

State Water Resources Control Board

**FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON
RUSSIAN RIVER TRIBUTARIES
DROUGHT EMERGENCY REGULATION INFORMATIONAL ORDER**

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff will hold a meeting on August 28, 2017 in Santa Rosa, to update the community on results of the information provided by landowners and water suppliers in Dutch Bill Creek, Green Valley Creek, portions of Mark West Creek, and Mill Creek watersheds under [Order WR 2015-0026-DWR](#)¹ (Informational Order). This is a follow-up to the State Water Board’s [Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation](#).² While a quorum of the State Water Board may be present at the meeting, no State Water Board action will be taken. Details of the meeting are provided below.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
August 28, 2017 (Monday)	5:30 – 7:00 pm	Sonoma County Veterans Memorial Building Auditorium 1351 Maple Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95404

State Water Board staff will provide a summary of the information collected through the Informational Order, how the data may be used to inform management decisions in the future, and an overview of ongoing efforts under the California Water Action Plan to enhance stream flows statewide. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff will provide information about the current condition of the Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon (coho salmon) and CCC steelhead (steelhead) fisheries.

Background

In 2015, in collaboration with CDFW and the National Marine Fisheries Service, the State Water Board identified a need to adopt an emergency regulation to protect coho salmon and steelhead in the Dutch Bill, Green Valley, portions of Mark West, and Mill Creek watersheds. The drought emergency conditions placed juvenile coho salmon and steelhead in Russian River tributaries in a perilous situation. Low flows, already a problem before the drought, were made worse by the extremely dry conditions. Summer diversions tend to be high and summer streamflows tend to be low in Russian River tributaries during normal water years. Low flow conditions can persist

¹ State Water Board [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(c)(1) – Issued August 24, 2015.

² 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.”

into the fall in extremely dry years. There are also significant numbers of surface and sub-surface diversions in the four watersheds.

On June 17, 2015, the State Water Board adopted an emergency regulation to help protect federal- and state-listed anadromous fish in the four priority Russian River tributary watersheds. On August 24, 2015, the Deputy Director issued the Informational Order pursuant to authority delegated through the regulation requiring all landowners and water suppliers in the four watersheds (approximately 10,100 parties) to provide information on their sources and uses of water. On March 1, 2016, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2016-0012](#) to renew the informational order provisions of the emergency regulation; the updated emergency regulation became effective on March 30, 2016. While some limited enforcement is still possible for violations of the order, State Water Board staff has largely concluded its Informational Order data collection and processing effort, and will share a summary of the information collected.

California Water Action Plan – Ongoing Effort

The California Water Action Plan (CWAP), signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2014, has three broad objectives: 1) more reliable water supplies; 2) restoration of important species and habitat; and 3) a more resilient and sustainably managed water resources system. As part of the second objective, the State Water Board and CDFW are working to identify potential actions that may be taken to enhance and establish instream flow for anadromous fish, starting with five (5) priority streams: Mark West Creek is one of the five priority streams³ identified for this effort. One of the potential actions identified in the CWAP is the establishment of instream flows, which requires water availability and water demand data for a watershed. As part of this effort, the United States Geological Survey is updating the Santa Rosa Plain surface water-groundwater model with streamflow data collected during the drought and water use data collected as part of the Informational Order. The model is a critical tool that will be used to study the potential benefits and impacts of different instream flow scenarios.

Contact and Resources

If you have questions related to this meeting or the California Water Action Plan, please contact Valerie Zimmer by email at Valerie.Zimmer@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 319-0368.

Webpages:

- Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/water_action_russianriver.shtml
- California Water Action Plan Effort to Enhance Water Flows in Stream Systems Statewide:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/instream_flows/cwap_enhancing/

³ The other four streams are: Mill Creek (tributary to the Sacramento River); Shasta River; South Fork Eel River; and Ventura River.