STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

In the Matter of Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16596
(Applications 12919A, 15736, 15737, 19351)

Sonoma County Water Agency

ORDER APPROVING TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE

SOURCE: Dry Creek, Russian River, and East Fork Russian River

COUNTIES: Sonoma and Mendocino Counties

BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WATER RIGHTS:

1.0 SUBSTANCE OF TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE PETITION

On October 31, 2022, Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) filed Temporary Urgency Change Petitions (TUCPs) with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division) requesting approval of changes to the subject permits pursuant to California Water Code section 1435. The TUCPs request implementation of an alternative hydrologic index based on Lake Mendocino storage values starting December 14, 2022 (proposed hydrologic index). The proposed hydrologic index is requested in lieu of the hydrologic index contained in the subject permits that is based on cumulative Lake Pillsbury inflow (current hydrologic index). The hydrologic index is used to determine the applicable minimum instream flow requirements in Term 20 of Permit 12947A, Term 17 of Permits 12949 and 12950, and Term 13 of Permit 16596. Sonoma Water's proposed hydrologic index, for up to 180 days beginning December 14, 2022, is as follows:

a. Dry water supply conditions will exist when storage in Lake Mendocino is less than:

45,000 acre-feet as of January 1
60,000 acre-feet as of February 1
71,000 acre-feet as of March 1
75,000 acre-feet as of March 16

77,000 acre-feet as of April 1
76,500 acre-feet as of April 16
76,000 acre-feet as of May 1
75,500 acre-feet as of May 16
75,000 acre-feet as of June 1

b. Critical water supply conditions exist when storage in Lake Mendocino is less than:

31,000 acre-feet as of January 1
41,000 acre-feet as of February 1
53,500 acre-feet as of March 1
56,000 acre-feet as of March 16
56,500 acre-feet as of April 1
56,000 acre-feet as of April 16
55,000 acre-feet as of May 1
54,000 acre-feet as of May 16
53,500 acre-feet as of June 1

c. Normal water supply conditions exist in the absence of defined dry or critical water supply conditions.

This temporary change is requested in response to the current extremely dry conditions, severely low storage levels in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma, and the current hydrologic index not aligning with observed hydrologic conditions in the Russian River Watershed. The proposed change is also requested in response to the reported failure of the transformer bank of the Potter Valley Project (PVP) hydroelectric plant in October 2021 that will likely continue to result in a significant reduction in the inter-basin transfers of Eel River water into the Russian River Watershed.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Sonoma Water controls and coordinates water supply releases from Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma to implement the minimum instream flow requirements in accordance with its water rights, including permit terms implemented pursuant to Decision 1610, which the State Water Board adopted on April 17, 1986. Decision 1610 specifies minimum instream flow requirements for the Upper Russian River[1], Dry Creek, and the Lower Russian River[2]. These minimum instream flow requirements vary based on water supply conditions specified in Decision 1610 and are contained in Term 20 of Permit

[1] For purposes of this Order, Upper Russian River refers to the mainstem Russian River from its confluence with the East Fork Russian River to its confluence with Dry Creek.
[2] For purposes of this Order, the Lower Russian River refers to the mainstem Russian River from its confluence with Dry Creek to the Pacific Ocean.

12947A, Term 17 of Permits 12949 and 12950, and Term 13 of Permit 16596. Sonoma Water's operations are also subject to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Russian River Biological Opinion issued in 2008.

2.1 Sonoma Water's Water Right Permits

The TUCPs involve the following water right permits held by Sonoma Water:

- Permit 12947A (Application 12919A), which authorizes direct diversion of 92 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the East Fork Russian River and storage of 122,500 acre-feet (AF or af) per year in Lake Mendocino from January 1 through December 31 of each year;

- Permit 12949 (Application 15736), which authorizes direct diversion of 20 cfs from the Russian River from January 1 through December 31 of each year;

- Permit 12950 (Application 15737), which authorizes direct diversion of 60 cfs from the Russian River from April 1 through September 30 of each year; and

- Permit 16596 (Application 19351), which authorizes direct diversion of 180 cfs from the Russian River from January 1 to December 31 of each year and storage of 245,000 AF in Lake Sonoma from October 1 of each year to May 1 of the succeeding year.

Term 20 of Sonoma Water's Permit 12947A states the following:

For the protection of fish and wildlife, and for the maintenance of recreation in the Russian River, permittee shall pass through or release from storage at Lake Mendocino sufficient water to maintain:

A. A continuous streamflow in the [East Fork Russian River] from Coyote Dam to its confluence with the Russian River of 25 cfs at all times.

B. The following minimum flows in the Russian River between the [East Fork Russian River] and Dry Creek:

1. During normal water supply conditions when the combined water in storage, including dead storage, in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino on May 31 of any year exceeds 150,000 af or 90 percent of the estimated water supply storage capacity of the reservoirs, whichever is less:

From June 1 through August 31	*185 cfs*
From September 1 through March 31	*150 cfs*
From April 1 through May 31	*185 cfs*

2. *During normal water supply conditions and when the combined water in storage, including dead storage, in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino on May 31 of any year is between 150,000 af or 90 percent of the estimated water supply storage capacity of the reservoirs, whichever is less, and 130,000 af or 80 percent of the estimated water supply storage capacity of the reservoirs, whichever is less:*

From June 1 through March 31	*150 cfs*
From April 1 through May 31	*185 cfs*
If from October 1 through December 31, storage in Lake Mendocino is less than 30,000 acre-feet	*75 cfs*

3. *During normal water supply conditions and when the combined water in storage, including dead storage, in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino on May 31 of any year is less than 130,000 af or 80 percent of the estimated water supply storage capacity of [the] reservoirs, whichever is less:*

From June 1 through December 31	*75 cfs*
From January 1 through March 31	*150 cfs*
From April 1 through May 31	*185 cfs*

4. *During dry water supply conditions* *75 cfs*

5. *During critical water supply conditions* *25 cfs*

C. *The following minimum flows in the Russian River between its confluence with Dry Creek and the Pacific Ocean to the extent that such flows cannot be met by releases from storage at Lake Sonoma under Permit 16596 issued on Application 19351:*

1. *During normal water supply conditions* *125 cfs*

2. *During dry water supply conditions* *85 cfs*

3. *During critical water supply conditions* *35 cfs*

Term 13 of Permit 16596 states the following:

For the protection of fish and wildlife in Dry Creek and the Russian River and for the maintenance of recreation in the Russian River, permittee shall pass through or release from storage at Lake Sonoma sufficient water to maintain:

A) *The following minimum flows in Dry Creek between Warm Springs Dam and its confluence with the Russian River:*

1) *During normal water supply conditions:*

75 cfs from January 1 through April 30
80 cfs from May 1 through October 31
105 cfs from November 1 through December 30

2) *During dry or critical water supply conditions:*

25 cfs from April 1 through October 31
75 cfs from November 1 through March 31

B) *The following minimum flows in the Russian River between its confluence with Dry Creek and the Pacific Ocean, unless the water level in Lake Sonoma is below elevation 292.0 feet with reference to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929, or unless prohibited by the United States Government:*

1) *During normal water supply conditions - 125 cfs*

2) *During dry water supply conditions - 85 cfs*

3) *During critical water supply conditions - 35 [cfs]*

Term 17 of Permit 12949 and Term 17 of Permit 12950 both state the following:

For the protection of fish and wildlife, and the maintenance of recreation in the Russian River, permittee shall allow sufficient water to bypass the points of diversion to maintain the following minimum flows to the Pacific Ocean:

(1) During normal water supply conditions: 125 cfs. . .

(2) During dry water supply conditions: 85 cfs

(3) During critical water supply conditions: 35 cfs

Water supply conditions established for the above flow requirements as required in Decision 1610 are defined in Term 20 of Permit 12947A, Term 17 of Permits 12949 and 12950, and Term 13 of Permit 16596 as follows:

1. *Dry water supply conditions exist when cumulative inflow to Lake Pillsbury beginning on October 1 of each year is less than:*

8,000 acre-feet as of January 1

39,200 acre-feet as of February 1
65,700 acre-feet as of March 1
114,500 acre-feet as of April 1
145,600 acre-feet as of May 1
160,000 acre-feet as of June 1

2. *Critical water supply conditions exist when cumulative inflow to Lake Pillsbury beginning on October 1 of each year is less than:*

4,000 acre-feet as of January 1
20,000 acre-feet as of February 1
45,000 acre-feet as of March 1
50,000 acre-feet as of April 1
70,000 acre-feet as of May 1
75,000 acre-feet as of June 1

3. *Normal water supply conditions exist in the absence of defined dry or critical water supply conditions. . .*

4. *The water supply condition designation for the months of July through December [shall] be the same as the designation for the previous June. Water supply conditions for January through June [shall] be redetermined monthly.*

5. *Cumulative inflow to Lake Pillsbury is the calculated algebraic sum of releases from Lake Pillsbury, increases in storage in Lake Pillsbury, and evaporation from Lake Pillsbury.*

Term 20 of Permit 12947A includes an additional provision:

6. *Estimated water supply storage space is the calculated reservoir volume below elevation 1,828.3 feet . . . in Lake Pillsbury and below elevation 749.0 [feet] in Lake Mendocino. Both elevations refer to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum . . . of 1929. The calculation shall use the most recent two reservoir volume surveys made by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or other responsible agency to determine the rate of sedimentation to be assumed from the date of the most recent reservoir volume survey.*

2.2 Current Drought Conditions and Response

The Russian River Watershed has experienced extremely dry conditions since 2020, with Water Year 2021 being the second driest year in the Ukiah Valley, and Water Year 2020 being the fourth driest, during the period of record. Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma are at or near their lowest levels since they began storing water in 1959

and 1984, respectively. As of November 24, 2022, the water supply storage level was 37,067 AF in Lake Mendocino, the twelfth lowest storage level for this time of the year since Lake Mendocino was filled in 1959. Similarly, the water supply storage level was 98,764 AF in Lake Sonoma on November 24, 2022, which is the lowest storage level for this time of the year since Lake Sonoma was filled in 1986.

In addition to the extremely dry conditions in the past two years, the Russian River Watershed is expecting significantly less transfer water from the Eel River due to the PVP powerhouse failure. On October 7, 2021, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) informed Sonoma Water that the transformer bank at the PVP powerhouse had failed and would need to be replaced to operate the powerhouse for power generation. Currently, the PVP is operating under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) order that approved a temporary variance on the license flow requirements on July 27, 2022. The order effectively reduced the minimum instream releases into the East Fork of the Russian River from 75 cfs to 5 cfs. PG&E's current transfer obligation under the FERC variance and a water supply contract with the Potter Valley Irrigation District (PVID) from now until April 14, 2023, is 10 cfs. The variance is expected to be terminated after Lake Pillsbury storage reaches 36,000 acre-feet. Upon termination, PG&E's transfer obligations will total 45 cfs until April 14, 2023. On April 15, 2023, the transfer requirement to the East Fork of the Russian River will be reassessed under the FERC license based on water supply conditions. PG&E has indicated that without the ability to generate hydropower, PG&E will not likely make discretionary transfers through the PVP above its FERC license and contract obligations. Ordinarily, discretionary transfers to generate hydropower can occur up until early April if hydrologic conditions on the Eel River and at Lake Pillsbury are met. Without the discretionary transfer of Eel River water to generate hydropower, the total transfer through the PVP will be reduced by up to 456 acre-feet per day.

The risks of low storage are of particular concern should drought conditions persist into 2023; if the winter of 2022 and early 2023 is similar to last winter, there is significant risk to the quality and availability of stored water for meeting human health and safety and listed and threatened species needs in the summer of 2023. Sonoma Water states that under the current operating conditions of the PVP, the influence of the Eel River water imports on Lake Mendocino water storage and downstream hydrologic conditions in the Russian River will be greatly diminished. Therefore, there will be little to no correlation between cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury and the hydrologic conditions in the Russian River Watershed. The TUCPs request that storage thresholds in Lake Mendocino be used directly as the hydrologic index to determine the water supply condition in the Russian River Watershed.

California is experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions across the state. Water Year 2020-2021 was a second consecutive dry year with record-breaking high temperatures. In response, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a regional drought emergency on April 21, 2021, for the Russian River Watershed in Mendocino and Sonoma counties. The Governor has continued the drought emergency proclamation

for Sonoma and Mendocino counties through further drought proclamations on May 10, July 8, and October 19, 2021. A March 28, 2022 executive order signed by Governor Newsom reiterated past drought proclamations and directed further drought response actions.

On April 20, 2021, Mendocino County declared a local emergency and imminent threat of disaster in Mendocino County due to drought conditions. On April 27, 2021, Sonoma County also adopted a resolution proclaiming a local drought emergency due to drought conditions in Sonoma County. On June 15, 2021, the State Water Board adopted an emergency regulation for the Curtailment of Diversions to Protect Water Supplies and Threatened and Endangered Fish in the Russian River Watershed (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 877-879.2). Consequently, on August 2, 2021, the State Water Board issued curtailment orders to Upper Russian River Watershed diverters. On August 10, 2021, the State Water Board issued curtailment orders to Lower Russian River Watershed diverters. Since then, the curtailment status of diverters' water rights and claims have been updated periodically based on changing hydrologic conditions. Currently, there are no curtailments or riparian shortages through December 31, 2022 due to forecasted precipitation in the watershed. Curtailments may resume in January 2023 unless additional precipitation beyond what is currently forecasted occurs.

Sonoma Water has filed five previous sets of TUCPs beginning in June 2020 to address the current drought. On July 28, 2020, the State Water Board approved Sonoma Water's TUCPs to temporarily reduce the minimum instream flow requirements in the Russian River. After the 2020 TUCP order expired on December 27, 2020, Sonoma Water filed another TUCP for Permit 12947A in January 2021 to request an alternative hydrologic index be used for the Upper Russian River. The State Water Board issued an order approving the TUCP on February 4, 2021, and approved clarifying amendments to the order on February 11, 2021. Sonoma Water filed the third set of TUCPs in May 2021 to address the critical drought conditions in the whole Russian River Watershed. The TUCPs were approved on June 14, 2021, and amended on October 22, 2021. A November 2021 TUCP request, approved on December 10, 2021, temporarily changed the hydrologic index. A May 26, 2022 TUCP request, approved on June 17, 2022, and later amended on October 11, 2022, approved a temporary change in minimum instream flows.

Decision 1610 established the current hydrologic index, in which water supply conditions are classified as "*Normal*," "*Dry*," or "*Critical*" based on cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury (in the adjacent Eel River Watershed) beginning October 1 of each year. The cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury through from October 2021 through June 1, 2022 was 228,109 AF, with the combined storage in Lake Mendocino and Lake Pillsbury being 106,803 acre-feet. Consequently, the water supply conditions from June 1, 2022 through remainder of the year is *Normal Dry Spring II.* Sonoma Water is currently managing the Russian River instream flows based on a *Critical* water supply condition as authorized by the June 2022 TUCP order. The State Water Board's June 2022 TUCP order expires after December 13, 2022, at which point, under the

current hydrologic index, the water supply condition would change back to *Normal Dry Spring II* for the remainder of the calendar year. The corresponding minimum instream flow requirements would become 75 cfs in Dry Creek and the Upper Russian River and 125 cfs in the Lower Russian River.

Pursuant to the current hydrologic index under Decision 1610, the water supply condition would be categorized as *Normal* for at least from January 1 through February 1, 2023 due to a cumulative inflow of 11,186 AF into Lake Pillsbury as of December 13, 2022. The corresponding minimum instream flow requirements would become 150 cfs on the Upper Russian River, 75 cfs on Dry Creek and 125 cfs on the Lower Russian River. Without an additional temporary urgency change order approving the requested changes, Sonoma Water would be required to potentially increase releases from Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma, despite their current low storage levels.

The water supply conditions designated by the current hydrologic index were premised on the PVP's substantial transfers of water from the Eel River to the East Fork Russian River (see, e.g., Decision 1610, p. 5) and do not accurately reflect the present severe drought conditions in the Upper Russian River despite Lake Pillsbury cumulative inflows. Sonoma Water's proposed temporary urgency change would use Lake Mendocino storage, rather than cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury, as the basis for defining the applicable hydrologic condition. This proposed temporary urgency change would implement minimum instream flow requirements under Decision 1610 that would adjust to changes in the Upper Russian River Watershed hydrologic conditions. Streamflow requirements would increase if additional seasonal rainfall results in Lake Mendocino storage increasing or remaining above the volumes specified in the proposed hydrologic index.

3.0 COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Ordinarily, the State Water Board must comply with applicable requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) (CEQA) prior to issuance of any order approving a TUCP. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 805.) However, the Governor's April 21, 2021 Drought Emergency Proclamation, ordering paragraph 7, suspended CEQA and regulations adopted pursuant to CEQA in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties to the extent necessary for the State Water Board to address drought-related impacts through "[m]odifying requirements for reservoir releases or diversion limitations" in the Russian River Watershed "to ensure adequate, minimal water supplies for critical purposes." Sonoma Water's requests to temporarily modify the hydrologic index in its water rights permits—and thereby temporarily modify reservoir release and instream flow requirements in the Russian River—due to historically dry conditions qualify for this suspension under the Governor's April 21, 2021 Drought Emergency Proclamation. In conjunction with approving this

Order, the State Water Board will add the activities approved under this Order to its list of suspended projects on its website.

In addition to the Governor's suspension of CEQA covering the activities proposed and approved under this Order, Sonoma Water determined that the requested water right changes are categorically exempt under CEQA's emergency statutory exemption and Class 7 and 8 categorical exemptions. Sonoma Water filed a Notice of Exemption on October 27, 2022. The State Water Board has reviewed the information submitted by Sonoma Water and has made its own independent finding that the requested changes are statutorily and categorically exempt from CEQA. The changes sought by the TUCPs are consistent with the following statutory and categorical CEQA exemptions for the following reasons:

1) As mentioned above, on April 21, 2021, the Governor proclaimed a drought emergency in Mendocino and Sonoma counties due to drought conditions in the Russian River Watershed. The Governor's Drought Emergency Proclamation ordered the State Water Board to consider specific actions to "ensure adequate, minimal water supplies for critical purposes." Information provided by Sonoma Water demonstrates that continued releases of water to maintain minimum instream flows required by Sonoma Water's current water right permit terms could contribute to storage levels in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma declining to unsafe levels. As discussed in this Order, if storage in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma are depleted, there will be serious water supply impacts to human health and safety, and water will not be available to protect aquatic life, including threatened and endangered species in the Russian River. Approval of the TUCPs is therefore necessary to prevent and mitigate loss of, or damage to, the environment, fishery resources, property, public health and safety, and essential public services. Accordingly, the project is statutorily exempt from CEQA because it is necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency—in this case, a proclaimed drought emergency—that poses a clear and imminent danger. (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21060.3 & 21080, subd. (b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15269, subd. (c).)

2) A Class 7 categorical exemption "consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment." (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15307.) The proposed action is necessary for maintenance of viable operations to support municipal use and protect listed salmonid species in the Russian River by preventing Lake Mendocino from declining to a storage level at which the reservoir may no longer be operational in light of the extremely dry condition the region has been experiencing. Accordingly, these changes are categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to a Class 7 exemption.

3) A Class 8 categorical exemption "consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment." (*Id*., § 15308.) The proposed action will assure the maintenance of the environment (i.e., the instream environment of the Russian River) in the same way as stated for the Class 7 categorical exemption, and the proposed temporary changes are also therefore categorically exempt under Class 8.

4.0 PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE PETITION

On November 10, 2022, the State Water Board issued and delivered to Sonoma Water a notice of the temporary urgency change order pursuant to Water Code section 1438, subdivision (a). Pursuant to Water Code section 1438, subdivision (b)(1), Sonoma Water is required to publish the notice in a newspaper having a general circulation, and that is published within the counties where the points of diversion lie within 20 days from the date of issuance of the notice by the State Water Board. Sonoma Water published the notice in *Ukiah Daily Journal* and *The Press Democrat* on November 23, 2022, and November 20, 2022, respectively. In addition, the State Water Board posted the notice of the temporary urgency change order on its website and distributed the notice through its electronic notification system.

Any interested person may file an objection to a temporary urgency change. (*Id.*, subd. (d).) The State Water Board must promptly consider the objection and may hold a hearing on any objection. *(Id.*, subd. (e).) The State Water Board exercises continuing supervision over temporary urgency change orders and may modify or revoke temporary urgency change orders at any time. (Wat. Code, §§ 1439, 1440.) Temporary urgency change orders automatically expire 180 days after issuance, unless they are revoked, an earlier expiration date is specified, or they are renewed. (*Id*., §§ 1440, 1441.)

Objections to Sonoma Water's TUCPs were due by November 28, 2022. The State Water Board received three letters in support of the TUCPs from 1) Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (Mendocino County RRFC), 2) NMFS, and 3) the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

NMFS and CDFW urged the State Water Board to conditionally approve Sonoma Water's TUCPs as early as possible to preserve water stored in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma to meet the needs of federal and state listed salmonids in the Russian River. NMFS and CDFW also proposed terms and conditions when water supply conditions are classified as *Dry* or *Critical* that would require Sonoma Water to: 1) conduct continuous water quality and fisheries monitoring in the Russian River;

2) adhere to ramping requirements for reservoir release rates; 3) conduct ongoing consultation with NMFS, CDFW, and the North Coast Water Board; and 4) conduct ongoing reporting of monitoring measurements to assist NMFS, CDFW, the North Coast Water Board, and the State Water Board in overseeing the effects of the TUCPs on conditions in the Russian River and determining if additional actions are required. The State Water Board has considered and incorporated the terms and conditions from the support letters of NMFS and CDFW into Conditions 2-6 of this Order.

The State Water Board received two comments on Sonoma Water's TUCPs from Mr. Richard Morat and Russian River Keeper (RRK).

Mr. Morat states that reservoirs are operated at too low of storage levels and dry conditions exhaust remaining storage at the expense of aquatic habitat. Mr. Morat asserts that PG&E should be more willing to provide discretionary flows into the Russian River to alleviate the need to reduce flows and impact instream uses.

RRK stated that it supports "the need for temporary modification of flows within the Russian River so that water storage supplies are protected." RRK recommended the State Water Board take additional actions to manage water diversion and use within the Russian River Watershed, including the recommendation for stricter (25-40 percent) water use reductions and increased enforcement of required water reductions and curtailments. RRK also recommended various measures for intra-watershed management such as the requirement for water users to report daily projections of water use to aid in real-time flow management, as well as use of the Voluntary Sharing Agreement to more accurately determine end-of-season values.

RRK also expressed support for long-term changes to the hydrologic index in Decision 1610 to more accurately reflect hydrologic conditions in the Russian River watershed. RRK requested that the State Water Board add requirements to ensure Sonoma Water continues to diligently pursue its obligations under its pending change petition to modify the hydrologic index and minimum instream flows under its Russian River water rights. RRK requested further that the 5-day running average flow requirement used in the minimum instream flow permit terms be modified to allow no less than 5 cfs below the required minimum flow.

5.0 CRITERIA FOR APPROVING THE PROPOSED TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE

Water Code section 1435 provides that a right holder who has an urgent need to change the point of diversion, place of use, or purpose of use from that specified in the water right may petition for a conditional temporary change order. The State Water Board's regulations set forth the filing and other procedural requirements applicable to TUCPs. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 805, 806.) The State Water Board's regulations also clarify that requests for changes to permits or licenses other than changes in point

of diversion, place of use, or purpose of use may be filed, subject to the same filing and procedural requirements that apply to changes in point of diversion, place of use, or purpose of use. (*Id*., § 791, subd. (e).)

Before approving a TUCP, the State Water Board must make the following findings: (1) the right holder has an urgent need to make the proposed change; (2) the proposed change may be made without injury to any other lawful user of water; (3) the proposed change may be made without unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses; and (4) the proposed change is in the public interest. (Wat. Code, § 1435, subd. (b)(1-4).)

A temporary change order does not result in the creation of a vested right, even of a temporary nature, but shall be subject at all times to modification or revocation in the discretion of the State Water Board. (Wat. Code, § 1440.)

5.1 Urgency of the Proposed Change

Under Water Code section 1435, subdivision (c), an "urgent need" means "the existence of circumstances from which the [State Water Board] may in its judgment conclude that the proposed temporary change is necessary to further the constitutional policy that the water resources of the state be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent of which they are capable and that waste of water be prevented..... "

In this case, an urgent need exists for the proposed change in the hydrologic index for determining minimum instream flow requirements in the Russian River. The hydrologic index in Decision 1610 is based on cumulative inflow to Lake Pillsbury, however given the reduction in water transfers from the Eel River system, there will be little to no correlation between cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury and the hydrologic conditions in the Russian River watershed. As described in the TUCPs, cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury does not reflect hydrologic or water supply conditions in the Russian River Watershed; storage levels in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma are currently at or near the lowest levels for this time of the year since they were filled, but the current hydrologic index per Decision 1610 indicates conditions are *Normal Dry Spring II* for the remainder of this year and *Normal* starting in January 2023. Furthermore, the Russian River Watershed is experiencing significant reductions of Eel River transfers through the PVP due to inoperability of the powerhouse for the foreseeable future. The current hydrologic index under Decision 1610, which is based on cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury, is not applicable to water supply conditions in the Russian River due to the changes in PVP operations. Pursuant to the State Water Board's June 17, 2022 approval of a TUCP, the instream flow requirements for the Upper Russian River were temporarily reduced to 25 cfs, consistent with Decision 1610 requirements for *Critical* water supply conditions. That temporary urgency change expires after December 13, 2022. With this Order, the year type for the remainder of 2022 would remain *Critical* based on the modified hydrologic index and would be reassessed on January 1, 2023.

Without the proposed change, Decision 1610's applicable minimum instream flow requirements may require releases of water from Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma at levels that would contribute to significant depletions of reservoir storage and potential elimination of water supplies for water users in Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin Counties if the current drought continues into 2023. Such depletion or possible elimination of stored water supplies would risk serious impacts to human health and safety and fishery protection. Extremely low storage levels may result in loss of the cold-water pool in Lake Mendocino that is needed to support listed Russian River salmonid fishery species in the fall, and may cause increased total dissolved solid or mercury concentrations if lake-bottom sediments become displaced due to reservoir operation at low storage levels.

Water Code section 1435, subdivision (c) also states that the State Water Board shall not find a petitioner's need to be urgent if it concludes that the petitioner has not exercised due diligence either in petitioning for a change pursuant to provisions other than a TUCP or in pursuing that petition for change. As noted in the State Water Board's February 2021 order approving Sonoma Water's TUCP for Permit 12947A, a number of factors have hindered progress on Sonoma Water's long-term change petitions to modify Decision 1610 and Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16596. As required as a condition of the February 2021 order, Sonoma Water has provided a schedule of milestones and completion dates for further actions necessary to pursue its long-term change petitions. Since submittal of that schedule, progress has been hindered by two additional significant issues: 1) the severity of the ongoing drought since February 2021 and 2) the ongoing uncertainty regarding the future of transfers of water from the Eel River watershed through the PVP. Sonoma Water has been meeting with the State Water Board staff regularly to discuss progress on its long-term petitions while it continues to work on the Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project Draft EIR. However, Sonoma Water has stated that the long-term petitions and draft EIR have been delayed due to the dire ongoing drought and changes in the PVP. Until the nature and duration of the surrender and decommissioning process proposed by PG&E and approved by FERC is known, progress on the long-term petitions and the related supporting environmental analyses will be hindered. In light of these circumstances and representations, the State Water Board finds that Sonoma Water has exercised due diligence. Sonoma Water must continue to diligently pursue its long-term petitions, but there is also an urgent need now, during the current critical water conditions and ongoing drought emergency, to grant Sonoma Water's TUCPs.

5.2 No Injury to Any Other Lawful User of Water

Under Decision 1610 and the terms and conditions of its associated water rights permits, Sonoma Water is required to maintain specified flows in the Russian River from Lake Mendocino to the Russian River's confluence with the Pacific Ocean and in Dry Creek from Warm Springs Dam to the confluence with the Russian River. This Order retains these existing minimum instream flow requirements but temporarily changes the

circumstances under which "*Normal*," "*Dry*," or "*Critical*" water supply conditions will apply. Minimum instream flows will continue to be maintained under this Order consistent with hydrologic conditions within the Russian River Watershed. It is anticipated that all other lawful users of water will be able to divert and use the amounts of water to which they are legally entitled during the period specified in this Order. Other legal users of water will not be injured by reduction in releases of previously stored water because water released from storage is not available for diversion by downstream users with an independent basis of right. (See, e.g., *North Kern Water Storage Dist. v. Kern Delta Water Dist.* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 555, 570 [when the stored water is released for use, it is not part of the river's natural flow and rediversion of this water does not count toward the appropriator's current allocation of river water]; *State Water Resources Control Bd. Cases* (2006) 136 Cal.App.4th 674, 737-745 [a riparian or appropriator has no legally protected interest in other appropriators' stored water or in the continuation of releases of stored water].)

In conjunction with other actions in response to the current drought state of emergency within the Russian River Watershed, the State Water Board will supervise diversion and use of water under this Order for the protection of all other lawful users of water pursuant to Water Code section 1439.

5.3 No Unreasonable Effect upon Fish, Wildlife, or Other Instream Beneficial Uses

Prior to approval of a TUCP, the State Water Board must find that the proposed change may be made without unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses. In addition, the State Water Board has an independent obligation to consider the effect of approval of Sonoma Water's petitions on public trust resources and to protect those resources to the extent feasible and in the public interest. (*National Audubon Society v. Superior Court* (1983) 33 Cal.3d 419.) Public trust resources may include, but are not limited to, wildlife, fish, aquatic habitat, and recreation in navigable waterways, as well as fisheries located in non-navigable waterways. It is also the policy of this state that all state agencies, boards, and commissions shall seek to conserve endangered species and threatened species and shall use their authority in furtherance of the purposes of the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.). State agencies should not approve projects that would jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species if there are reasonable and prudent alternatives available consistent with conserving the species or its habitat that would prevent jeopardy. (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2053 & 2055.)

Although relying on Lake Mendocino storage thresholds to define the water supply conditions may result in lower instream flows in the Russian River than would ordinarily be required under Sonoma Water's permits, maintenance of stored water in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma for subsequent release is crucial for ensuring sufficient water supplies for human health and safety use and maintaining habitat for threatened and endangered fish species during the critical life stages that occur during

the fall and spring. With the conditions imposed by this Order, including ongoing efforts to support water conservation and regular monitoring and reporting of conditions by Sonoma Water, the State Water Board finds that granting the proposed temporary changes will not have an unreasonable effect on fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses and public trust resources will be protected to the extent feasible and in the public interest. The State Water Board will continue to evaluate conditions in the watershed throughout the duration of this Order and consider other actions that may further the protection of fish, wildlife, and other instream beneficial uses.

5.3.1 Consultation with Other Agencies

Sonoma Water has consulted with CDFW, NMFS, and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North Coast Water Board) regarding the TUCPs and the effects of the proposed changes.

NMFS submitted a letter on November 23, 2022 in support of Sonoma Water's TUCPs to ensure that the water supply condition and corresponding minimum instream flow requirements in the Russian River Watershed are aligned with actual watershed hydrologic conditions. NMFS's 2008 Biological Opinion addresses the need for modifying minimum instream flow requirements to: 1) protect salmonid species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, including threatened California Coastal (CC) Chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus [O.] tshawyscha*), endangered Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), and threatened CCC steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*), residing in the Russian River; and 2) address water supply conditions at Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma to maintain viable operations that support municipal water distribution. The November 23, 2022 letter indicates that the proposed TUCPs meet both objectives towards preventing Lake Mendocino from declining to a storage level at which the reservoir may no longer be operational. NMFS has requested additional terms and conditions be included to any order issued by the State Water Board to provide water needed to protect listed salmonids in the Russian River. NMFS's requested terms and conditions in the November 23, 2022 letter are included in this Order to prevent unreasonable effects on fish and wildlife in the near term while preserving water needed for protecting salmonid species in the Russian River in the longer term.

CDFW also submitted a letter on November 22, 2022 in support of Sonoma Water's TUCPs. The letter of support encouraged immediate implementation of the TUCP and proposed terms and conditions similar to those proposed by NMFS.

This Order requires Sonoma Water to consult biweekly with CDFW, NMFS, and the North Coast Water Board regarding the current hydrologic and water quality conditions for the Russian River when water supply conditions are classified as *Dry* or *Critical*. This information will assist the State Water Board in determining whether additional actions or modifications to this Order are necessary.

5.3.2 Conservation

Sonoma Water is actively engaged in water conservation to reduce demands on water stored in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma for municipal supply. Sonoma Water and its water contractors have implemented water use efficiency programs to comply with the California Water Conservation Act since the establishment of the Sonoma-Marin Water Saving Partnership (Partnership) in 2010. The Partnership represents twelve North Bay water utilities in Sonoma and Marin counties that have joined to provide a regional solution for water use efficiency.

As stated in the TUCPs, Sonoma Water, its water contractors, and other members of the Partnership have continued implementing an aggressive water saving outreach campaign since winter 2020. Sonoma Water, its contractors, and the other member agencies of the Partnership continue to run a multimedia drought outreach campaign to maintain customer awareness of low reservoir levels and the need for continued water savings due to a third consecutive dry year. The campaign emphasizes reducing water waste by adhering to statewide water waste prohibitions and local restrictions on irrigation and other non-essential uses of water. The June 17, 2022 Order approving Sonoma Water's TUCP required a 20 percent reduction in total diversions as compared to 2020 for the period of July 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022. During that period, Sonoma Water achieved a diversion reduction of over 30 percent as compared to the same time period in 2020.

In addition, on May 24, 2022, the State Water Board adopted a new emergency regulation for urban water conservation. The regulation required urban water suppliers to submit preliminary supply and demand assessments to the Department of Water Resources by June 10, 2022. Urban water suppliers also were required to implement all conservation actions in their locally adopted plans meant to address at least a water shortage level of 10 to 20 percent (Level 2) by June 10, 2022, and owners and managers of commercial, industrial, and institutional properties were prohibited from using potable water for irrigating non-functional turf. The regulation will remain in effect for one year unless the State Water Board determines that it is no longer necessary due to changed conditions or unless the State Water Board renews the regulation due to continued drought conditions.

With the conditions imposed by this Order, including ongoing efforts to support water conservation and regular monitoring and reporting by Sonoma Water, the State Water Board finds that granting the proposed temporary changes will not have an unreasonable effect on fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses and protects public trust resources to the extent feasible and in the public interest. The State Water Board will continue to evaluate conditions in the watershed throughout the duration of this Order and consider other actions that may further the protection of fish, wildlife, and other instream beneficial uses. The State Water Board will continue to evaluate whether additional conservation measures are necessary to respond to dry conditions in the Russian River Watershed and/or low storage in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma.

5.4 The Proposed Change is in the Public Interest

Approval of the TUCPs to temporarily change the hydrologic index will help conserve stored water in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma to meet human health and safety needs, and to protect endangered and threatened species in the Russian River. Without the proposed changes, the resulting depletion of stored water in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma to unsafe levels will put residents in the counties of Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin at risk should dry conditions persist into 2023. It is in the public interest to preserve water supplies for these beneficial uses given the extreme hydrologic circumstances and reduced water supplies.

Should the conditions that support the approval of this Order change, whether in alterations to water supply or identification of additional impacts to aquatic habitat, water quality, or other matters within the public interest, the State Water Board has the authority to revoke this Order or modify its terms and conditions as necessary to promote the interests of the public.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The State Water Board has adequate information in its files to make the evaluation required by Water Code section 1435. The findings of this Order are based on unique circumstances created by drought and are independent from any findings to be made in connection with the related change petitions filed by Sonoma Water in 2009 and revised in 2016 pursuant to Chapter 10 of Division 2 of Part 2 of the Water Code.

I conclude that, based on the available evidence:

1. The right holder, Sonoma Water, has an urgent need to make the proposed changes;

2. The proposed changes will not operate to the injury of any other lawful user of water;

3. The proposed changes will not have an unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses; and

4. The proposed changes are in the public interest.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT: the petitions filed by Sonoma Water for a temporary urgency change in Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16596 are approved and effective from December 14, 2022, through a period of 180 days.

All existing terms and conditions of the subject permits remain in effect, except as temporarily amended by the following terms:

1. The minimum instream flow requirements for the Upper Russian River, the Lower Russian River, and Dry Creek will be established using a hydrologic index based on water storage in Lake Mendocino. For the purposes of the requirements in Term 20 of Permit 12947A, Term 17 of Permit 12949, Term 17 of Permit 12950, and Term 13 of Permit 16596, the following definitions shall apply:

    a. Dry water supply conditions exist when storage in Lake Mendocino is less than:

        45,000 acre-feet as of January 1
        60,000 acre-feet as of February 1
        71,000 acre-feet as of March 1
        75,000 acre-feet as of March 16
        77,000 acre-feet as of April 1
        76,500 acre-feet as of April 16
        76,000 acre-feet as of May 1
        75,500 acre-feet as of May 16
        75,000 acre-feet as of June 1

    b. Critical water supply conditions exist when storage in Lake Mendocino is less than:

        31,000 acre-feet as of January 1
        41,000 acre-feet as of February 1
        53,500 acre-feet as of March 1
        56,000 acre-feet as of March 16
        56,500 acre-feet as of April 1
        56,000 acre-feet as of April 16
        55,000 acre-feet as of May 1
        54,000 acre-feet as of May 16
        53,500 acre-feet as of June 1

    c. Normal water supply conditions exist in the absence of defined dry or critical water supply conditions.

2. From December 14, 2022, through April 15, 2023, and as water clarity and safety considerations allow, Sonoma Water shall conduct monitoring to evaluate accessibility to spawning habitat by adult salmonids in the following manner at the following locations:

    a. Upper Russian River Habitat:

    If water supply conditions are classified as *Dry* or *Critical* and flow at the USGS Hopland gage (station number 11462500) falls below 100 cubic feet per second (cfs), Sonoma Water shall conduct on a biweekly basis, visual (walking) surveys of riffles in reaches between the confluence of the East Fork Russian River and West Fork Russian River (the Forks) and the confluence of Dry Creek and Russian River in Healdsburg. Proposed reaches include below the Forks, Leaping Lady Rock, Commisky Station Road, downstream of Crocker Road, downstream of Washington School Road, and Alexander Valley. A count of salmonid redds, live adult salmonids, and adult salmonid carcasses shall be documented for each riffle surveyed. In reaches with major tributaries, tributary connectivity to the mainstem shall be assessed with photo documentation and a written description of prevailing conditions as they relate to tributary access by adult salmonids. If tributary stream gage information is available, tributary stage and/or flow at the time of documentation shall also be noted. Proposed tributary confluences include West Fork Russian River, Pieta Creek, Cummiskey Creek, and Big Sulphur Creek.

    b. Lower Russian River Habitat:

    If flow at the USGS Hacienda gage (station number 11467000) falls below 125 cfs, Sonoma Water shall conduct on a biweekly basis, visual (walking) surveys of likely holding pools located near riffle sites to document whether adult salmonids are congregating in pools, spawning in the lower river, and general health. Proposed reaches include Monte Rio, Vacation Beach, Hulbert Creek, and Steelhead Beach.

    If flow at the USGS Hacienda gage (station number 11467000) falls below 125 cfs, Sonoma Water shall conduct a biweekly basis, walking surveys of riffles to visually evaluate access to spawning habitat by adult salmonids between the Mirabel dam and the upstream end of the Russian River estuary in Duncans Mills. Proposed reaches include Monte Rio, Vacation Beach, Hulbert Creek, and Steelhead Beach. During one of these surveys, if flows are between 50-90 cfs, Sonoma Water shall measure riffle length, width, depth, and document the site with photographs.

c. Dry Creek:

If flow at the USGS Dry Creek near Geyserville (Yoakim Bridge) gage (station number 11462500) falls below 75 cfs, Sonoma Water will conduct biweekly walking surveys of riffles in Dry Creek between Warm Springs Dam and Lambert Bridge. Proposed reaches include upstream of Yoakim Bridge and at Board Bridge. A count of salmonid redds, live adult salmonids, and adult salmonid carcasses will be documented for each riffle surveyed.

3. Ramping

a. To protect against stranding of fish when releases from Lake Mendocino are reduced to *Dry* or *Critical* levels under this Order, flow in the East Fork Russian River immediately below Coyote Valley Dam shall not be reduced by more than 12 cfs per hour, with a minimum of 4 hours between the end of each flow reduction. Flow reduction shall not exceed 24 cfs per day. The NMFS Santa Rosa Office and CDFW shall be notified by email 48 hours in advance of ramping events that will reach 24 cfs per day. Ramping rates specified in this term may be revised upon consultation with NMFS and CDFW and notification to the Deputy Director of the Division of Water Rights (Deputy Director). Sonoma Water shall submit a summary report of consultation details to the Deputy Director within one week of each consultation meeting.

b. If flow reductions of 12 cfs per hour or 24 cfs per day are made, Sonoma Water shall conduct an in-stream survey on the East Fork Russian River below the fish ladder to the Coyote Valley Fish Facility downstream to the confluence of the Mainstem Russian River and note any regions of the stream that are disconnected or any areas of isolated pools. Sonoma Water shall provide locations of disconnection and isolated pools to CDFW and NMFS no later than the following business day.

4. Water Operations

a. To assist hatchery steelhead smolt releases from Coyote Valley Fish Facility, Sonoma Water shall consult with CDFW on the timing and level of temporary and periodic flow increases from Lake Mendocino to be made between March 1 and the expiration of this Order, for the purpose of encouraging hatchery smolt outmigration from the East Fork Russian River and Upper Russian River.

b. From January 1 through the end of steelhead spawning season in the hatchery, Sonoma Water shall consult with CDFW to determine the appropriate and periodic flow increases from Lake Mendocino and

Lake Sonoma to ensure successful adult returns to both Coyote Valley Fish Facility and Warm Springs Hatchery for production needs.

c. To ensure that smolts reared in the wild from the juvenile stage are able to exit the watershed, if a rain event has not occurred by April 1, 2023, Sonoma Water will consult with CDFW, NMFS, and the State Water Board to discuss providing a pulse of water to promote outmigration of juvenile salmonids and steelhead from the watershed.

5. Reporting

   a. If water supply conditions are classified as *Dry* or *Critical*, Sonoma Water shall continue to consult with NMFS, CDFW, and the North Coast Water Board on a biweekly basis until July 1, 2023 to discuss fishery and hydrologic condition updates and any concerns relative to water quality and the hydrologic condition of the Russian River. Sonoma Water shall provide materials to be discussed during these meetings, including proposed flow changes and water storage levels, to the resource agencies by 1:00 p.m. of the day prior to the meeting. Sonoma Water shall send notes of those meetings to the resource agencies and State Board within one week after their occurrence. Sonoma Water shall submit a summary report of consultation details to the Deputy Director upon request.

   b. Sonoma Water shall submit a summary report of fisheries monitoring activities associated with the Order to the resource agencies following the expiration of the Order.

6. Sonoma Water shall continue ongoing monitoring in coordination with the USGS at the existing multi-parameter water quality sonde sites on the Russian River. By April 21, 2023, Sonoma Water shall consult with the North Coast Water Board to discuss possible water quality impacts if *Critical* or *Dry* water supply conditions occur and whether additional water quality monitoring activities should be required to document water quality conditions in the Russian River. If any water quality issues of concern are observed from the continuous monitoring or water sampling required by this Order, Sonoma Water shall initiate earlier or additional consultation with the North Coast Water Board. The North Coast Water Board may also initiate additional consultation to discuss concerns based on available water quality information. Sonoma Water shall submit a summary report of consultation details and a description of proposed monitoring activities to the Deputy Director within one week of each consultation. Any necessary revisions to this Condition may be made following consultation with the North Coast Water Board and approval by the Deputy Director.

7. Based upon the methodology for characterizing Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma water inflows, releases, and rediversions developed pursuant to Condition 11 of the State Water Board's TUCP order dated February 4, 2021, and Condition 12 of the State Water Board's TUCP order dated June 14, 2021, Sonoma Water shall maintain a spreadsheet of daily average release rates and characterization of those releases. Sonoma Water shall make the spreadsheet available to State Water Board staff within five days of being requested and shall include the spreadsheet as an attachment to Sonoma Water's annual Reports of Permittee for Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950 and 16596. Sonoma Water shall implement any amendments to either methodology requested by the Deputy Director within 15 days of the request.

8. This Order does not authorize any act that results in the taking of a candidate, threatened, or endangered species, or any act that is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.) or the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.). If a "take" will result from any act authorized under this Order, Sonoma Water shall obtain authorization for an incidental take permit prior to operation of the project. Sonoma Water shall be responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable Endangered Species Act for the temporary urgency changes authorized under this Order.

9. The State Water Board reserves jurisdiction to supervise the temporary urgency changes under this Order, and to coordinate or modify terms and conditions, for the protection of vested rights, fish, wildlife, instream beneficial uses and the public interest as future conditions may warrant.

10. Sonoma Water shall immediately notify the Deputy Director if any significant change in storage conditions in Lake Mendocino or Lake Sonoma occurs that warrants reconsideration of this Order.

11. Within 30 days of the issuance of this Order, Sonoma Water shall report on the status of implementation of its WSCP and the WSCPs of its contractors and other wholesale customers and the extent to which shortage levels comply with urban conservation regulations.

12. Sonoma Water shall continue to conduct the activities described in Planning and Management Terms of the March 21, 2022 Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Lake Mendocino Storage Planning and Russian River Management (MOU). Projections of Lake Mendocino storage and the extent to which storage will be available for the uses described in items (A) through (D) shall be provided to the Deputy Director for Water Rights by March 1, 2023.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Erik Ekdahl, Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights

Dated: DEC 14, 2022