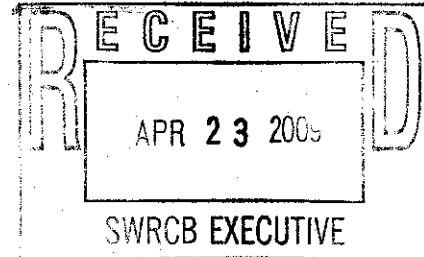


April 24, 2009

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

RE: Comments for May 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

My family and I have owned and operated Johnson's Beach in downtown Guerneville since 1967. We are hopeful that our children and grandchildren will be able to continue to keep our resort open for many years to come. Multiple generations of families, travelers from all over Sonoma County, the Bay Area, California, the USA and the world visit the Russian River. The health of the Russian River is crucial for our business as well as all of the businesses, residents and visitors along the river from Ukiah to Jenner. I understand the need for water conservation but that should be a way of life for all people and all businesses everywhere now and in the future. The customers of the Sonoma County Water Agency live in a Mediterranean climate and should not try to replicate English gardens by watering lawns. It is shameful. Vineyards should not be draining the aquifer. It is criminal.

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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,

Laura Wilson  
PO Box 604  
Guerneville, CA 95446