

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

**From:** Debra McGauley <debmcgauley@yahoo.com>  
**To:** commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov  
**Date:** Thu, Apr 23, 2009 3:01 PM  
**Subject:** RUSSIAN RIVER WATER FLOW - Order WR 2009-0027-DWR

What about conservation first? Let's mandate conservation and/or drought resistant yards, before we reduce the flows in the Russian River.

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 Russian River economy that depends on a healthy Russian River.

We moved to the Russian River in 1986. We raised our two children in Guerneville. Our spring through fall afternoons and weekends were spent swimming along the river. My friends own vacation properties in the area and their paying guests thoroughly enjoyed the river as a vacation destination. However in 2004 and 2007 with the low flow of the river, many local businesses lost precious revenue because guests no longer came to enjoy the river. Why? Because the low flow caused a horrible algae build up, the water temperature increased to essentially hot tub level, as well as the lack of actual \*swimming\* holes.

The lower river economy depends on summer and fall visitors to make it through each year and this flow reduction will harm our local businesses who are already suffering in today's economy.

Deb McGauley

