

Jeannie Townsend

Clerk to the Board

State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street

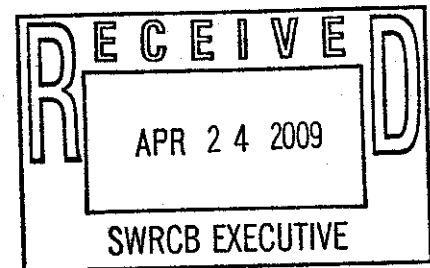
Sacramento, CA 95814

From : Margaret Whitaker-Greene

19390 Pine Glade

Guerneville, CA 95446

April 23, 2009



Dear Chairman Hoppin and Members of the Board,

I am writing in extreme 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 with my family and friends been going to the Russian River Resort area for twenty years for recreational purposes and for the natural beauty of the area. In August, 2007 I purchased a home that is a vacation rental property in Guerneville. I know personally that when water flow was reduced in 2004 and 2007 the algae filled areas of the river and prevented people from wanting to swim or boat on the river. Local businesses suffered loss of income, Sonoma county suffered loss of tax revenue due to the less tourist use of the resort area that is the Russian River in Guerneville and Monte Rio. Summer vacationing business depends on a healthy river flow and also on people knowing that the bacterial make up of the river is safe for fish and for people. I now live in Monte Rio and am doubly concerned in regard to the whole of the Recreational and Natural environs.

I am appalled as an environmental activist and a business owner that other areas such as many vineyards are not included in having to reduce their use of water from the sources to the Russian River. A minimum of 25% mandatory conservation for SWCA customers and all users downstream of Dry Creek needs to be ordered to conserve water and maintain the flow at this time and in case of multi-year drought. There need to be additional gauges to ensure instantaneous flow compliance levels are maintained this year and in all future incidents of drought and changes in levels of the River flow. In both 2004 and 2007 compliance levels were violated. I want you to install gauges and people to check them who will hold responsible those parties who violate the orders of your Board.

Anything less than changes that allow more water into Russian River so that fish and people and the river environs are protected and can flourish is disastrous. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Margaret Whitaker-Greene, April 23, 2009