


Update on Water Rights and Fisheries Management Actions in the Russian River Watershed

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Meeting
January 28, 2016



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Presentation Outline

- Overview of the Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation
- Overview of Information Submitted in Response to the Informational Order
- Potential Short Term Actions
- Long Term Actions – California Water Action Plan

Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation

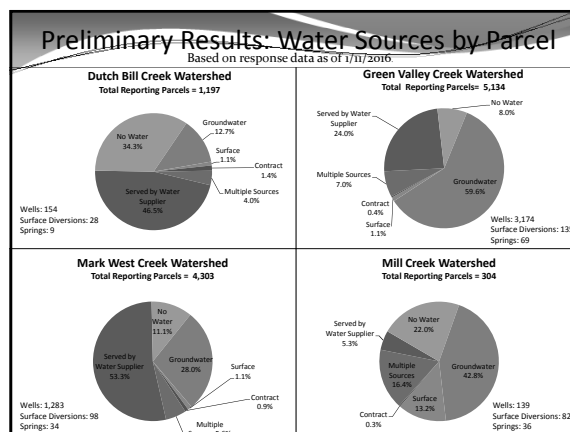
- Effective Date: **July 6, 2015 – April 1, 2016 (270 days)**
- Applies to four Russian River tributary watersheds:
 - Dutch Bill Creek
 - Green Valley Creek
 - Mark West Creek (portions of)
 - Mill Creek
- Two components (similar to other drought emergency regulations adopted by the State Water Board):
 - Enhanced Water Conservation Measures (currently applies only to critical areas of four watersheds)
 - Informational Order (required for entire area of four watersheds)

Outreach Meetings

- Five July Outreach Meetings
 - Overview of Emergency Regulation and Resources
 - Who is impacted and how
 - July 6-9, 2015 (Occidental, Healdsburg, Forestville, Santa Rosa)
 - Estimate **700-900** people attended
- Follow Up Meeting- November 2, 2015
 - Status of Conservation Measures and Effectiveness
 - Preliminary Results of Information Order
 - Estimate 60 people attended

Informational Order Timeline and Response Rates

- Information Order Issued (12,325 Parcels/ Purveyors):
 - Mailed August 26 - September 18, 2015
 - Last Response Due October 23, 2015 (30 days after receipt)
 - Response Rate= **~50%**
- Information Order Reminder (5,938 Parcels/ Purveyors):
 - Mailed October 28-30, 2015
 - Total Response Rate= **~80%** (December 13, 2015)
- Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (1,881 Parcels/ Purveyors):
 - Mailed December 15, 2015 via Certified Mail
 - 20 days from receipt to respond (ongoing)
 - Total Response Rate= **~90%** (January 21, 2016)
- Ownership Changes and Special Cases: Ongoing



Next Steps: Short-term Actions related to Emergency Regulations

- Complete Information Order Data Collection
 - 1,223 "missing" responses as of January 21, 2016
- Quality Control Submitted Data and Follow up
- Preliminary Data Analysis
- Evaluation of Precipitation and Streamflow data
- Re-adoption of Emergency Regulation to State Water Board (March 2016)

California Water Action Plan

January 22, 2014

- Developed at direction of Governor Brown by:
 - California Department of Food and Agriculture
 - California Environmental Protection Agency
 - California Natural Resources Agency
- Plan will guide state efforts to:
 - Enhance water supply reliability
 - Restore damaged and destroyed ecosystems
 - Improve resilience of California's infrastructure
- Outlines California's near- and long-term water priorities, including drought

Action 4 – Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems

Sub-action: Enhance Water Flows in Stream Systems Statewide

"The State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife will implement a suite of individual and coordinated administrative efforts to enhance flows statewide in at least five stream systems that support critical habitat for anadromous fish. These actions include developing defensible, cost-effective, and time-sensitive approaches to establish instream flows using sound science and a transparent public process. When developing and implementing this action, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife will consider their public trust responsibility and existing statutory authorities such as maintaining fish in good condition."

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Watersheds Identified

- **Mark West Creek**, tributary to the Russian River, Sonoma County
- **Mill Creek**, tributary to the Sacramento River, Shasta and Tehama Counties
- **Shasta River**, tributary to the Klamath River, Siskiyou County
- **South Fork Eel River**, tributary to the Eel River, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties
- **Ventura River**, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties

Actions To Date or Underway

- Held meetings with regional and headquarters staff in four of five watersheds
- Developing contracts for:
 - Hydrology and groundwater modeling
 - Water rights evaluation tools
- Identifying gauging needs
- Compiling and evaluating existing information

Region 1 Watersheds:

Mark West Creek, South Fork Eel River, and Shasta River

- Held two public outreach workshops in the Russian River Watershed on water and fish
- Working to establish USGS contract for a groundwater-surface water interaction model for entire Russian River Watershed (identified as medium priority under SGMA)
 - Joint effort between Sonoma County Water Agency, State Water Board, and potentially others that would like to participate

- **Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation**

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

- **California Water Action Plan - Enhance Water Flows in Stream Systems Statewide**

- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/instream_flows/cwap_enhancing/#heading

- **Email List Subscription Form**

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