

State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE PETITIONS FOR PERMITS 12947A, 12949, 12950, AND 16596 (APPLICATIONS 12919A, 15736, 15737, AND 19351) OF SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

COUNTIES: MENDOCINO AND SONOMA

STREAM SYSTEM: RUSSIAN RIVER

On April 24, 2019, Sonoma County Water Agency (Petitioner) filed temporary urgency change petitions with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Water Rights (Division) requesting approval of temporary changes to water right Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16596 (Applications 12919A, 15736, 15737, and 19351) pursuant to Chapter 6.6 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Water Code. The petitions seek authorization to temporarily reduce the minimum instream flow requirements specified under the subject permits due to operational constraints placed on the Petitioner pursuant to the September 24, 2008, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion for Water Supply, Flood Control Operations, and Channel Maintenance conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, SCWA, and the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District in the Russian River watershed (Biological Opinion). The requested changes to the instream flows are as follows:

- From May 1 through October 15, 2019, reduce instream flow requirements for the upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork of the Russian River to its confluence with Dry Creek) from 185 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 125 cfs.
- From May 1 through October 15, 2019, reduce instream flow requirements for the lower Russian River (from its confluence with Dry Creek to the Pacific Ocean) from 125 cfs to 70 cfs.

The minimum instream flow requirement for the upper Russian River will be implemented as a 5-day running average of average daily stream flow measurements, with the stipulation that instantaneous stream flows on the upper Russian River will be no less than 110 cfs and on the lower Russian River no less than 60 cfs. This will allow the Petitioner to manage stream flows with a smaller operational buffer, thereby facilitating the attainment of the flow conditions that the Biological Opinion has concluded are conducive to the enhancement of salmonid habitat.

More information regarding the temporary urgency change petitions is available at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/index.shtml

Pursuant to Water Code section 1438, subdivision (a), the State Water Board may issue an Order approving or denying a temporary urgency change petition in advance of public notice.

Pursuant to Water Code section 1438, subdivision (d), any interested person may file an objection to the temporary change. Objections must be received by the Division by 4:30 p.m. on **June 10, 2019**. Objections filed with the Division must indicate the manner in which service upon the Petitioner of a duplicate copy of the protest has been made. Correspondence directed to the Petitioner should be addressed to:

Sonoma County Water Agency
Attn: Grant Davis, General Manager
404 Aviation Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-9019
Grant.Davis@scwa.ca.gov

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For more information regarding this project, including procedures for filing objections, please contact Ken Emanuel at (916) 341-5317 or kenneth.emanuel@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondence or inquiries should be addressed as follows: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attn: Ken Emanuel, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

DATE OF NOTICE: **May 10, 2019**