is Diego Pacheco and I own a home in Guerneville. I am writing to express my concern regarding impacts related to Order 2009-0027- DWR and modifications in permit terms that would reduce those impacts. The reduction in flows will cause severe impacts to water quality, recreation, community water systems, over-summering juvenile salmon and Steelhead as well as the lower River economy that depends on a healthy Russian River.

My partner and I own a second home in the Russian River and we go there to enjoy the many recreational benefits of the Russian River. Especially in the summer, we kayak, canoe & swim in the river. We spend a lot of time there and we are happy to bring business to this part of the county. In addition, we try to rent out our home when we are not there and this brings in more tax revenue and benefits to local businesses. However, the river levels have become increasingly low over the years and this is disheartening and disappointing to us as well as damaging to the local economy.

In order to reduce the impacts from reduced flows under Order 2009-0027-DWR we urge you on May 6 to take action to protect water quality and beneficial uses in the Russian River.

Specifically we urge you to:

- Increase frequency of chemical water quality monitoring to every two weeks with results posted promptly on a public website to proactively prevent water quality problems such as algae blooms from increased nutrient concentrations
- Include new provisions in the order to require flow changes in response to violations in water quality standards or as needed to protect juvenile ESA listed fish over the summer, the water agency released water to protect grapes from frost on April 14 to 16th so we expect increases to protect

water quality as well

- Installation of additional gauges as needed to ensure instantaneous flow compliance levels are maintained, in 2004 and 2007 compliance levels were violated under previous orders

- A minimum of 25% mandatory conservation for SCWA customers and all users downstream of Dry Creek to help maintain flows and conserve water in case of multi-year drought.

- Mandatory conservation by all permitted water diversions upstream of Dry Creek including agricultural and rural residential diversions and streamside wells pumping underflow

- Additional prohibitions in the Order on diversions that are not permitted in critically dry conditions or if needed a separate order restraining those unpermitted diversions to protect water storage in Lake Mendocino and maintain higher flows

- Keep order prohibition on commercial turf irrigation in SCWA service area and expand to include all commercial turf using water from the Russian River

We believe that modifying the order to include these provisions will improve protection of water quality, juvenile endangered fish and likely result in somewhat higher flows due to reduced diversions. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Diego Pacheco  
diego.j.pacheco@gmail.com