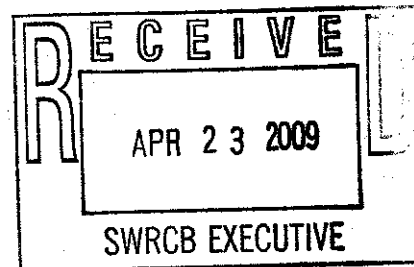


From: George Zastrow <ggprint707@yahoo.com>
To: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov; randy.poole@scwa.ca.gov
Date: Thu, Apr 23, 2009 5:15 PM
Subject: Russian River Flow

4-23-09

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
RE: Comments for May 6th Workshop on Order WR 2009-0027-DWR



Dear Chairman Hoppin and
Members of the Board,

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 River economy
that depends on a healthy Russian River.

I have lived, and operated a business, on the
lower Russian for over 35 years and have seen its ebb and flow. I have been a committed public servant,
Elected County Official and head of the Russian River Cleanup on the lower river for the past 18 years.
Awarded the US EPA environmental achievement award for environmental activism in 2003. I lead eco
tours for Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods as well as teach kayaking and river stewardship to
students through Watertreks Eco-Tours.

The proposal now before you would, in my experienced
opinion, be a death knell to business here, as well as having a severe negative impact on residents and
visitors quality of life...and would be detrimental the fish and fowl and the rest of the
ecosystem participants.

Please review the following actions and do the
right thing for 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 16th 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,

George Zastrow

Guerneville Graphics & printing (owner)
George Scott Zastrow Photography

Guerneville Graphics & Printing

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CC: info@russianriverkeeper.org