

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of Applications 12919A, 15736,  
15737, and 19351

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Petitioner

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, ET AL.

Protestants

Order : WR 79-20

Sources: Russian River and  
Dry Creek

County : Sonoma

ORDER REQUIRING A TIME SCHEDULE TO  
COMPLETE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS

BY THE BOARD:

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma) holds Permits 12947A, 12949, and 12950 to divert directly and store water from the Russian River in Lake Mendocino. Sonoma also holds partially approved Application 19351 to store water in the proposed Warm Springs Reservoir on Dry Creek. Sonoma has filed petitions for reconsideration of various limitations placed on these appropriations by the State Water Resources Control Board. These petitions' have been protested by several groups and individuals; the Board has advised Sonoma on several occasions dating back to December 1975 that it would be lead agency for preparation of an environmental document. Sonoma has not yet prepared the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Board, having considered all the foregoing, finds as follows:

1. Since November of 1974 petitions by Sonoma have been on file with the Board to increase the limit on diversion of water from the Russian River by Sonoma at Mirahel-Wohler under Permits 12947A, 12949, and 12950 and Application 19351.

The current limit is a maximum rate of diversion of 92 cubic feet per second (cfs) not to exceed 37,544 acre-feet per year. Sonoma is asking that these limits be increased to a maximum rate of 180 cfs not to exceed 75,000 acre-feet per year.

2. These petitions were protested by the California Department of Fish and Game and 11 individuals, public interest groups and governmental entities. A hearing will be required before approval of the petitions can be considered.

3. On December 5, 1975 and May 10, 1977, the staff informed Sonoma that it is lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and would be responsible for preparing proper environmental documents. Sonoma determined that an EIR was required. The State Water Resources Control Board cannot conduct a hearing on the petitions until the EIR is completed. An Initial Study identifying significant adverse impacts was prepared by Sonoma and a meeting was held with Division of Water Rights staff on October 4, 1977 to discuss requirements of the EIR.

4. On several instances, Sonoma has indicated that it is working on the draft EIR but because of various problems has not finished it.

5. Sonoma has not prepared an EIR since it was advised to do so by the State Water Resources Control Board 3 years ago.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED:

1. Within one year from the date of mailing of this order Sonoma shall complete a final Environmental Impact Report and file a copy with the Division of Water Rights.

2. If the final Environmental Impact Report is not completed within one year from the date of mailing of this order subject petitions will be denied without further Board action.,

Dated: JUL 19 1979

ABSENT

W. Don Maughan, Chairman

William J. Miller  
William J. Miller, Vice Chairman

L. L. Mitchell  
L. L. Mitchell, Member

Carla M. Bard  
Carla M. Bard, Member

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