

Why and What is the Emergency Regulation?

On June 17, 2015 the State Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted an Emergency Regulation for Enhanced Water Conservation and Addition Water User Information for the Protection of Specific Fisheries in Tributaries to the Russian River. The emergency regulation, which is in effect for 270 days, became effective on July 6, 2015. This regulation affects four tributary watersheds (Dutch Bill, Green Valley, Mark West and Mill Creeks) within the Russian River Watershed. The emergency regulation is intended to help maintain suitable habitat and water quality conditions (low temperature, high dissolved oxygen) during the summer for rearing Central California Coast coho salmon and Central California Coast steelhead.

The Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation has two components (1) enhanced conservation measures on the use of water sourced from within the four tributaries; and (2) informational orders on water use. A “critical area” (see right panel) is identified for each watershed.

Conservation measures are required in the critical areas of the four priority watersheds and may be extended to additional portions or the watersheds. If residents in the four priority watersheds sole source of water is from outside the waterside (i.e. deliveries from Sonoma County Water Agency or other water suppliers with no surface water or groundwater diversions), then residents are not subject to conservation portion of the regulation. All landowners and water suppliers in the priority watersheds will have to comply with any informational orders issued by the State Water Board. These informational orders may request information about use and diversion of water from both surface diversion and sub-surface diversions (groundwater). Landowners and water suppliers will have 30 days to comply. An extension may be requested upon substantial compliance with the 30-day deadline and a showing of good cause.

Critical Areas

The State Water Board recognizes that the upper portion of each of the watersheds is the most critical for mid- to late-summer rearing of state and federally threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead species. These upper portions are defined as:

(A) On **Mark West Creek**, the portion of the watershed upstream of the confluence with an unnamed tributary (the tributary flowing parallel to western Riebli Road) as defined by the Latitude/Longitude of 38.5066°N and 122.72607°W.

(B) On **Mill Creek**, the portion of the watershed upstream of the confluence with Felta Creek, and including Felta Creek, as defined by the Latitude/Longitude of 38.58098°N and 122.88306°W.

(C) On **Green Valley Creek**, the portion of the watershed upstream of the confluence with Atascadero Creek as defined by the Latitude/Longitude of 38.44841°N and 122.88697°W.

(D) On **Dutch Bill Creek**, the portion of the watershed upstream of the confluence with Tyrone Gulch as defined by the Latitude/Longitude of 38.44776°N and 122.99979°W.

What Can I Do?

- Use the mapping tool to determine your responsibilities under the emergency regulation
- Implement conservation measures to save water
- Visit www.saveourwater.com for conservation tips and share with neighbors

Mapping Tool

To determine the responsibility of landowners and water users under the Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation use the look up tool to identify which area a property lies within and associated responsibilities under the emergency regulation. Visit the look up tool at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/docs/russian_river/



DROUGHT-RELATED EMERGENCY REGULATION INFORMATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF SPECIFIC FISHERIES IN TRIBUTARIES TO THE RUSSIAN RIVER



Green Valley Creek
Pool with minimal hydrologic connection
June 19, 2014

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Conservation Measures

Russian River Tributaries Conservation Measures (CCR §876)

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/water_action_russianriver.shtml

Prohibited for Everyone

- Irrigation of all ornamental turf*
- Runoff of water when irrigating
 - Outdoor irrigation of landscapes from 8am-8pm*
- Outdoor irrigation during & 48 hours following measurable precipitation*
 - Outdoor irrigation of landscapes more than two days per week*
 - Using water to wash sidewalks & driveways
- Washing of motor vehicles except at car wash facilities with a recirculating system*
- Using water in a fountain or other decorative water feature without a recirculating system*
- Using water to fill or refill decorative ponds, fountains or other decorative water features*

*Use of gray water or untreated rainwater is allowed.

Note: The Russian River Tributaries water conservation measures apply to all potable and non-potable water from areas within the four tributary watersheds of Dutch Bill Creek, Green Valley Creek, Mark West Creek and Mill Creek. Water may be used to address immediate health and safety needs and where used exclusively for irrigation of commercial agriculture.

State-Wide Conservation Measures (CCR §863-866)

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/emergency_regulation.shtml

Prohibited for Everyone

- Using of potable water to wash sidewalks & driveways
- Runoff when irrigating with potable water
- Using hoses with no shutoff nozzles to water cars
- Using of outdoor irrigation during & 48 hours following measurable precipitation
- Using potable water to irrigate ornamental turf on public street medians
- Using potable water to irrigate landscapes of new homes & buildings inconsistent with CBSC & DHCD requirements

Required for Water Suppliers

- Achieve designated conservation standard (4%-36%)
- Notify customers about leaks that are within the customer's control
- Report on water use, compliance & enforcement

Required for Business

- Restaurants & other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request
- Hotels & motels must provide guests with the options of not having towels & linens laundered daily



Last Updated 07/02/2015

More Information

Additional information is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/water_action_russianriver.shtml

To receive updated information, subscribe to the "Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation" (Water Rights section) email list:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

Partners



Contact Us

**Russian River Tributaries
Emergency Regulation Hotline**
Phone Number: (916) 322-8422

**Russian River Tributaries Emergency
Regulation Email:**
rr_tribs_emergency_reg@waterboards.ca.gov

Prepared by the Office of Public Participation
July 2015