

5/6/09 Board Workshop
SCWA - TUC Petition
Deadline: 4/30/09 by 12 noon

From: Gary Bodwin <binaryg@comcast.net>
To: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: Wed, Apr 29, 2009 10:59 AM
Subject: To Jeanine Townsend concerning Russian River proposed flow

To: Jeanine Townsend
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Gary Bodwin

Re: Proposed reduction of summer flow in the Russian River

I am a resident of Forestville, CA. I own a home and live within a few hundred feet of the Russian River. I also am and have been a park volunteer at Steelhead Beach for over three years and am very interested in water issues, especially those relating to the Russian River. I was alarmed last summer at the reduced flows in the river. The river was running so much lower than it had over the past two summers. I wondered about the impact on wildlife along the river and noticed a reduction in recreational activities at Steelhead Beach Park. I wondered how this was affecting the tourist economy in the lower river area. I was also concerned about the impact the reduced flow had in the ability of the river to absorb the continued agricultural and other city waste that flows into the river.

The proposed reduction of flow this year to as low as 35 cfs seems much too radical. I can't and don't want to imagine how the river will look and how the river as a living entity will be able to absorb such a low flow.

Water from the Russian River continues to be sold to contractors and although the contractors are being asked to reduce their demand for water based on 2004 use not on more recent rates of usage. In the meantime throughout the watershed a large number of illegal diversions by agriculture continue without any proposal in place to stop these diversions.

I hope you will find a less radical proposal than the one now before you.

Thank you for your consideration.

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