
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE PETITION FOR PERMIT 16596 (APPLICATION 19351) OF SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

On February 19, 2025, Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) filed a temporary urgency change petition with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division) requesting approval of temporary changes to water right Permit 16596 (Application 19351) pursuant to California Water Code section 1435. The petition seeks authorization to add a point of diversion to conduct an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) pilot study at its well in the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater basin, starting June 1, 2025.

This temporary change is requested to aid in local community water supply resiliency. Since 2013, the Russian River has experienced two multi-year droughts in 2013-2015 and 2020-2022, resulting in declarations of insufficient water supplies and subsequent water right curtailments in the Russian River watershed. Sonoma Water's water right permits were subject to curtailments and mandatory water conservation measures, as the Russian River water rights are the primary water supply for the water agency.

Approval of the temporary urgency change petition would authorize the use of water for the ASR pilot testing at Sonoma Water's Sebastopol Road well, located near the City of Sebastopol. The ASR pilot test will use existing infrastructure to deliver recharge water from the Russian River to the well site. Recharge water includes potable water from Sonoma Water's transmission system, operating at a maximum recharge rate of 1.2 cubic foot per second (cfs) and maximum production rate of 2.3 cfs. The total amount of recharge and recovery of up to 50 acre-feet of water is anticipated.

More information regarding the temporary urgency change petitions, including copies of the petitions, is available at: <https://www.sonomawater.org/tucp>

Pursuant to Water Code section 1438, subdivision (d), any interested person may file an objection to the temporary change. Objections filed in response to this notice should be submitted to the persons listed below by **4:30 p.m. on April 11, 2025**. Please be advised the State Water Board may issue an order approving or denying the TUCPs before the end of the noticing period. All objections received will be considered promptly, and an amended order may be issued if necessary to address objections.

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Attn: Ken Emanuel

Sonoma County Water Agency
Attn: Grant Davis, General Manager
404 Aviation Boulevard

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For more information regarding this matter please contact Ken Emanuel at
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DATE OF NOTICE: MARCH 12, 2025