

The May 1, 2013 order approving the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) filed by Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) includes a diversion reduction term and conservation terms. The diversion reduction term requires SCWA to maintain a minimum flow during critical conditions greater than that which was requested in the TUCP through a combination of reducing diversions and releasing water from Lake Sonoma. The conservation terms are similar to terms required in previous SCWA TUCP orders. The following summary includes additional details about each of these terms.

Diversion Reduction Term

Term 1, part B, item 3 of the May 1, 2013 order requires a minimum flow in the lower Russian River of 50 cfs, instead of the requested 35 cfs, if *Critical* water supply conditions are required. Meeting the higher flow requirement will be accomplished through a combination of SCWA reducing its diversions by as much as 25 percent and releasing water from Lake Sonoma. Requiring diversion reductions through higher minimum flow requirements is intended to better serve beneficial uses, because the water saved from the diversion reductions will be used to increase flows in the lower Russian River rather than being held in Lake Sonoma. This approach may further serve beneficial uses because it will encourage careful management of the available water resources in Lake Sonoma to meet the higher flow requirements and may reduce or avoid unintended stressing of local groundwater resources as an alternative supply for cities and special districts (see **section 5.3** of the May 1, 2013 order).

Conservation Terms

Term 16 of the May 1, 2013, order requires a written update regarding conservation activities and programs being implemented by SCWA and its water contractors to assess and reduce water loss, promote increasing water use efficiency and conservation, and improve regional water supply reliability. Similar terms were included in previous orders approving temporary reductions in minimum flow requirements. The TUCP and supporting materials explain that SCWA and its water contractors continue to implement water use efficiency programs that align with the California Urban Water Conservation Council's Best Management Practices (BMPs) and comply with Senate Bill x7-7. The BMPs and requirements of Senate Bill x7-7 have been incorporated in the recently adopted Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership. Additional information on the BMPs and Senate Bill x7-7 is available at <http://www.cuwcc.org/bmps.aspx> and <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/sb7/>. Additional information on the Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership is available at: <http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/>

Term 17 of the May 1, 2013, order requires SCWA to coordinate with water users regarding cooperation and participation in developing water management practices to improve the reliability of water supply in Lake Mendocino and to prepare a report of findings (water supply reliability evaluation and report). This term is an outgrowth of a similar term included in the 2009 SCWA TUCP Order. The 2009 term required SCWA to develop a plan to coordinate with water users to reach set conservation goals. SCWA reported that the 2009 plan was not effective outside of SCWA's service district due to the lack of authority for SCWA to impose mandatory water conservation measures on other water users. As such, the May 1, 2013 order retained the previous requirements to coordinate with water users and added a new requirement to develop a water supply reliability evaluation and report, including recommendations for future water management practices to improve Lake Mendocino water supply reliability.