



American Rivers
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June 15, 2015

(6/16-17/15) Board Meeting- Item 12
Russian River
Deadline: 6/15/15 by 12:00 noon

Chair Marcus and Members of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



Re: June 16-17 Public Meeting Agenda Item: DROUGHT-RELATED EMERGENCY REGULATION REQUIRING ENHANCED WATER CONSERVATION AND ADDITIONAL WATER USER INFORMATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF SPECIFIC FISHERIES IN TRIBUTARIES TO THE RUSSIAN RIVER

American Rivers supports the adoption of the proposed Russian River drought conservation and information order. At a time when rural drinking water supplies and instream habitat for salmon species are facing extreme risks due to water scarcity, it is necessary to implement measures that require the conservation of precious water resources. The proposed restrictions are prudent measures that will aid in efforts to meet critical water resource needs.

Additionally, the proposed additional information gathering is important to help strengthen the state's ability to manage water effectively. As the Board moves forward with decisions, we recommend that staff resources are allocated to provide technical and outreach assistance to the extent feasible. This will help improve the quality of information submitted to the Board and the likelihood of compliance.

We encourage the Board to adopt the proposed regulation and consider expanding the conservation order and information request to other watersheds with priority salmon and steelhead populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and the State Board's consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Alford".

Chris Alford
Director, California Instream Flow and Water Supply