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Agency Secretary

State Water Resources Control Board



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Division of Water Rights

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In Reply Refer
to:333:LLE:266.0

Mr. Randy D. Poole
General Manager/Chief Engineer
Sonoma County Water Agency
P. O. Box 11628
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

Dear Mr. Poole:

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY'S WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS

On November 18, 2004, the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) presented its Water Conservation Status Report to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The presentation was a requirement of the SWRCB's July 26, 2004 order approving SCWA's request for a temporary urgency change in the minimum flow requirements for the Russian River. The written submittal of the Water Conservation Status Report outlines (1) the work SCWA has done over the previous four years to improve water conservation within the SCWA service area, (2) additional water savings during the term of the Temporary Urgency Change, and (3) future water conservation and estimated savings.

During the presentation, members of the SWRCB expressed concern over the one-to-two percent net yearly increase in diversions from the Russian River. In light of SCWA's request for a temporary urgency change to reduce required minimum flows in the Russian River, and the probability of similar requests in the future, members of the SWRCB asked SCWA to do more to stabilize Russian River diversions.

The SWRCB requested that SCWA return to a board workshop in the spring of 2005 to provide the SWRCB with a detailed plan of water conservation efforts that will offset future increases in demand, which in turn will result in no increase in Russian River diversions.

Using the 2003 level of demand as a baseline, the plan should include:

1. Increases in demand projected to the year 2020 and broken down by source.
2. Proposed conservation methods to offset projected demand during the same period.
3. Estimated water savings from proposed conservation methods.
4. Estimated monetary costs of water conservation activities.
5. Source of financing for the conservation activities.

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The SWRCB recognizes that SCWA obtains its water supply from Lake Sonoma and from Lake Mendocino, and that SCWA shares the yield of Lake Mendocino with Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (District). The SWRCB is interested in receiving information that includes the entire reach of the Russian River and requests that you contact the District about making a joint presentation to the Board regarding a coordinated effort at the April 5, 2005 Board Workshop. If for some reason this is not workable, please let the Division know as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please telephone Luann Erickson at (916) 341-5318 or me at (916) 341-5337.

Sincerely,

Steven Herrera, Chief
Water Rights Permitting Section

cc: Ms. Barbara Spazek, Executive Director
Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and
Water Conservation Improvement District
151 Laws Avenue, Suite D
Ukiah, CA 95482