

**State Water Resources Control Board**

**INFORMATION MEETING ON RUSSIAN RIVER TRIBUTARIES  
WATER CONSERVATION AND INFORMATIONAL ORDER  
EMERGENCY REGULATION**

On November 2, 2015, from 6:00-9:00 pm in Santa Rosa, State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff will update the community on the Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation<sup>1</sup>. State Water Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff will provide information on the current condition of the fisheries, impact of conservation and voluntary drought initiatives and status of data collected through the regulation’s informational order. Time will also be set aside to discuss additional potential short-term and long-term solutions to address the needs of the fish and other uses of water moving forward.

This is a follow-up to the State Water Board’s [July 2015 Information Meetings](#) for the Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation. A quorum of the State Water Board may be present at the meeting. However, no State Water Board action will be taken.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
November 2, 2015 (Monday)	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Sonoma County Veterans Memorial Building Auditorium 1351 Maple Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**To ensure we have adequate facilities, interested parties that plan to attend the meeting are requested to RSVP at least 48 hours in advance to the Russian River Tributaries email address ([rr\\_tribs\\_emergency\\_reg@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rr_tribs_emergency_reg@waterboards.ca.gov)) or Russian River Tributaries Phone Hotline (916.322.8422).** Please provide your name, number of attendees, and organization (if applicable). Note that providing your name and organization are optional.

**Background**

The ongoing drought emergency has placed juvenile Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon (coho salmon) and CCC steelhead (steelhead) in Russian River tributaries in a perilous situation. Low flows, already a problem before the drought, have been made worse by the extremely dry conditions. Use of surface and groundwater during these dry conditions reduces instream flows and results in disconnected stream systems. Isolated pools resulting from this disconnected stream system contain low oxygen levels and elevated temperatures that stress and kill fish and threaten coho salmon with extinction. The coho salmon is identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service as one of eight endangered species under its jurisdiction that is most at risk of extinction.

<sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 876, “Emergency Enhanced Water Conservation and Additional Water User Information for the Protection of Specific Fisheries in Tributaries to the Russian River.”

The Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §876.) went into effect on July 6, 2015 and is designed to help protect federal- and state-listed anadromous fish in four priority Russian River tributary watersheds (Dutch Bill Creek, Green Valley Creek, Mark West Creek and Mill Creek). The emergency regulation consists of two elements:

1. [Enhanced Water Conservation Measures](#) – Users of water diverted from the critical portions of the four watersheds, including both surface water and groundwater<sup>2</sup>, are required to implement enhanced water conservation measures.
2. [Information Order Authority](#) – The State Water Board is authorized to collect information on surface and groundwater use in the four watersheds. On August 24, 2015, the State Water Board issued [Order WR 2015-0026-DWR](#): Order for Additional Information in the Matter of Diversion of Water from the Dutch Bill Creek, Green Valley Creek, portions of Mark West Creek, and Mill Creek watersheds, as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 876(e) (Order) to landowners in and suppliers of water from the priority tributary watersheds. This information is needed to accurately estimate the total water demand and the uses of water in these four watersheds to inform additional actions to protect federal- and state-listed anadromous fish, if needed in the future.

### **Additional Information**

Per the regulation, notices and updates regarding the emergency regulation will be provided by email and posting on the State Water Board’s webpage. To receive emails, sign up for the “Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation” email list under the “Water Rights” section online at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml).

Information related to the Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation is available online: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/water\\_action\\_russian\\_river](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/water_action_russian_river)

---

<sup>2</sup> Users of water sourced from the critical portion of the watersheds are required to comply with the enhanced water conservation measures (CCR §876(d)).