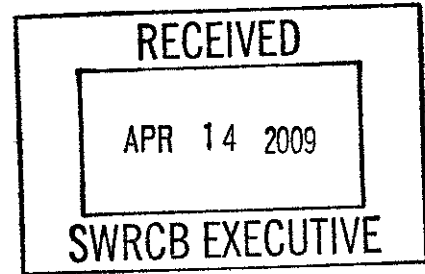


April 9, 2009

Mr. Charles R. Hoppin, Chair  
Ms. Francis Spivey-Weber, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Arthur G. Baggett Jr., Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Members  
Ms. Dorothy Rice, Executive Director  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Ms. Vicky Whitney, Deputy Director  
Mr. Steve Herrera, Permitting Section  
Division of Water Rights  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: TUC Order 2009-0027-DWR – Objection and request for hearing

Dear Chairman Hoppin, Vice-Chair Spivey-Weber and Members of the Board:

I am writing on behalf of our hotel in Healdsburg, California and the people and businesses in our area that depend on the Russian River - not only for quality drinking water but for the recreational uses that attract visitors to Healdsburg and Sonoma County.

We object to order 2009-0027 DWR and we request a hearing on the order before the State Water Resource Control Board. We feel that the Order as currently written will result in poorer water quality for several reasons, including the following:

- Illegal diversions and diversions from junior water rights holders are not adequately addressed in the Order.
- The Order does not include conservation requirements or oversight for water users from Ukiah to Forestville.

We also strongly support conservation by all users in the watershed to reduce impacts to our water quality. We feel that public input is necessary so that all possible actions are taken by the State Water Board to reduce the impacts from reduced flows and to encourage conservation.

A healthy Russian River is the underpinning for so many of the activities that draw people to our area, including kayaking, canoeing, swimming and fishing. At Hotel Healdsburg, we actively promote the river as a key attraction for the county and our town. We sincerely hope that the Order will be revised and improved so that water quality will not be impacted by severely reduced flows.

I appreciate your consideration of our request for a public hearing on Order 2009-0027 DWR.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Merritt Sher".

Merritt Sher  
Hotel Healdsburg