

**From:** Brian Hines <brian@ncsr.com>  
**To:** <info@datainstincts.com>  
**Date:** 3/4/05 5:02PM  
**Subject:** Trout Unlimited Petition

March 4, 2005

Mark Milan  
Data Instincts  
239 Windsor Road  
Windsor, CA 95492

Dear Mark:

Sorry I couldn't make the meeting this AM to discuss the City of Santa Rosa's waste water discharge plans. I did have a question for you however. Has any progress been made on any of the 4 points I brought up in the attached letter to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors which was also submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board last year? I am not aware of progress having been made on any of 4 recommendations in my letter by either the City of Santa Rosa or the Sonoma County Water Agency.

These recommendations included:

- 1) Completely eliminate waste water discharges to the Russian River in favor of conservation and agricultural reuse.
- 2) Implement the Pacific Institute's water conservation recommendations in their report, "Waste Not Want Not".
- 3) Implement Conservation Pricing by all of the Sonoma County Water Agency's water contractors such as the City of Santa Rosa.
- 4) Completely account for all the water diversions in the Russian River watershed.

I see little progress has been made on completely eliminating discharges of "waste" water to the Russian River as was the promise when the City spent \$200 million dollars building the Geyser Pipeline. Over 250 million gallons have been discharged by the City of Santa Rosa this winter already. 1.5 billion gallons were discharged by the City of Santa Rosa last winter. Then as you know, last summer we suddenly had a water shortage crisis in Lake Mendocino which resulted in emergency low flow conditions imposed on the Russian River. The "crisis" also resulted in the inability of the City of Santa Rosa to deliver "waste" water to its irrigation clients. Too bad the 1.5 billion gallons dumped in the River in the winter of 03/04 were not available for the irrigators the summer of 04.

I would add a 5th recommendation to the 4 in my letter of 10/26/04 also.

It would be that the Army Corp. of Engineers stop dumping water out of Lake Mendocino at the high rate they are RIGHT NOW. WINTER water releases from both Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma should be done according to the natural hydrograph. Currently water is being released in such unnatural high quantities (since Feb. 23) that it guarantees two things:

- 1) Less water will be available next summer causing an illegitimate call for "low flow" when the manufactured low water situation could have

been avoided by releasing water according to the natural hydrograph during the winter.

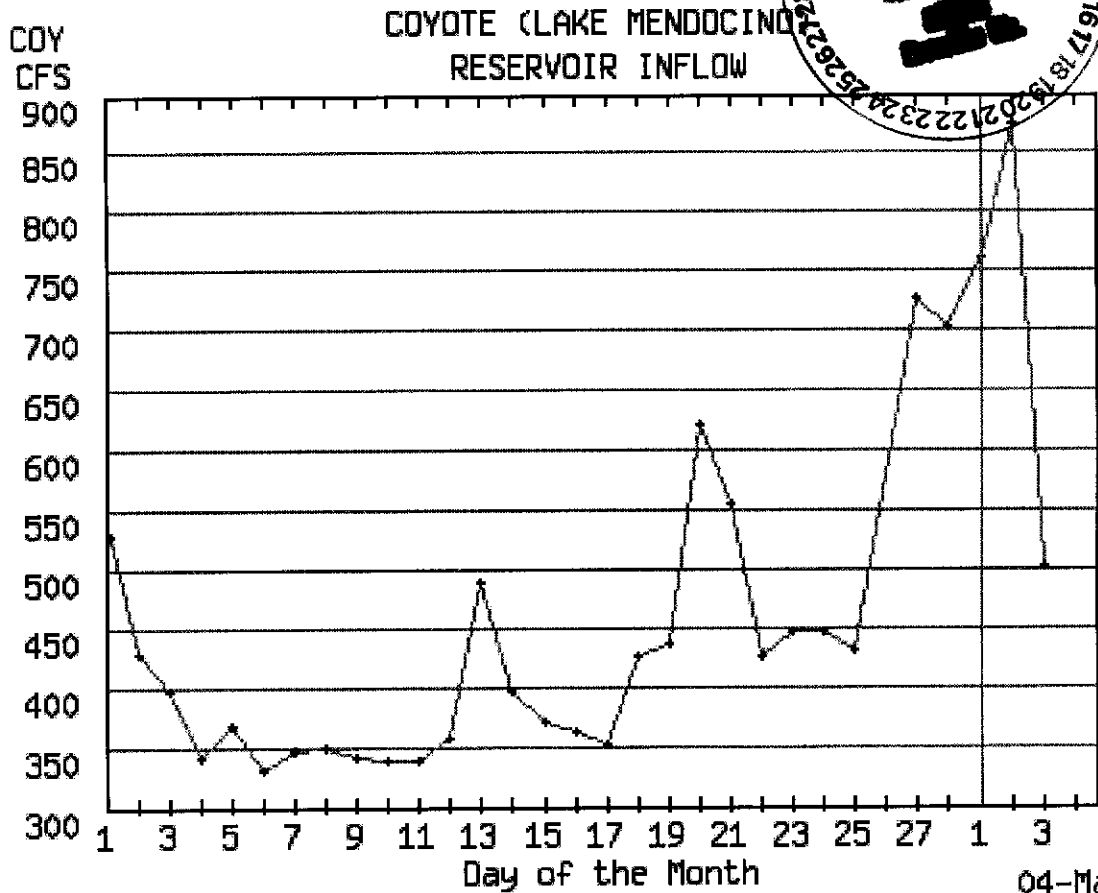
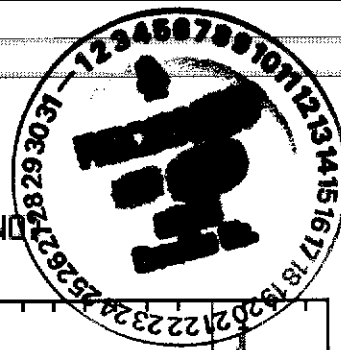
2) Releases of too much water in the winter "blows out" sport fishing for Steelhead in the Russian River. This has caused many sport fishers to give up on the Russian and take their tourism dollars elsewhere. This suits the political purposes of those that have an interest in the River's impaired conditions as it reduces the number of steelhead fisher advocates for the River. See graphs below for Lake Mendocino(Coyote Dam) releases which bear no relationship to the natural rainfall pattern.

I would like to hear your opinion on these matters and it is what I would have discussed with you today.

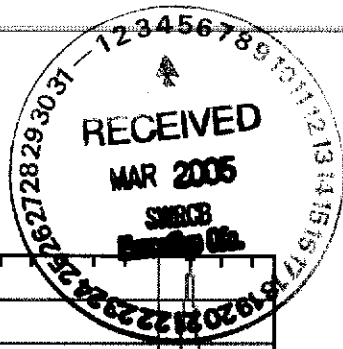
Thank you.

R. Brian Hines, Secretary  
California State Council  
Trout Unlimited of California  
(707) 575-3999  
(707) 575-3525 fax

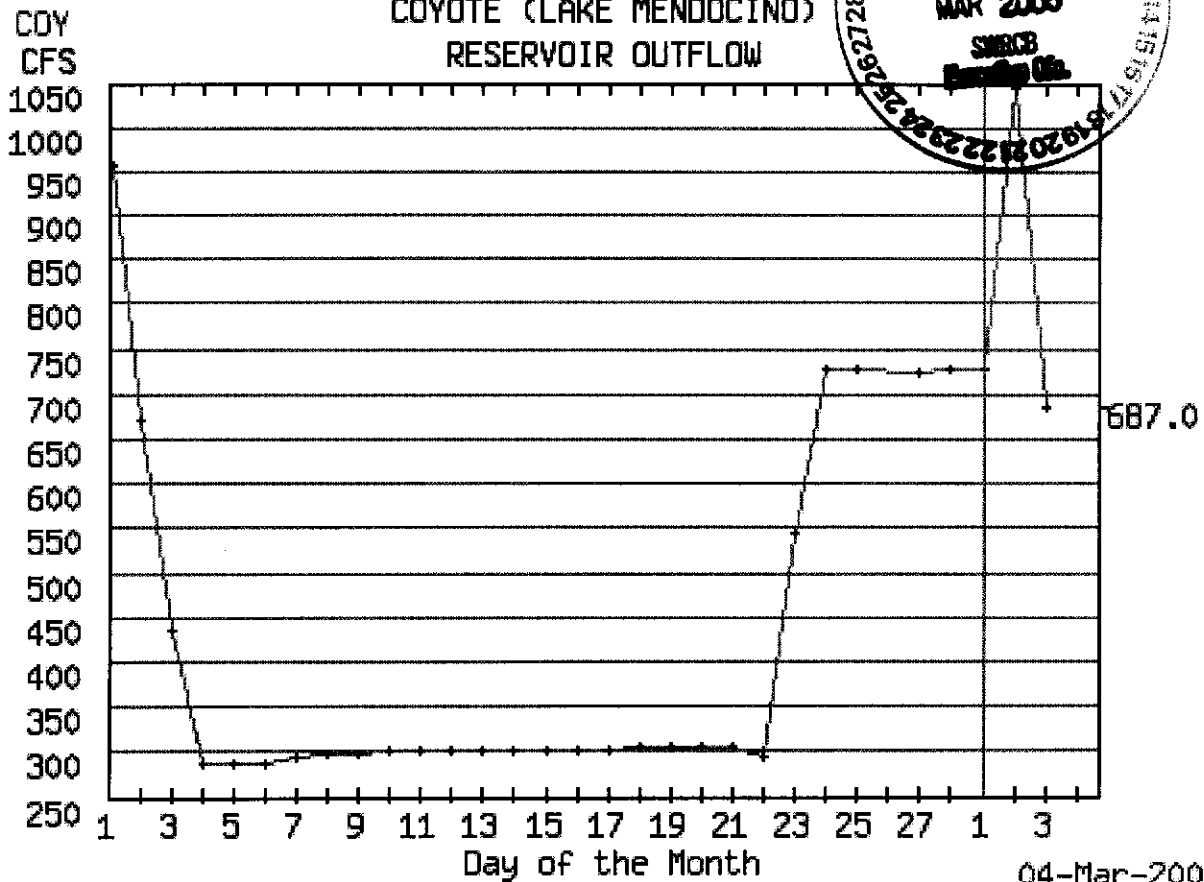
CC: <dirvin@waterboards.ca.gov>, <cbonham@tu.org>



04-Mar-2005  
NWR-CRFR



COYOTE (LAKE MENDOCINO)  
RESERVOIR OUTFLOW



04-Mar-2005  
DHP-GDF