

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

From: janis hartman <janismhartman@sbcglobal.net>
To: randy.poole@scwa.ca.gov; commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: Thu, Apr 23, 2009 3:20 PM
Subject: RE: Comments for May 6th Workshop on Order WR 2009-0027-DWR

April 23, 2009

Jeannie
Townsend

Clerk
to the Board

State
Water Resources Control Board

1001
I Street

Sacramento,
CA 95814

Randy
Poole

General
Manager/ Chief Engineer

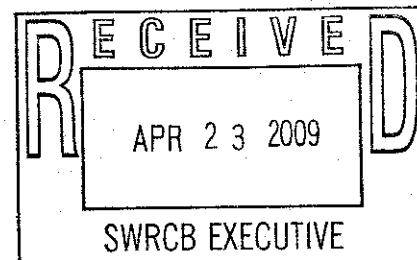
Sonoma
County Water Agency

PO
Box 11628

Santa
Rosa, CA 95406

(E-mail
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov & randy.poole@scwa.ca.gov)

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 along the Russian River for 10 years and spend most days at the River swimming with my family. I am concerned that without additional protections this flow reduction will result in the river not being clean enough for us to swim in. Also, when the river is low, the water gets warm and the algae blooms occur, this is unsafe for swimming and when the river is green, tourism suffers. It can't be good for the fish.

Also,
my husband and I have taken a run down, drug infested 4 plex and turned it into lovely vacation rentals that are an upgrade and asset to the community and neighborhood. My neighbors stop by all the time to tell us how happy they are that we have invested in the community, at great personal expense to us. It is bad enough, that as we start the summer months, that the economy has turned sour, but if you reduce the flow in the river, it will further affect tourism and our ability to make our payments. Please don't hit us with another blow to the local community, by lowering 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,

Janis
Hartman

20790 Kingston Ave.,

Monte
Rio, CA 95462

Owner of Monte Rio Cottages, 20701 River Blvd., Monte Rio, CA 95462

Janis Hartman

Monte Rio Cottages

(707)865-4161

Visit our website at www.monteriocottages.com