

State Water Resources Control Board

**INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR RUSSIAN RIVER TRIBUTARIES
WATER CONSERVATION AND INFORMATIONAL ORDER
EMERGENCY REGULATION**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is scheduling five meeting opportunities during the week of July 6, 2015 to provide information on the Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation and hear from residents and businesses on additional steps that should be considered to help fish survive in this fourth year of dry conditions. A quorum of the State Water Board may be present at the meetings. However, no State Water Board action will be taken.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
July 6, 2015 (Monday)	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Salmon Creek School 1935 Bohemian Highway Occidental, CA 95464
July 7, 2015 (Tuesday)	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Healdsburg City Council Chambers 401 Grove Street Healdsburg, CA 95448
July 8, 2015 (Wednesday)	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Forestville Fire Department 6554 Mirabel Road Forestville, CA 95436
July 9, 2015 (Thursday)	1:00 – 4:00 pm and 6:00 – 9:00 pm	North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To ensure we have adequate facilities, interested parties that plan to attend a meeting are requested to RSVP at least 48 hours in advance to the Russian River email address (rr_tribs_emergency_reg@waterboards.ca.gov) or Russian River Phone Hotline (916.322.8422). Please provide your name and organization (if applicable). Note that providing your name and organization are optional.

The State Water Board is interested in other opportunities to provide information to those that may be affected by the Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation. Please email the Russian River email address or call the Russian River Phone Hotline (provided above) if you would like to recommend an upcoming event for additional State Water Board outreach.

Background

On June 17, 2015, the State Water Board approved the Emergency Enhanced Water Conservation and Additional Water User Information for the Protection of Specific Fisheries in Tributaries to the Russian River (Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation). (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §876.) The emergency regulation is designed to provide a small amount of additional water in four tributaries to the

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Russian River to protect threatened and endangered fish. The emergency regulation affects about 13,000 properties in the watersheds of Dutch Bill Creek, Green Valley Creek, Mark West Creek and Mill Creek. The regulation would become effective upon approval by the Office of Administrative Law, which is anticipated to be on or about July 3, 2015.

The emergency regulation consists of two elements:

- Enhanced water conservation measures for all users of water diverted from the four watersheds, including both surface water and groundwater; and
- Information order authority to allow the State Water Board to get information on surface water and groundwater use in the four watersheds.

The enhanced mandatory water conservation measures build upon [existing statewide water restrictions](#) approved by the State Water Board on [May 5, 2015](#), which apply to all Californians. These enhanced measures include a ban on watering for ornamental lawns, unless untreated rainwater or gray water is available for use; a limit to watering of all other landscaping to twice a week and only between the hours of 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.; a limit on car washing to commercial car washes that recirculate water; and a prohibition on the filling or refilling of decorative ponds and fountains. Boosting conservation efforts in the watersheds now will reduce the amount of water diverted from the four tributaries, leaving behind more water instream to protect Central California Coast runs of endangered Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon and threatened CCC steelhead. Low flows in the tributaries have been a problem dating back before the current drought and extremely low flows since then have made the situation critical. The low flows or lack of flow cause high temperatures, low oxygen levels and isolated pools of water that can kill fish.

The information order will require landowners and water suppliers to provide information on the sources and uses of both surface water and groundwater diverted from the watersheds. It will provide the State Water Board with critical information needed to estimate total water demand in the watersheds, and will help determine priority if curtailments become necessary. Groundwater is included in the order because the groundwater is connected to surface water flows in the Russian River watershed and is a significant factor in surface water flows.

The goal of the meetings is to educate residents on the new requirements and answer questions about its implementation. Time will also be set aside to discuss potential long-term solutions to address the needs of the fish and other uses of water.

Additional Information

Per the regulation, notices and updates regarding the conservation measures and information orders will be provided by email and posting on the State Water Board's webpage. To receive emails sign up for the "Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation" email list under the "Water Rights" section online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml. Notices and updates related to implementation of the Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation will be posted to the State Water Board's webpage at:

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