

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD

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DIV. OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

SWRCB Inflow Study Comments

I am a property owner on Salmon Creek in Sonoma County with water rights.

Allow complaints to remain anonymous to the person that is in violation. Allow someone to issue a complaint and identify themselves to The SWRCB, but not the person in violation. Often it is a person complaining about their neighbor. This can create tension between them, so many times the person will chose not to issue a complaint because of this.

Allow storage of Riparian water from winter flow to be used in the dry months in struggling waterways. If people had other water to use in the dry months usually August - October, the creeks might not dry up.

Do not issue any more permits on waterways that do not have enough water. There already is not enough water for the current fish and habitants in many of the North Coast waterways.

Provide education for surface water users. Mail out information to people that can use or have riparian &/or appropriative water rights regarding their rights and responsibilities in easy to understand wording. Possibly hold seminars in convenient locations.

Provide alternatives for surface water users. Mail out information to people that can use or have riparian &/or appropriative water rights regarding alternatives to using surface water, such as rainwater water catchment. Possibly provide financial &/or design assistance. Possibly hold seminars in convenient locations.

Work with the local county permitting departments to create and maintain a policy for well permits within a prescribed buffer zone of the waterways. Sonoma County is currently working on their new plan, so this would be a great time to get involved with them on creating new guidelines for wells and septic systems that could possibly affect the waterways.

Enforce stiffer penalties for violators. If people knew they would have to pay &/or give up water rights for violating water usage, there would probably be less violations. Violators cause a lot of the flow problems in the dry season.

Provide mediation between common water users when all parties are willing. This could also be done in cooperation with the local county (& city) planning departments.

Look at the data collected from the waterways from federal, state and local organizations. The USGS has some flow data from meters, but it is not regular and complete. In Sonoma County The Community Clean Water Institute has over 5 years of accurate data on waterways in Sonoma County. The Salmon Creek Watershed Council has data from testing Salmon Creek and an Estuary Study. I am sure other watershed councils have accurate data they have collected as well. Please collect and look at this data!

Survey the people that live along the waterways and use the surface water, as well as the people that steward them. They are the ones that know what is going on with their particular stream or river and are one of the best sources of this information. I think you might be surprised by the overwhelming response you might get.

Remove any known un-permitted dams and systems. Violators cause a lot of the flow problems in the dry season. Fine them a lot if they re-build the dams or continue to use their systems.