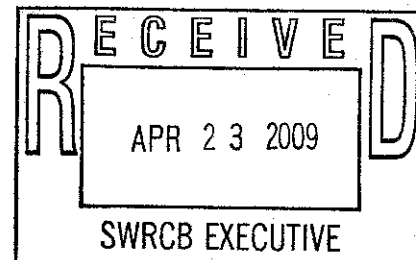


Public Comment TUC
Sonoma Co. Water Agency
Deadline: 4/24/09 by 5:00 p.m.

From: Mark O'Flynn <markoflynn@msn.com>
To: randy.poole@scwa.ca.gov; commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: Thu, Apr 23, 2009 10:32 AM
Subject: Comments for May 6th Workshop on Order WR 2009-0027-DWR

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
E-mail: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov; randy.poole@scwa.ca.gov



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

Dear Chairman Hoppin and Members of the Board,

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.

I own a vacation rental property on the river in Guerneville. Our guests enjoy swimming, kayaking and canoeing on the river. There are hundreds of other similar vacation rental houses along the river which attract vacationers to the Russian River area because of the recreational activities the river offers. The planned reduced water flow will cause river levels to drop to the point where these recreational activities will no longer be available along many parts of the river. As a result, many vacationing guests will no longer have any interest in staying along the Russian River which will have a severe negative impact on the economy along the river. It will also depress the value of homes along the river and further erode the tax base and property tax revenues to the county.

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,

Mark O'Flynn

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CC: info@rrgetaways.com