

**commentletters - Low Flow Order**

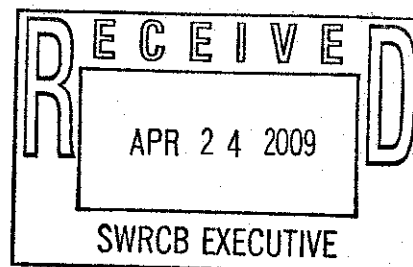
Public Comment TUC  
 Sonoma Co. Water Agency  
 Deadline: 4/24/09 by 5:00 p.m.

**From:** Randi Watson <randi\_watson@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>, <randy.poole@scwa.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Friday, April 24, 2009 5:01 PM  
**Subject:** Low Flow Order



April 24, 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

Dear Mr. Poole and Members of the Board,

I am writing to express concern for the proposed low flow in the Russian River for the 2009 summer. My chief concern is for the wildlife that live in, around and on the river, and I'm not referring to human wildlife. I don't want to see their habitat restricted or harmed any more than has already been done.

Why can't you impose a mandatory water reduction to the large cities and industries rather than lowering the flow in the Russian river? Pretty soon there won't be a Russian River. Perhaps you should consider the impact on the tourist trade and industry in the west county region. It is heavily promoted as a destination by the Sonoma County Tourism Bureau, and everybody comes out here for play time on the river. You really need to impose water rationing and stop threatening to lower the flow in the river.

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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,

Randisue Watson