

August 2014

Sonoma County Water Agency

Supplement to the August 2014 Temporary Urgency Change Petition

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) controls and coordinates water supply releases from Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma to implement the minimum instream flow requirements in water rights Decision 1610, which the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted on April 17, 1986. Decision 1610 specifies minimum flow requirements for the Upper Russian River, Dry Creek and the Lower Russian River. These minimum flow requirements vary based on water supply conditions, which are also specified in Decision 1610. Term 20 of the Water Agency's water-right Permit 12947A (Application 12919A) contains the Decision 1610 requirements for the Upper Russian River and Lower Russian River. Term 17 of the Water Agency's water-right Permit 12949 (Application 15736) and term 17 of the Water Agency's water-right Permit 12950 (Application 15737) contain the Decision 1610 requirements for the Lower Russian River. Term 13 of the Water Agency's water-right Permit 16596 (Application 19351) contains the Decision 1610 requirements for Dry Creek and the Lower Russian River.

The Water Agency's operations are also subject to the Russian River Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service on September 24, 2008.

1.1 Minimum Flow Requirements

Decision 1610 requires a minimum flow of 25 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the East Fork of the Russian River from Coyote Valley Dam to the confluence with the West Fork of the Russian River under all water supply conditions. From this point to Dry Creek, the Decision 1610 required minimum Russian River flows are 185 cfs from April through August and 150 cfs from September through March during *Normal* water supply conditions, 75 cfs during *Dry* conditions and 25 cfs during *Critical* conditions. Decision 1610 further specifies two variations of the *Normal* water supply condition, commonly known as *Dry Spring 1* and *Dry Spring 2*. These conditions provide for lower required minimum flows in the Upper Russian River during times when the combined storage in Lake Pillsbury (owned and operated by the Pacific Gas and

Electric Company) and Lake Mendocino on May 31 is unusually low. *Dry Spring 1* conditions exist if the combined storage in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino is less than 150,000 acre-feet on May 31. Under *Dry Spring 1* conditions, the required minimum flow in the Upper Russian River between the confluence of the East Fork and West Fork and Healdsburg is 150 cfs from June through March, with a reduction to 75 cfs during October through December if Lake Mendocino storage is less than 30,000 acre-feet during those months. *Dry Spring 2* conditions exist if the combined storage in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino is less than 130,000 acre-feet on May 31. Under *Dry Spring 2* conditions, the required minimum flows in the Upper Russian River are 75 cfs from June through December and 150 cfs from January through March.

From Dry Creek to the Pacific Ocean, the required minimum flows in the Lower Russian River are 125 cfs during *Normal* water supply conditions, 85 cfs during *Dry* conditions and 35 cfs during *Critical* conditions.

In Dry Creek below Warm Springs Dam, the required minimum flows are 75 cfs from January through April, 80 cfs from May through October and 105 cfs in November and December during *Normal* water supply conditions. During *Dry* and *Critical* conditions, these required minimum flows are 25 cfs from April through October and 75 cfs from November through March.

Figure 1 shows all of the required minimum instream flows specified in Decision 1610 by river reach, gaging stations used to monitor compliance, and criteria for the various water supply conditions.

1.2 Water Supply Conditions

There are three main water supply conditions that are defined in Decision 1610, which set the minimum instream flow requirements based on the hydrologic conditions for the Russian River system. These water supply conditions are determined based on criteria for the calculated cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury from October 1 to the first day of each month from January to June. Decision 1610 defines cumulative inflow for Lake Pillsbury as the algebraic sum of releases from Lake Pillsbury, change in storage and lake evaporation.

Dry water supply conditions exist when cumulative inflow to Lake Pillsbury from October 1 to the date specified below is less than:

- 8,000 acre-feet as of January 1;
- 39,200 acre-feet as of February 1;
- 65,700 acre-feet as of March 1;
- 114,500 acre-feet as of April 1;
- 145,600 acre-feet as of May 1; and
- 160,000 acre-feet as of June 1.

Critical water supply conditions exist when cumulative inflow to Lake Pillsbury from October 1 to the date specified below is less than:

- 4,000 acre-feet as of January 1;
- 20,000 acre-feet as of February 1;
- 45,000 acre-feet as of March 1;
- 50,000 acre-feet as of April 1;
- 70,000 acre-feet as of May 1; and
- 75,000 acre-feet as of June 1.

Normal water supply conditions exist whenever a *Dry* or *Critical* water supply condition is not present. As indicated above, Decision 1610 further specifies three variations of the *Normal* water supply condition based on the combined storage in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino on May 31. These three variations of the *Normal* water supply condition determine the required minimum instream flows for the Upper Russian River from the confluence of the East Fork and the West Fork to the Russian River's confluence with Dry Creek. This provision of Decision 1610 does not provide for any changes in the required minimum instream flows in Dry Creek or the Lower Russian River (the Russian River between its confluence with Dry Creek and the Pacific Ocean). A summary of the required minimum flows in the Russian River for *Normal*, *Normal—Dry Spring 1* and *Normal—Dry Spring 2* water supply conditions is provided here:

1. *Normal*: When the combined water in storage in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino on May 31 of any year exceeds 150,000 acre-feet or 90 percent of the estimated water supply storage capacity of the reservoirs, whichever is less:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| From June 1 through August 31 | 185 cfs |
| From September 1 through March 31 | 150 cfs |
| From April 1 through May 31 | 185 cfs |

2. *Normal-Dry Spring 1*: When the combined water in storage in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino on May 31 of any year is between 150,000 acre-feet or 90 percent of the estimated water supply storage capacity of the reservoirs, which ever is less, and 130,000 acre-feet or 80 percent or the estimated water supply storage capacity of the reservoirs, whichever is less:

| | |
|---|---------|
| From June 1 through March 31 | 150 cfs |
| From April 1 through May 31 | 185 cfs |
| If from October 1 through December 31, storage in Lake | |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Mendocino is less than 30,000 acre-feet | 75 cfs |
|--|--------|

3. Normal-Dry Spring 2: When the combined water in storage in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino on May 31 of any year is less than 130,000 acre-feet or 80 percent of the estimated water supply storage capacity of the reservoirs, which ever is less:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| From June 1 through December 31 | 75 cfs |
| From January 1 through March 31 | 150 cfs |
| From April 1 through May 31 | 185 cfs |

2.0 CURRENT WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS

On December 18, 2013, the Water Agency filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (December 2013 TUCP) with the State Water Board, requesting changes to the minimum instream flow requirements in Permit 12947A (Application 12919A). The State Water Board Division of Water Rights issued an order approving the December 2013 TUCP on December 31, 2013 (Order). The December 2013 TUCP requested that the minimum instream flow requirements for the Upper Russian River be established using an index based on water storage in Lake Mendocino rather than using cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury (per Decision 1610) for 180 days, starting on January 1, 2014. The request was a result of the very dry hydrologic conditions in the watershed that had led to unseasonably low Lake Mendocino water supply levels. The approved changes in the Order resulted in preserving approximately 5,000 acre-feet of storage in Lake Mendocino. This was in addition to the approximately 8,000 acre-feet of Lake Mendocino storage that was preserved with the modifications to minimum instream flow requirements that were approved by the State Water Board in its order granting the TUCP the Water Agency filed in April 2013 to address the rapidly declining Lake Mendocino storage levels that were occurring then.

The December 2013 TUCP Order expired on June 29. The current minimum instream flow requirements for the Upper and Lower Russian River, which have been unchanged since June 1, are those for *Dry* conditions. Under these conditions, the required minimum instream flows are 75 cfs for the Upper Russian and 85 cfs for the Lower Russian. Unless the SWRCB issues an order changing these requirements, they will continue to be in effect through December 31.

2.1 Lake Mendocino

On August 12, 2014, the storage level in Lake Mendocino was 36,052 acre-feet. This storage level is 32 percent of the available summer water supply pool. Since its completion in 1958, this is the lowest level in Lake Mendocino on this date, except for August 12, 1977, when reservoir storage was 21,982 acre-feet. The current low storage level is the result of a severe drought that began in the region in January 2013.

Analyses recently prepared by Water Agency engineering staff indicate that, unless there are

significant storm events before November 1, Lake Mendocino storage is expected to decline to approximately 20,000 acre-feet by November 1. This decline will result from the releases of stored water that will be necessary to meet both downstream water demands on, and the current minimum instream flow requirement for, the Upper Russian River. The projected storage analysis was completed using the Water Agency's Russian River Water System Model with the following assumptions: (1) the current Upper Russian River minimum instream flow requirement of 75 cfs; (2) 2013 hydrology; (3) 2013 Upper Russian River observed reach losses; and (4) Potter Valley Project operations based on the 2004 amended license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Figure 2 shows the Lake Mendocino storage levels that have occurred so far during 2014 and the projected storage levels for the remainder of 2014 if minimum instream flow requirements are unchanged.

The extremely low projected storage level in Lake Mendocino could: (a) severely impact Russian River salmonid species that are listed as threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), (b) create more serious water-supply impacts in Mendocino County and the Alexander Valley in Sonoma County, and (c) further harm Lake Mendocino and Russian River recreation.

2.2 Lake Sonoma

On August 12, 2014 the water supply storage level in Lake Sonoma was 159,781 acre-feet, which is 65 percent of the available water conservation pool. Lake Sonoma storage levels have not dropped to this low of a level since March 1991. Based on the analysis with the Water Agency's Russian River Water System Model, storage levels in Lake Sonoma are projected to decline to approximately 145,000 acre-feet by November 1, with the assumption of a recurrence of 2013 hydrology, which had no significant storm events before that date. While the Lake Sonoma storage levels are reaching a 25-year low, there is still a substantial water supply volume in Lake Sonoma. Consequently, the Water Agency does not believe that storage levels in Lake Sonoma are a significant concern at this time.

2.3 River System Operational Constraints

As further discussed in Section 3.0 below, along with requesting changes to minimum instream flow requirements for the Upper Russian River, the Water Agency is also requesting changes to the minimum instream flow requirements for the Lower Russian River. These changes are necessary because implementation of the lower minimum instream flow requirements that are being requested for the Upper Russian River, which are necessary to preserve Lake Mendocino storage, will result in the Upper Russian River providing significantly lower contributions of flows to meet minimum instream flow requirements for the Lower Russian River. Consequently, increased releases from Lake Sonoma into Dry Creek would be necessary to maintain present Decision 1610 minimum instream flow requirement (85 cfs) for the Lower Russian River. However, such increased releases into Dry Creek could result in the Water Agency's violating the Incidental Take Statement in the Russian River Biological Opinion issued by the National

Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)¹. The Incidental Take Statement restricts releases from Lake Sonoma into Dry Creek during June through October of each year because high Dry Creek flows during these months result in sub-optimal habitat conditions for juvenile salmonids.

Furthermore, NMFS concluded in the Biological Opinion that flows lower than those required by Decision 1610 for the Lower Russian River may improve opportunities in the Russian River estuary to maintain a freshwater lagoon, which is beneficial for the ESA-listed salmonids and their critical habitats. Consequently, lowering minimum instream flows on the Lower Russian River is consistent with the objectives of the Biological Opinion.

The window of opportunity for an SWRCB order on this petition to preserve stored water in Lake Mendocino through reductions in the minimum instream flow requirements is limited. Chinook salmon in-migration typically commences within a few weeks of November 1. When this salmon in-migration begins, SCWA will consult with NMFS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine the increases in reservoir release rates that are appropriate to maintain a balance between trying to preserve prudent storage in Lake Mendocino and trying to optimize fish passage for fall Chinook migration and winter steelhead migration.

3.0 REQUESTED TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE TO PERMITS 12947A, 12949, 12950 AND 16596

To preserve the drought-limited water supply in Lake Mendocino and to avoid excessively high releases from Lake Sonoma down Dry Creek that could result in violations to the Incidental Take Statement in the Biological Opinion, the Water Agency is filing this TUCP, which requests that the State Water Board make the following changes to the Water Agency's permits for a period of 180 days from August 15, 2014 until February 10, 2015: (1) reduce the required minimum instream flow in the Russian River from the confluence of the East and West Forks to the river's confluence with Dry Creek from 75 cfs to 50 cfs; and (2) reduce required minimum instream flow in the Russian River from its confluence with Dry Creek to the Pacific Ocean from 85 cfs to 60 cfs. Figure 3 shows an analysis of the approximate flows by river reach for the Lower Russian River and Dry Creek that are occurring under the present Decision 1610 minimum instream flow requirements. Figure 4 shows the approximate flows that would occur under the proposed minimum instream flow requirements that are requested in this TUCP.

To allow the Water Agency to optimally manage flows in the Upper Russian River and Lower Russian River, the Water Agency is requesting that the TUCP minimum instream flow requirements be specified as 5-day running averages of the specified minimum average daily stream flows, with the conditions that instantaneous flows in the Upper Russian River are never less than 40 cfs and instantaneous flows in the Lower Russian River are never less than 50 cfs. These 5-day running average provisions will allow the Water Agency to reduce the operational

¹ Refer to the *Biological Opinion for Water Supply, Flood Control Operations and Channel Maintenance conducted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District in the Russian River Watershed*, pp. 297-299 (NMFS, Sept. 24, 2008) for details on the incidental take statement and criteria.

buffers needed to manage these stream flows, thereby allowing the Water Agency to conserve more water in Lake Mendocino. Higher Lake Mendocino storage levels in the fall will benefit migrating Chinook salmon and improve carryover storage volumes to meet Upper Russian River demands into 2015 if dry conditions persist.

The TUCP requests that the term of the State Water Board's order on the TUCP extend into the initial months of the normal rainy season. Because the reductions in minimum instream flow requirements that are requested in this TUCP no longer will be necessary if Russian River watershed hydrological conditions improve substantially, the Water Agency requests that the State Water Board's order specify that the order will terminate when Lake Mendocino storage reaches the top of the water supply pool (68,400 acre-feet).

4.0 CRITERIA FOR APPROVING TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGES TO PERMITS 12947A, 12949, 12950 AND 16596

As required by Water Code section 1435, subdivision (b), the Board must make the following findings before issuing a temporary change order:

1. The permittee or licensee has an urgent need to make the proposed change;
2. The proposed change may be made without injury to any other lawful user of water;
3. The proposed change may be made without unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses; and
4. The proposed change is in the public interest.

4.1 Urgency of the Proposed Change

Under Water Code section 1435, subdivision (c), an urgent need to make a proposed change exists when the State Water Board concludes that the proposed temporary change is necessary to further the constitutional policy that the water resources of the State be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent of which they are capable and that waste of water be prevented.

For this petition, an urgent need for the requested temporary changes exists because Lake Mendocino storage levels are declining, with projected levels reaching extremely low conditions that may prevent the Water Agency from continuing to make the reservoir releases that will be necessary to support the beneficial uses that rely on these releases during dry periods.

The Water Agency projects that water storage in Lake Mendocino could decline to 20,000 acre-feet by November 1, 2014 unless the requested temporary urgency changes are approved. If upcoming dry conditions persist and significant storm events are delayed or do not occur in Water Year 2015, then carryover storage in Lake Mendocino will be crucial for the continued protection of the Russian River salmonid fishery and water supply reliability. At a storage levels below 20,000 acre-feet, there would be greater risks that there would be insufficient water supplies to support: (a) survival of ESA-listed Russian River salmonid species, (b) agricultural and municipal uses that depend on the Russian River, and (c) river-based recreation. Without the proposed changes, the Water Agency would need to release additional stored water from

Lake Mendocino, which would result in greater depletion of stored water during the summer and potentially would jeopardize water supplies for Russian River water users in Mendocino County and northern Sonoma County (upstream of the confluence with Dry Creek) during the fall. This could cause serious impacts to human health and welfare and would reduce water supplies needed for fishery protection and stable flows in the Upper Russian River during the fall when the ESA-listed salmonid species are spawning and are most sensitive to flow and water temperatures.

An urgent need exists for the proposed changes on the Lower Russian River because the current instream flow requirements are above the target flows that are necessary to support the salmonid fisheries and, with the reductions in the Upper Russian River flows, would require increases in Lake Sonoma releases down Dry Creek that would be detrimental to its fisheries. These higher Dry Creek flows also could violate the Incidental Take Statement in the Biological Opinion. As discussed in Section 2.3, the Incidental Take Statement restricts releases from Lake Sonoma into Dry Creek during June through October of each year because high Dry Creek flows during these months result in sub-optimal habitat conditions for juvenile salmonids. Furthermore, NMFS concluded in the Biological Opinion that minimum instream flows lower than those required by Decision 1610 may result in lower flows into the estuary that will improve opportunities to maintain the freshwater lagoon there, which benefits the ESA-listed salmonids.

As discussed in Section 3.0, the Water Agency requests that the State Water Board's order on the TUCP specify that it will terminate when hydrological conditions improve substantially and, as a result, the urgency for the proposed changes no longer exists.

4.2 No Injury to Any Other Lawful User of Water

If this petition is granted, the Water Agency still will be required to maintain specific minimum flows in the Russian River. Because these minimum flows will be present in the Upper and Lower Russian River reaches, all other legal users of water still will be able to divert and use the amounts of water that they may legally divert and use. Accordingly, granting this petition will not result in any injury to any other lawful user of water.

4.3 No Unreasonable Effect upon Fish, Wildlife, or Other Instream Beneficial Uses

Approval of this petition will reduce flows in the mainstem Russian River, which will result in additional water being conserved in Lake Mendocino. This will improve carryover storage in Lake Mendocino if dry conditions persist into Water Year 2015, which will have benefits that exceed any possible deleterious effects of the reduced flows during the late summer and early fall of 2014. Conserved storage will allow enhanced management of Russian River flows in the fall for the benefit of salmon migration and spawning. While reduced flows in the Russian River during the late summer and early fall may impair some instream beneficial uses, principally recreation, these effects will not be unreasonable, considering the potential grave impacts to fisheries and water supply that could occur if the petition were not approved. If the requested reductions in Lower Russian River minimum flow requirements are not approved, then the

higher Lake Sonoma releases and higher Dry Creek flows that would be necessary to meet the Lower Russian River minimum instream flow requirements would have severely negative impacts to juvenile salmonid habitat in Dry Creek.

As discussed in Section 2.3, when salmon in-migration from the Pacific Ocean into the Russian River begins, the Water Agency will consult with NMFS and CDFW regarding the appropriate flow increases to avoid unreasonable effects on these in-migrating fish.

4.4 The Proposed Changes are in the Public Interest

Approval of this petition will help preserve stored water in Lake Mendocino, which may reach critically low levels if dry weather conditions persist into 2015. Among other uses, the conserved stored water in Lake Mendocino will support releases for listed salmonids present in the Russian River during the fall-Chinook salmon migration season and winter-steelhead migration season. It is in the public interest to preserve water supplies for these beneficial uses now, when hydrologic circumstances have resulted in severely reduced water supplies. The proposed changes in the Lower Russian River minimum instream flow requirements will support ecological values in Dry Creek by preventing the higher Dry Creek flows that would be necessary if the State Water Board were to approve only the requested changes in the Upper Russian River requirements. As discussed above, such higher Dry Creek flows would impair habitat conditions for juvenile salmonids.

The proposed changes also are in the public interest because: (a) as discussed in Section 2.3, when salmon in-migration from the Pacific Ocean into the Russian River begins, the Water Agency will consult with NMFS and CDFW regarding the appropriate flow increases to avoid unreasonable effects on these in-migrating fish; and (b) as discussed in Section 3.0, the Water Agency requests that the State Water Board's order on the TUCP specify that it will terminate when hydrological conditions improve substantially and, as a result, the urgency for the proposed changes no longer exists.

5.0 RESERVOIR OPERATIONS AND DIVERSIONS FROM UPPER RUSSIAN RIVER

Under the Water Agency's normal operating protocols, the Water Agency releases water from storage in Lake Mendocino to support demands and to maintain minimum instream flows for the Upper Russian River down to its confluence with Dry Creek. The Water Agency does not normally make additional releases of water from storage in Lake Mendocino to meet instream flow requirements in or diversions from the Russian River downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek. Minimum instream flow requirements and diversions from the Lower Russian River downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek, which includes those made by the Water Agency, normally are maintained with releases of stored water from Lake Sonoma into Dry Creek. Because of these operating protocols, mandatory reductions in the Water Agency's diversions from the Lower Russian River would not provide any significant benefits to Lake Mendocino storage levels.

On the other hand, mandatory reductions in water diversions from the Upper Russian River would be complimentary to the requested changes in minimum instream flow requirements and would improve water supply conditions in Lake Mendocino. Figure 5 shows projected storage levels in Lake Mendocino under the following three scenarios: (1) no changes to the minimum instream flow requirements; (2) approval of the requested changes in instream flow requirements starting on August 15; and (3) approval of the requested changes in instream flow requirements and a 20 percent reduction in diversions from the Upper Russian River, compared to 2013 diversions.

As shown in Figure 5, a 20 percent reduction in Upper Russian River diversions would result in approximately an additional 5,000 acre-feet of Lake Mendocino storage on November 1, if 2014 hydrology is similar to 2013 hydrology. For these reasons, the Water Agency is coordinating its filing of this TUCP with the filing of a separate TUCP by the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District, which will ask the State Water Board to direct the District to take various actions to reduce diversions of water from the Upper Russian River in Mendocino County and that will allow the Water Agency to manage Russian River flows more efficiently. The Water Agency also is requesting that the State Water Board order 20 percent reductions in diversions from the Russian River in Sonoma County under the 10,000 acre-foot per year reservation that was created by term 18 on page 13 of the State Water Board's Order WR 74-30. (This term now is term 23 of the Water Agency's water right Permit 12947A.) These actions are described in more detail in Attachment 1 to this TUCP.

6.0 WATER CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES BY THE WATER AGENCY AND ITS CONTRACTORS

As discussed above, the requested changes are not driven by the water storage levels in Lake Sonoma. Consequently, any reductions in diversions from the Lower Russian River by the Water Agency at its Wohler/Mirabel facilities would not result in any significant benefits to the water supply conditions in Lake Mendocino. Nevertheless, the Water Agency's water contractors are committed to eliminating unnecessary use of potable water for landscape irrigation and other waste during these drought conditions. The Water Agency 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 SB 7x-7. While these BMPs remain the baseline for the region, the establishment of the Sonoma-Marín Water Saving Partnership (Partnership) in December 2010 memorialized the region's commitment to long-term, year-round water use efficiencies. The Partnership removes one of the most significant barriers to implementing conservation programs, funding. Each Partner has committed to a sustained level of funding that is allocated specifically to implementing conservation programs.

The Partnership represents ten water utilities in the North Bay in Sonoma and Marin counties that have joined together to provide regional solutions for water use efficiency. The utilities (Partners) include: the Cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Sonoma, Cotati; North Marin, Valley of the Moon and Marin Municipal Water Districts; the Town of Windsor and the

Sonoma County Water Agency. The Partnership was formed to identify and recommend water use efficiency projects and to maximize the cost-effectiveness of water use efficiency programs in our region.

Each Partner is continuously implementing water conservation programs to reduce overall regional water use. Over the last few years, in response to the drought, the Partnership has increased outreach, revised education programs and expanded the available conservation incentives.

At the onset of the drought in 2013, the Partnership doubled its annual public education campaign to encourage residents to voluntarily reduce water consumption. The Partnership launched the "20-Gallon Challenge" campaign to increase awareness of the water supply situation and as a call to action. The campaign featured a pledge to save 20 gallons per person per day. As an incentive to pledge, entries for monthly prize drawings for high-efficiency toilets and clothes washers, rainwater catchment and gray water systems, and custom water-wise landscape designs were provided. Pledges and contest entries were accepted from participants throughout the Russian River Watershed to encourage water users in both Upper Russian River and Lower Russian River areas to participate in the challenge.

In January 2014, in response to Governor Brown's emergency drought proclamation, the Partnership launched a regional multi-media effort throughout the North Bay region with a simple message: 'There's a drought on. Turn the water off.' The campaign has included: (1) outdoor water conservation tips that have been rotated in local and regional publications; and (2) advertisements on local radio stations and online media. Each advertisement spotlights a creative or humorous method for saving water. The campaign has been well received and is ongoing.

An additional effort by the Water Agency included sponsoring four drought town hall meetings in Sonoma County in April 2014 to educate the public about the drought and the need to conserve water. The meetings were held in Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Windsor and Petaluma. Water resource and conservation specialists attended these meetings to discuss the drought, water supply conditions and water conservation rebate programs. In addition, officials from the County's Permit and Resources Management Department and Office of Emergency Services attended each meeting to provide drought information relevant to rural residents and fire prevention.

The Water Agency also sponsored ten "Drought Drive-Up" locations on April 23 in coordination with the Partnership. Over 4,000 community members drove up to the ten locations to receive free drought tool kits, which included: (1) a water efficient faucet aerator; (2) toilet dye tab test; (3) shower timer; (4) shower bucket; (5) low-flow showerhead; and (6) conservation tip card. All participants in the "Drought Drive-Up" were also entered to win a free high-efficiency toilet or high-efficiency washing machine.

The Partnership's outreach efforts have improved water-use efficiencies in the region and the Water Agency remains committed to ensuring that our water supply is reliable. The Partners remain members in good standing with the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) and implement the CUWCC's Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water conservation.

Furthermore, on July 15, 2014, the State Board adopted Resolution No. 2014-0038, which adopted emergency regulations for statewide urban water conservation. The new regulations require almost all of the Water Agency's primary water customers to implement their water shortage contingency plans to the level of mandatory restrictions on outdoor irrigation and submit monthly monitoring reports comparing monthly water production with the corresponding calendar month production from 2013. Table 1 below summarizes the dates that each of the Water Agency's Contractors (including Marin Municipal Water District) will be going to their City Councils or Board of Directors for approval to implement the State Board's emergency regulations for urban water conservation.

To promote water savings that extend beyond the Water Agency's service area, the Water Agency has spearheaded the Sonoma-Mendocino Immediate Drought Relief Project, a demand reduction program that includes many entities in the Upper Russian River, in areas that have lacked aggressive water conservation programs in the past, where opportunities exist to achieve significant water savings. The project offers immediate drought relief and long-term water savings to the following participating agencies: 12th District Agricultural Agency (Redwood Empire Fairgrounds), Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone, Belmont Terrace Mutual Water Company, City of Cloverdale, City of Healdsburg, City of Ukiah, County of Sonoma - Department of Transportation and Public Works, City of Fort Bragg, Geyserville Sanitation Zone, Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District, Occidental County Sanitation District, Redwood Valley County Water District, Russian River County Sanitation District, Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone, Sonoma County Water Agency, and Sweetwater Springs Water District. This project has the potential to increase regional water use efficiency and drought resilience in the region for years to come and is a response to the Governor's emergency drought declaration that set a 20 percent water demand reduction goal. This project will reduce demands for water from Lake Mendocino and local groundwater supplies.

The participating agencies have the option of offering one or both of the following water-saving programs to their customers:

- 1) High-Efficiency Fixture Direct-Install Program, which will retrofit up to two inefficient toilets per customer with new high-efficiency toilets. During the installation appointment, the Water Agency-hired plumber will also replace inefficient showerheads and aerators with free, water-efficient models and perform a leak check at the water meter. For commercial properties, in addition to toilets, inefficient urinals will be retrofitted with 0.125 gpf high-efficiency urinals; and
- 2) Cash for Grass Turf Rebate Program, which will offer a \$0.50/sq. ft. rebate for converting high-water-use turf to low-water-use plant material (up to max of 500 sq. ft or \$250 per customer).

The Water Agency has managed a Direct Install program in its service area for five years. The Water Agency has already established the needed program elements (agreements with local plumbers, billings procedures, etc.) that will be utilized for this new program.

Through this project, participating agencies will be set up to transition into self-managed ongoing conservation programs. The High-Efficiency Fixture Direct-Install Program reduces base demands addressing approximately 75% of the total indoor residential water use (showers: 20%, faucets: 18%, toilets: 20%, leaks: 18%) by improving fixture efficiency and identifying leaks. The Cash for Grass program addresses 50% of the total water use by homes and directly reduces peak water demands.

On June 2, 2014, the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) released an expedited 2014 Integrated Regional Water Management Drought Grant Solicitation seeking projects that would provide immediate, measurable water savings. The Water Agency submitted a grant proposal for the Sonoma-Mendocino Immediate Drought Relief Project, which was selected as one of eleven projects by the North Coast Resource Partnership, which submitted the Water Agency's proposal on July 21, 2014 to DWR with a recommended funding of \$1.05 million. The participating agencies and Water Agency have committed to provide \$630,000 in local matching funds, raising the possible total funding to \$1.68 million. The DWR anticipates approving grant awards for this program in October 2014.

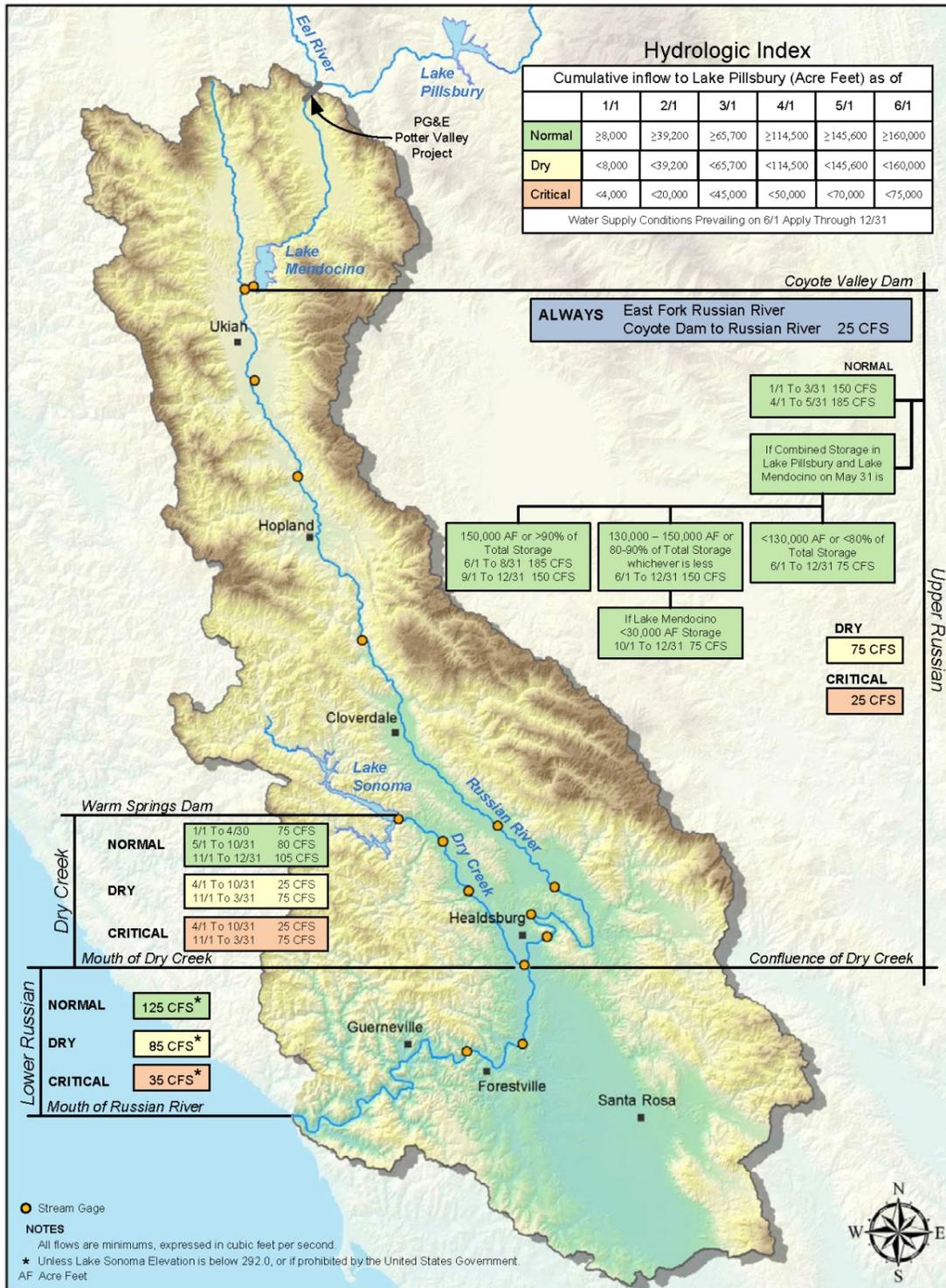
For these reasons, the State Water Boards's order on the Water Agency's TUCP should not contain any additional terms regarding the water conservation activities of the Water Agency and its contractors.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Water Agency is submitting this Temporary Urgency Change Petition to address the extremely dry conditions that have persisted in the Russian River watershed since January 2013. Because of these conditions and the uncertainties regarding regional precipitation over the next several months, the Water Agency requests that the State Water Board issue an order reducing the applicable minimum instream flow requirements for the Upper Russian River and Lower Russian River to preserve storage in Lake Mendocino and to prevent more-severe storage conditions from developing.

Figures

State Water Resources Control Board Decision 1610



Russian River Basin Minimum Streamflow Requirements

Figure 1 - Decision 1610 Minimum Stream Flow Requirements by Reach

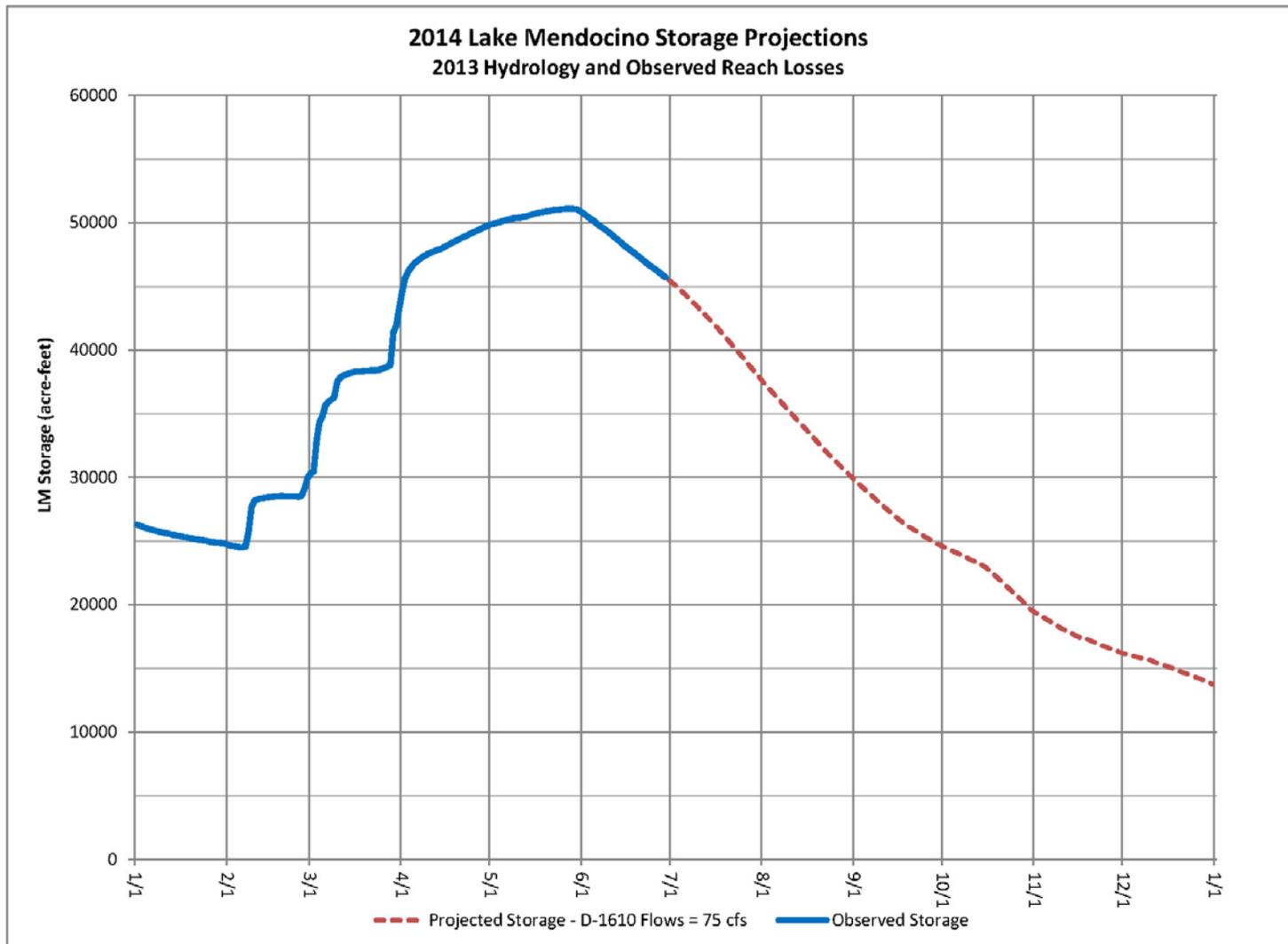


Figure 2 - Lake Mendocino 2014 Storage Projection

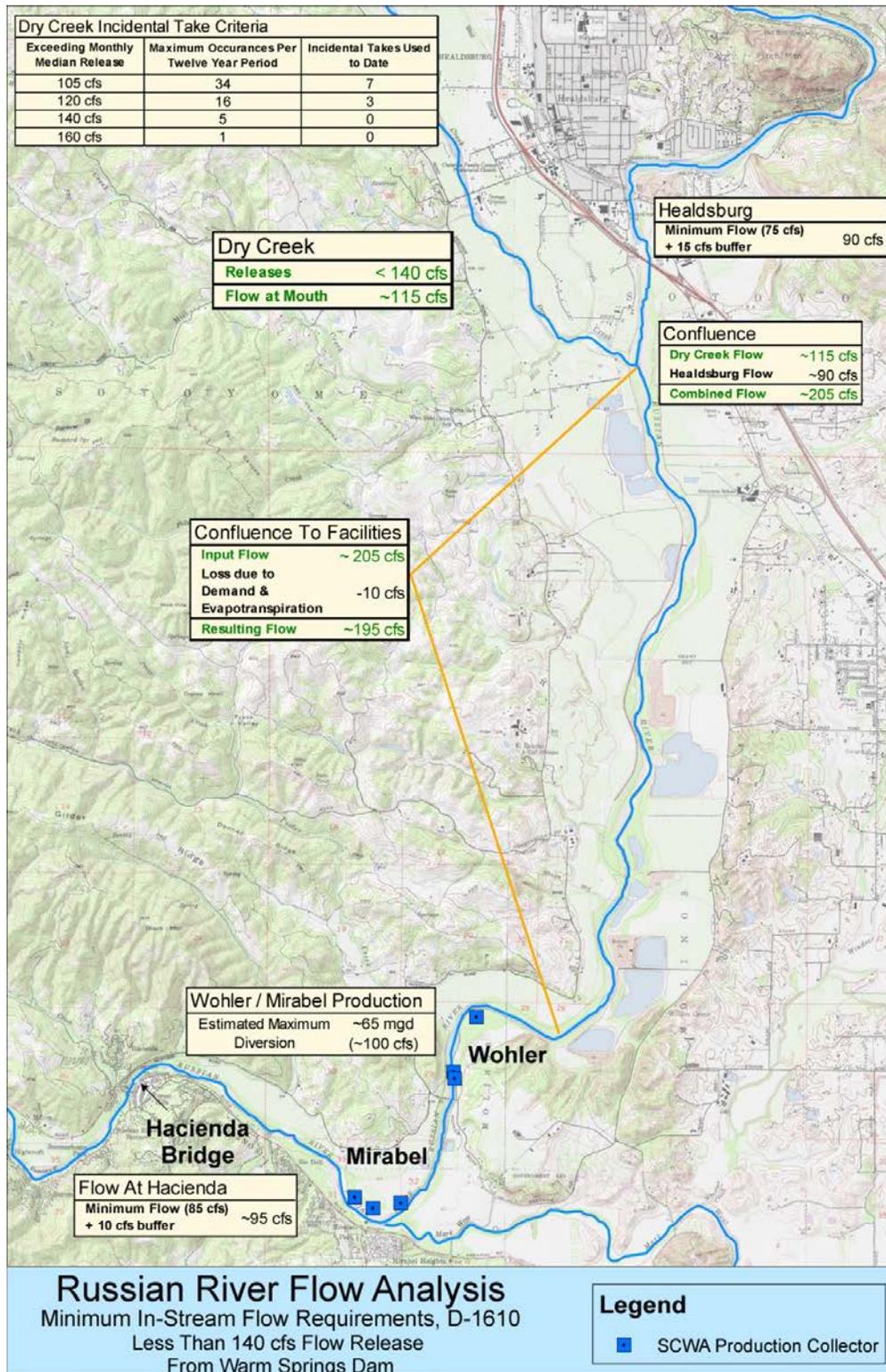


Figure 3 – Approximate Flows under Existing Minimum Instream Flow Requirements

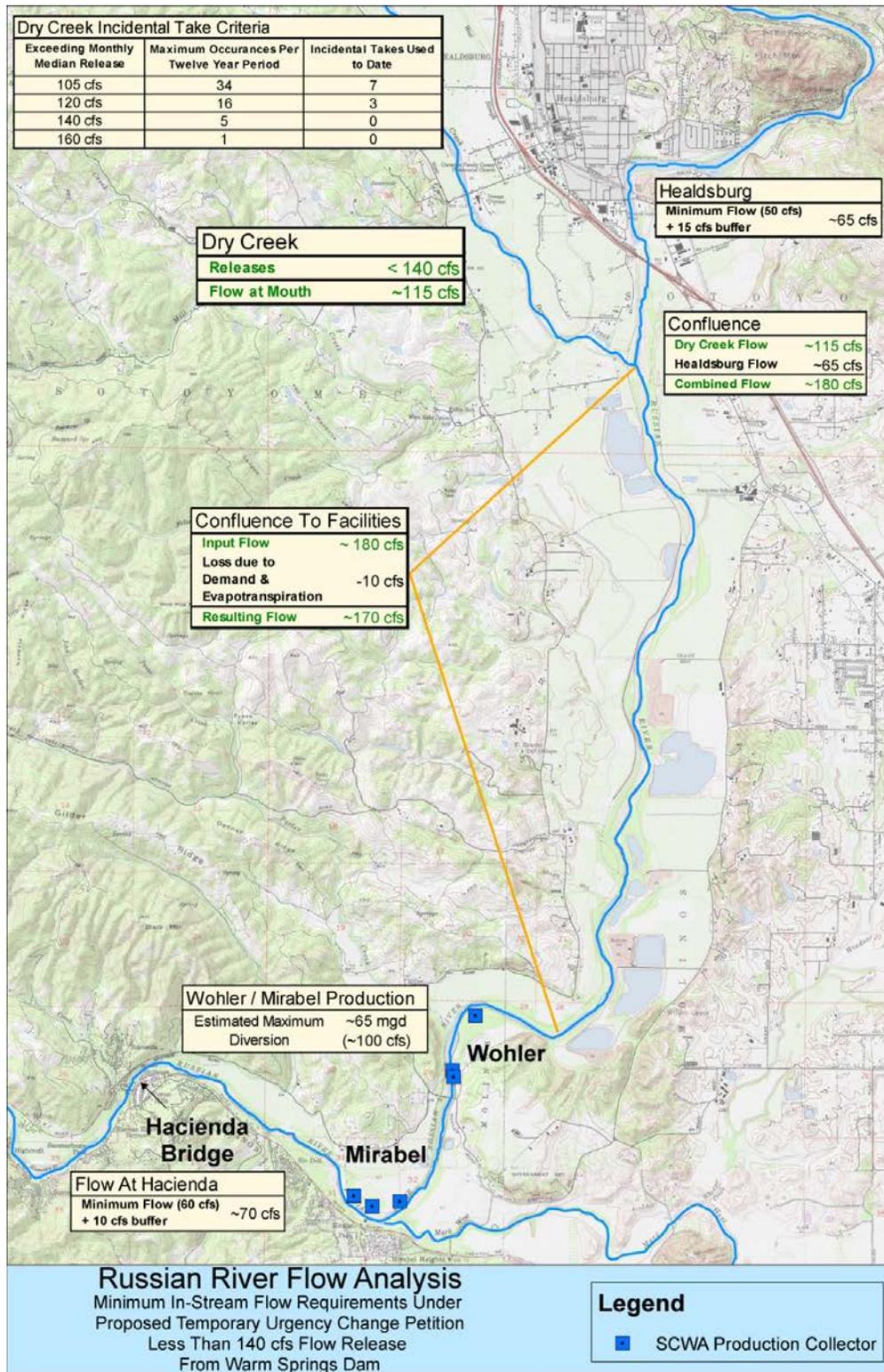
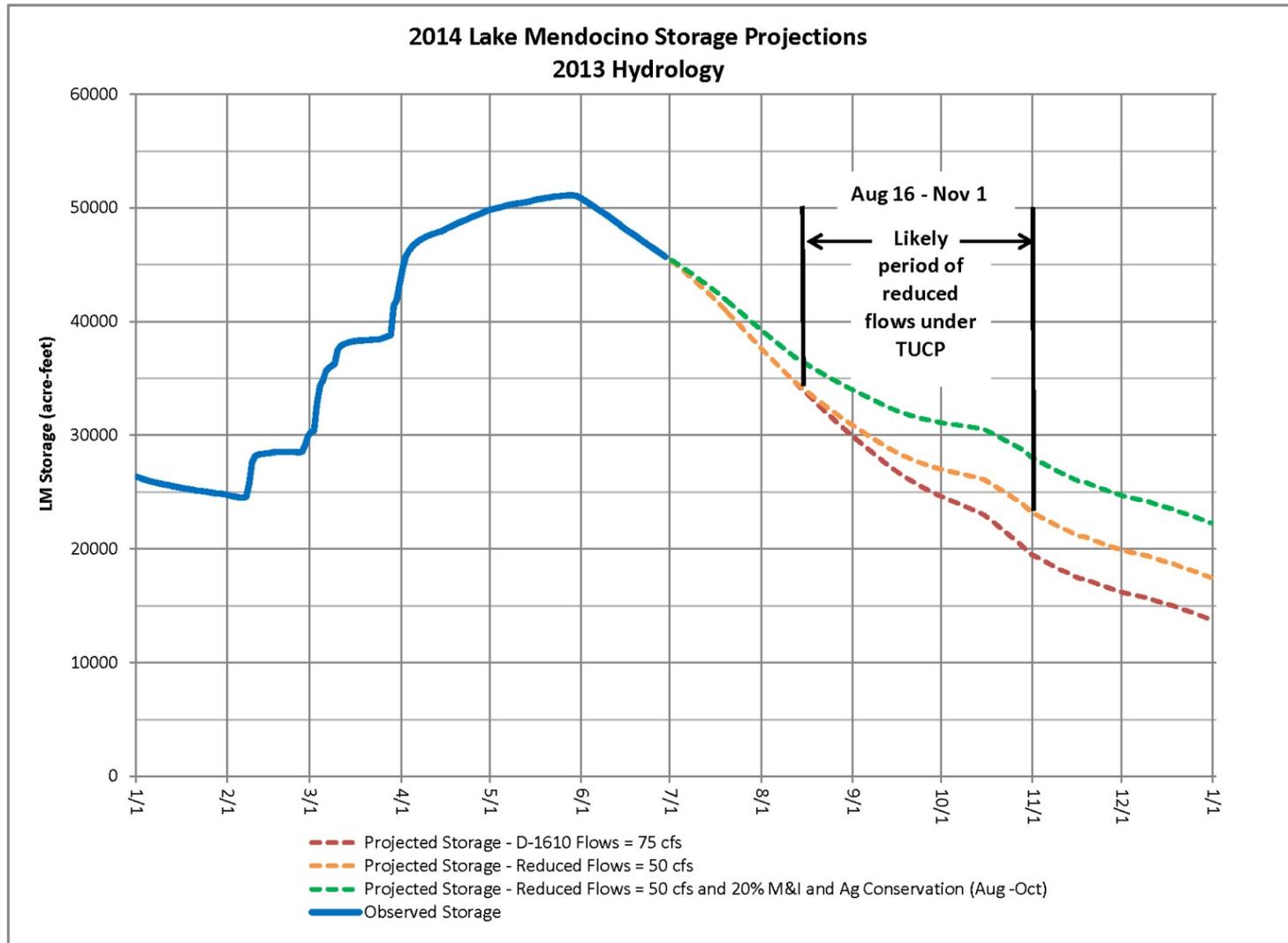


Figure 4 - Approximate Flows under Proposed Minimum Instream Flow Requirements



*November 1st (estimated date) to increase minimum instream flows to 75 cfs for migration of spawning Chinook salmon

Figure 5 - Lake Mendocino Storage Projections

Table

| Contractor | Approval Date | Stage | Actions | Source |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| City of Cotati | 8/12/2014 | 20% mandatory | | Verbal update @ Ad hoc 7/28/14 |
| Marin Municipal Water District | 8/5/2014 | unknown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced on 8/5, back for approval on 8/19. Irrigation is limited to the hours between 7pm and 9am The use of a hose without a shut-off nozzle for the irrigation of new turf, washing of cars, boats and airplanes is prohibited 20% conservation requirement not explicitly stated | MMWD Board of Directors Meeting of August 5, 2014 |
| North Marin Water District | 8/5/2014 | Stage 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watering of any landscaping except from a handheld hose equipped with a shut off nozzle, container or drip irrigation. Overhead sprinkler system can be used if the customer can maintain a 20% reduction in water use compared to the same billing period in 2013. Watering outside the hours of 7pm to 9am. Unreasonable/excessive irrigation overspray and/or run-off onto pavement, down a gutter, ditch or other surface drain. Washing down of exterior paved areas. Failure to repair a controllable leak. Refilling a swimming pool drained after July 1, 2014. Washing of privately-owned motor vehicles, trailers, or boats except from a bucket with a quick rinse from a hose equipped with a shut off nozzle. Continued enforcement of all additional water waste prohibitions listed in Regulation 15, section b. | NMWD Regular Meeting of August 5, 2014 |
| City of Petaluma | 9/8/2014 | Unknown | Amend Water Waste Ordinance to address hardscape washing | Verbal update @ Ad hoc 7/28/14 |
| City of Rohnert Park | 8/26/2014 | Unknown | | Verbal update @ Ad hoc 7/28/14 |
| City of Santa Rosa | 8/5/2014 | Stage 1 Mandatory Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% community-wide reduction in water use by focusing on eliminating water waste and reducing outdoor water use. Prohibits water waste as defined by the Water Waste Ordinance, which is defined as breaks or leaks in the distribution system and runoff and overspray from irrigation. Outdoor irrigation is limited to the hours between 8pm and 6am. Prohibits washing down of hardscapes (unless required for public health and safety). Prohibits the use of potable water for street washing. Requires the use of shut-off hose nozzles on all garden and utility hoses. Requires "Water-on-request" programs at restaurants. | Agenda Item #12.2 for City of Santa Rosa Council Meeting of August 5, 2014 |
| City of Sonoma | 8/18/2014 | Stage 2 Mandatory Conservation | <p>Stage 2 Mandatory Conservation prohibits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-recirculating fountains (Section 864.4) Washing vehicles, boats and trailers without a shutoff nozzle (Section 864.2) <p>Water Waste Ordinance (SMC 13.10.060) already covers/prohibits the regulated issues of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washing of driveways and sidewalks (Section 864.3) Runoff to adjacent properties or streets (Section 864.1) | Email to CAP Tue 8/5/2014 2:10 PM |
| Valley of the Moon Water District | 8/5/2014 | Stage 2 Mandatory Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of a garden or utility hose without a hose-end shut-off nozzle Service of water in restaurants except upon request Using potable water for street washing Washing sidewalks, patios, driveways and other hardscapes unless for public health and safety Recycled water must be used for construction dust control Irrigation is limited to the hours between 8pm and 6am | VOMWD Board of Directors Meeting of August 5, 2014 |
| Town of Windsor | 8/6/2014 | Stage 2 Mandatory Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automated sprinkler irrigation must be properly controlled and performed in non-wasteful and efficient manner Irrigation is limited to the hours between 7pm and 9am The amount of water normally required to maintain a healthy landscape shall be reduced by 20 percent, based on landscape size, plant water requirement, and current weather as specified in section 12-3-835 of the Windsor Municipal Code. | Town of Windsor Council Meeting of August 6, 2014 |

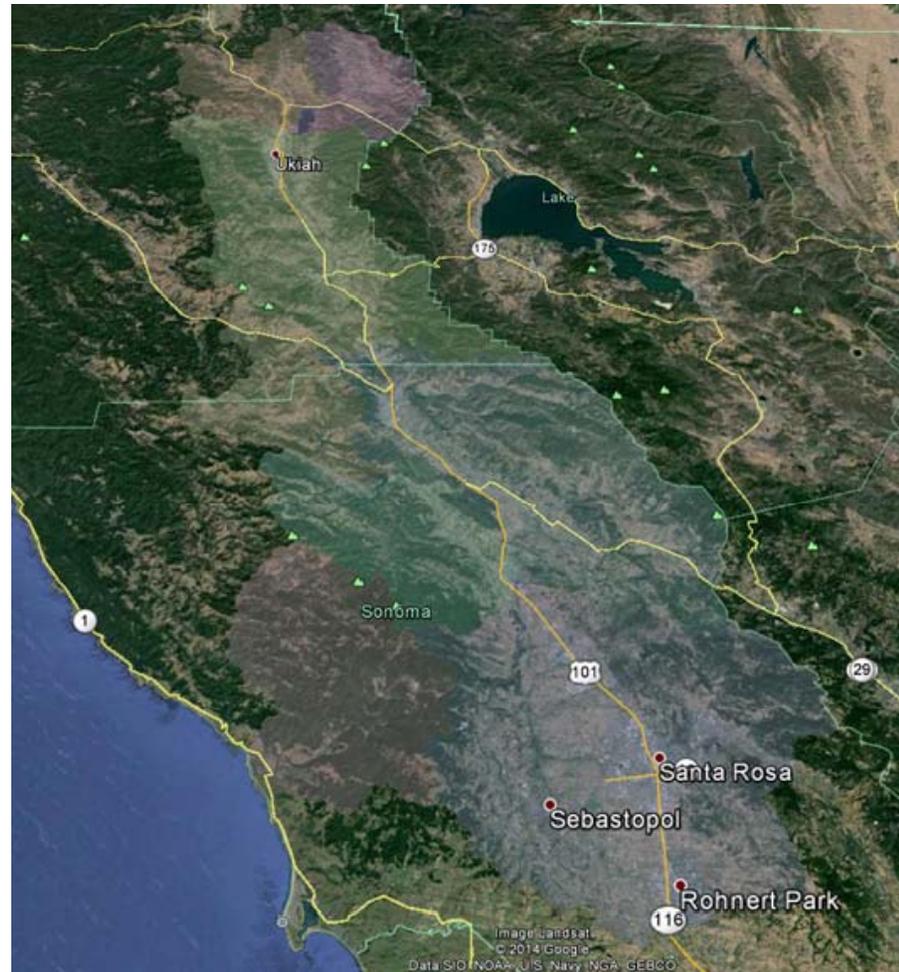
Table 1 – Water Agency Contractors’ Strategies for Implementing Emergency Urban Water Conservation Regulations

Sonoma County Water Agency Photographs in Vicinity of Main Diversion Facilities at Wohler and Mirabel Park

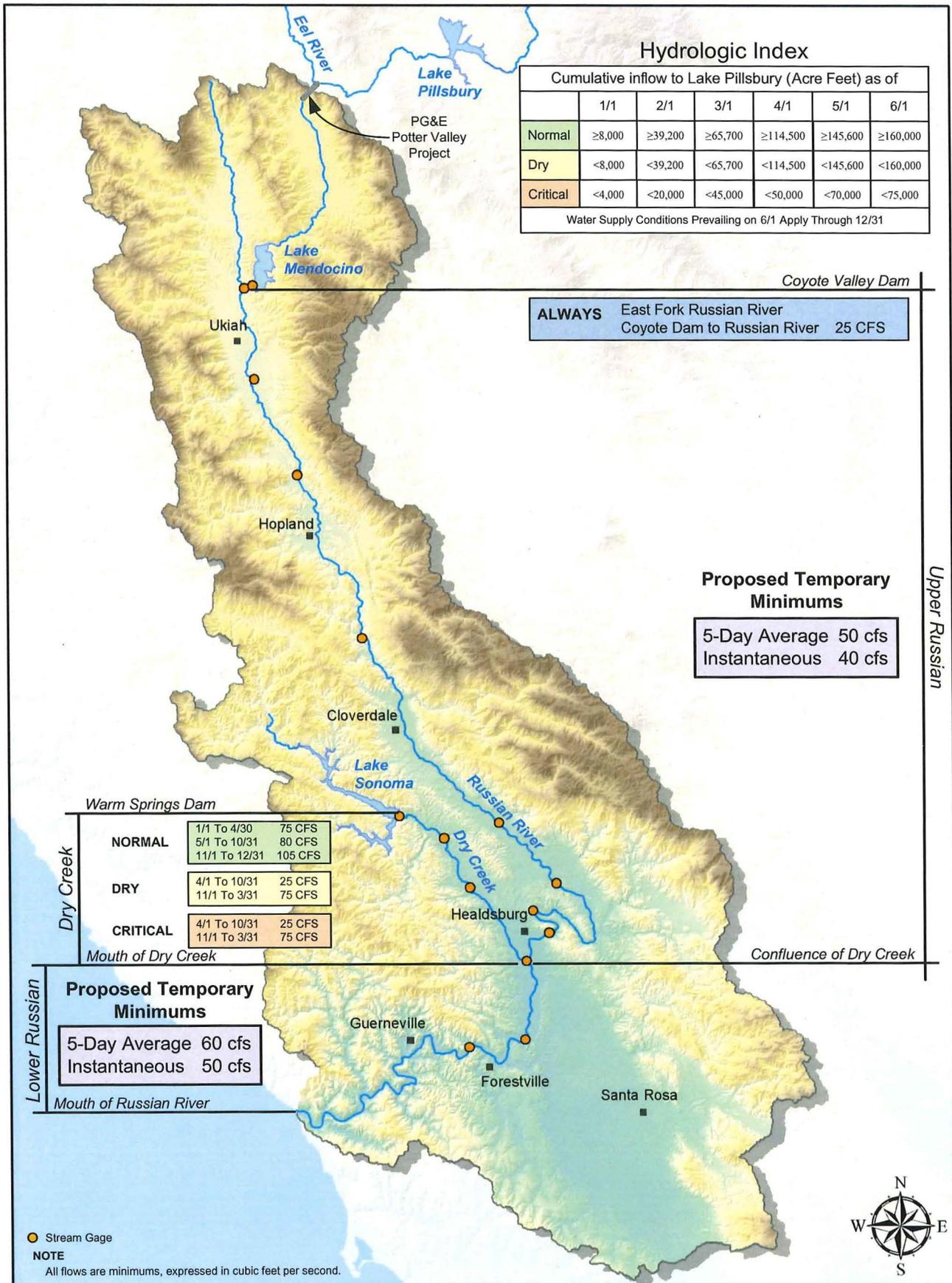
Russian River Between at Mirabel Park on July 25, 2014



Russian River Watershed



August 2014 Temporary Urgency Change Petition



Russian River Basin
Proposed Minimum Instream Flow Requirements
 August 15, 2014 to February 10, 2015