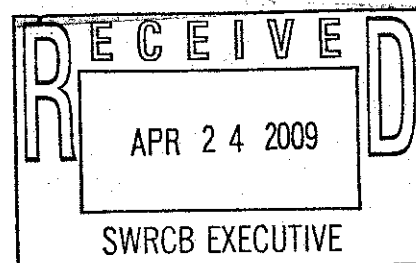


From: Scott Gordon <sgordon@netsistance.com>
To: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: Fri, Apr 24, 2009 2:29 PM
Subject: Comments for May 6th Workshop on Order WR 2009-0027-DWR

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 been enjoying the Russian River area for many years but have been a resident for only two. One of the things that amazed me in my time living here is how much more in tune I am to the delicate balance in our environment. We have special challenges in CA as a whole but here in the River area, I am impressed at the way in which my neighbors and community take special care of the limited natural resources. We depend on the River, it provides for our jobs and our recreation. We work hard at conserving our water. We take care and have diligence in how we manage this resource. However, the reduced flows have an untold impact on our livelihoods and way of life. I am saddened at the number of businesses rolling up closing their doors in our small towns. Our economy is heavily dependent on tourists and tourists come for the River. That economy is in a tenuous position. With unemployment and foreclosures in record numbers, your decisions impact so much more than the amount of water flowing through the rivers. I urge you to consider our small Russian River towns, their people and our businesses when making any decisions.

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,

Scott Gordon
86 Magic Mountain Road
Cazadero, CA 95421

CC: randy.poole@scwa.ca.gov