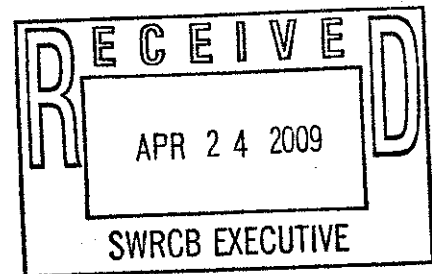


RE: Comments for May 6th Workshop on Order WR 2009-0027-DWR

April 24, 2009

Charles R. Hoppin, Chair
Francis Spivey-Weber, Vice-Chair
Arthur G. Baggett Jr.
Tam M Doduc
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 9581



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 been swimming and kayaking on the Russian River as an adult for 15 years and as a child we swam in the River during summer vacations. The past low water years of 2004 and 2007 caused the river to become filled with algae and warmer than a bathtub, causing a problem for the fish and people as well. I am concerned that without additional protections this flow reduction will result in the river not being clean enough for me or my family to members to swim in this summer. It will also make it unpleasant for summer visitors and in this recession, the City of Healdsburg needs as many tourists as it can find. Also, the lower river economy depends on summer visitors as well to make it through each year and this flow reduction will harm many local businesses.

I believe that modifying the order to include monitoring provisions and a minimum of 25% mandatory conservation for Sonoma County Water Agency customers and all users downstream of Dry Creek to help maintain flows and conserve water in case of multi-year drought will improve protection of water quality. I believe that modifying the order to include conservation provisions will improve protection of water quality, juvenile endangered fish and likely result in somewhat higher flows due to reduced diversions. I appreciate your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Buttitta

Patricia A. Buttitta

PB/pb
encl.