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## State Water Resources Control Board

March 6, 2026

### CERTIFIED MAIL

Russian River Water  
Conservation Council  
3589 Westwind Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**CERTIFIED MAIL NO: 9589 0710 5270 1501 9816 97**

Dear Russian River Water Conservation Council:

### ONGOING APPROVAL OF THE WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (WDMP) FOR DIVERSIONS OF WATER FOR FROST PROTECTION IN SONOMA COUNTY

On February 13, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division) approved the WDMP, proposed by the Russian River Water Conservation Council (Council), pursuant to the Russian River Frost Protection Regulation (Regulation) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 862). The WDMP includes diversions of water for frost protection in Sonoma County between March 15 and May 15 of each year (frost protection season).

The State Water Board's continuing approval of the WDMP is contingent on compliance with the requirements of the Regulation. The requirements include submittal of an annual report by September 1st, ongoing consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding development and implementation of a stream stage monitoring program (monitoring program) and conducting a risk assessment.

Division staff reviewed the annual report and Risk Assessment submitted by the Council on October 15, 2025 and determined that the WDMP complied with the reporting requirements described in subdivision (c)(5) of the Regulation. The annual report does not document consultation with CDFW and NMFS, but it does outline the progress in development and implementation of the monitoring program and risk assessment. This letter serves as notification that diverters participating in the WDMP remain in compliance with the Regulation, but it is required that the WDMP consult CDFW and NMFS to ensure no corrective actions to the current program are necessary. The Regulation (specifically CCR 862(c)) also states that the WDMP shall identify any known diverters within the area subject to the WDMP who declined to participate.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To ensure that the Division is aware of the diverters participating in the WDMP prior to the beginning of the 2026 frost protection season, please submit an updated list of participating diverters (participation list) and an updated inventory of frost diversion systems (frost inventory) to the Division by **March 14, 2026**.

The participation list should include the names of each participating member and their acreage frost protected with water from the Russian River stream system. The updated frost inventory should include detailed information about each participating member's frost protection diversion system(s), including:

1. Name of the diverter (or a unique identifier with an attached table identifying each diverter's name and unique identifier);
2. Source of the water used for frost protection and any associated water rights;
3. Location of the diversion (latitude/longitude);
4. Description of the diversion system and its capacity;
5. Acreage frost protected with water diverted from the Russian River stream system;
6. Acreage frost protected by means other than with water diverted from the Russian River stream system; and
7. Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) for each parcel frost protected by the diversion system;

The next annual report is due on **September 1, 2026**. The annual report should include updates to the frost inventory, including items 1 through 7 above for all participants, the rate of diversion, hours of operation, and the volume of water diverted during each frost event for each diversion system in the WDMP. The annual report should also include documentation of ongoing consultation with NMFS and CDFW, as well as any known diverters within the area subject to the WDMP who declined to participate.

The Division expects that initial stream stage gage installations and determinations of stream stages needed to prevent stranding mortality will have been completed, updated where necessary, and documented in the annual report, with the understanding that stream stage criteria or the streams being monitored may be revised in the future if additional data or information indicates a revision is needed. The risk assessment may need to be revised due to the completion of the determination of the stream stages needed to prevent stranding mortality. This annual report should also include a corrective action plan and implementation schedule if the risk assessment indicates corrective action is needed.

Thank you for your diligence in working towards the goals of the Russian River Frost Protection Regulation. Questions about the regulation and the updated participation list and frost inventory submittals should be directed to our Russian River Frost Protection Regulation Program email address [RussianRiverFrostProtection@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:RussianRiverFrostProtection@waterboards.ca.gov).

Written correspondence should be addressed as follows: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attn. Russian River Frost Protection Program, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Cervantes, PE  
Assistant Deputy Director  
Division of Water Rights

ec:

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