



State Water Resources Control Board

MAY 29 2015

In Regards to All Water Rights in Antelope Creek Watershed:

NOTICE OF IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF ORDER WR 2015-0017-DWR: CURTAILMENT ORDER IN THE MATTER OF DIVERSION OF WATER FROM ANTELOPE CREEK TRIBUTARY TO THE SACRAMENTO RIVER IN TEHAMA COUNTY

The following State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Notice of Suspension of Order WR 2015-0017-DWR (Notice) is effective immediately and affects all water rights within the Antelope Creek watershed. Based on existing hydrologic and climatic conditions, lack of presence of adult Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (CV SR salmon) and California Central Valley steelhead (CCV steelhead), and significant decrease in juvenile CV SR salmon and CCV steelhead abundance, this Notice suspends all minimum base flow requirements on Antelope Creek until further notice is provided.

Water rights holders or agents of record who receive this Notice are responsible for immediately providing this Notice to all diverters exercising a water right on Antelope Creek. Water right holders who provide water via their diversion infrastructure are responsible for immediately providing this Notice to all water rights holders to which they provide water.

Please note that the May 1, 2015 Notice of Unavailability of Water and Immediate Curtailment for those Diverting Water in the Sacramento River Watershed with a Post-1914 Appropriative Right remains unchanged, even though Order WR 2015-017-DWR has been suspended. These curtailments of post-1914 appropriative water rights remain in effect until further notice.

Summary of Past Actions:

On April 3, 2015, the State Water Board issued Water Rights Order WR 2014-0017-DWR (Order) to all water right holders in Antelope Creek under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 877, which is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/docs/order_wr_2015_0017_wr.pdf.

The Order curtailed all diversions from Antelope Creek as necessary to obtain and maintain minimum flow of 35 cfs or full flow without diversions, whichever is less, in Antelope Creek as required under section 877, subdivision (c)(3)(A). On May 1, 2015, the base flow requirement on Antelope Creek was reduced to 15 cubic feet per second (cfs) for juvenile spring-run and steelhead out-migration as required under section 877, subdivision (c)(3)(D). Notification of the reduction in base flow to 15 cfs was made via the Lyris e-mail list and forwarded to interested parties and posted on the State Water Board's website.

Presence of Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and California Central Valley steelhead in Deer Creek:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff informed State Water Board staff that CDFW's latest snorkel survey conducted on May 27, 2015 showed a significant decrease in juvenile salmonid abundance relative to previous surveys. In addition, water temperatures recorded at Cone Grove Park (river mile 2.5) show maximum daily water temperature readings exceeding 80°F beginning May 24, 2015.

Based on existing hydrologic and climatic conditions, lack of presence of adult CV SR salmon and CCV steelhead, and significant decrease in juvenile CV SR salmon and CCV steelhead abundance in lower Antelope Creek, this Notice, effective immediately, hereby suspends Order WR 2015-0017-DWR, in accordance with section 877, subdivision (c)(3)(E).

Curtailment for those Diverting Water in the Sacramento River Watershed, including Antelope Creek, under a Post-1914 Appropriative Right remain in effect.

Continuance of Emergency Regulations:

While there are no minimum base flow requirements at this time, drought emergency minimum base flows of 35 cfs for adult CCV steelhead migration may be required again in Antelope Creek under section 877, subdivision (c)(3)(C) as early as November 1, 2015 if adult CCV steelhead are present.

Protocols for Further Notice:

This Notice and any future curtailment orders and minimum flow modifications will be posted on the State Water Board website and can be accessed at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/milldeerantelope_curtailment_info.shtml

You can get immediate e-mail updates from the State Water Board about these orders and notices by subscribing to "Mill Deer Antelope Creek Curtailments" at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/

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The Regulations require that you either subscribe to the notice list above or regularly check the State Water Board website to receive notices prior to commencing diversions of water from the affected streams.

If you have any questions, please call our Curtailment Hotline at (916) 341-5342, contact us by e-mail at: SWRCB-Curtailment-Certification@waterboards.ca.gov, or review our drought year webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml

Sincerely,



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