

FILE:42-4.19&6.19-9 CORRESPONDENCE RELATED  
TO SWRCB ORDER APPROVING TEMPORARY URGENCY  
CHANGE IN PERMITS 12947A, 12949, 12950& 16596  
(2009)

Victoria Whitney, Chief  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

**RE: TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE PETITION**

Dear Ms. Whitney:

Enclosed is a Petition for Temporary Urgency Change in the minimum instream flow requirements in the Russian River under Decision 1610, together with a supporting Analysis. Unusual hydrologic conditions in the Russian River, coupled with reductions in water imported to the Russian River basin via the Potter Valley Project, warrant immediate action to avoid significant risks to the storage levels in Lake Mendocino. Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) requests that the Division act immediately to approve the requested instream flow requirements so that water can be conserved in Lake Mendocino and avert the possibility of the lake going dry during September.

In 2007, the Agency filed a similar petition to mitigate impacts resulting from anticipated low lake levels. The approval of that petition by the State Board was critical to protecting the Chinook salmon in the Russian River during their fall migration and spawning. This year, the storage projections for Lake Mendocino are far more severe and there is valid concern that the lake could go dry. For this reason, the Agency requests that the Division act on this petition as soon as possible so that conservation of water in the lake can begin.

I look forward to cooperating with the Division of Water Rights on this important conservation effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy D. Poole", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Randy D. Poole  
General Manager/Chief Engineer

Encs Urgency Change Petition, Environmental Form, Hydrological Report, DFG environmental review fee, and SWRCB petition fees

RW\\files\server\data\CL\pinks\week040609\TUCP transmittal to SWRCB 04-06-09.DOC

State of California  
State Water Resources Control Board  
**DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS**  
**P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000**  
Info: (916) 341-5300, FAX: (916) 341-5400, Web: <http://www.waterrights.ca.gov>

**PETITION FOR TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE**

(Water Code 1435)

X  Change in Instream Flow Requirements

Applications # 12919A, 15736, 15737, 19351 Permits # 12947A, 12949, 12950, 16596

I (we) Sonoma County Water Agency hereby petition for a temporary urgency  
(Water Right Holders Name)  
change(s) noted above and described as follows:

The Sonoma County Water Agency requests that the State Water Resources Control Board make the following temporary changes to the Decision 1610 (D-1610) instream flow requirements: (a) for April 6 through June 30, the D-1610 requirements for Dry conditions will apply in the Russian River (these requirements are 75 cfs in the Upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork to its confluence with Dry Creek) and 85 cfs in the Lower Russian River (downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek)); (b) if, during the period from April 1 through June 30, total inflow into Lake Mendocino is less than or equal to 25,000 AF, then, for July 1 through October 2, the D-1610 requirements for Critical conditions will apply in the Russian River (these requirements are 25 cfs in the Upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork to its confluence with Dry Creek) and 35 cfs in the Lower Russian River (downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek)); and (c) if, during the period from April 1 through June 30, 2009, total inflow into Lake Mendocino is greater than 25,000 AF, then, for July 1 through October 2, the D-1610 requirements for Dry conditions will apply in the Russian River.

These conditions must be implemented to prevent Lake Mendocino from going dry, which would severely impact threatened Russian River fish species, create serious water-supply impacts in Mendocino County and in the Alexander Valley in Sonoma County, and harm Lake Mendocino and Russian River recreation.

**Point of Diversion or Rediversion** (Give coordinate distances from section corner or California Coordinates, and the 40-acre subdivision in which the present and proposed points lie.)

Present see permits Proposed no change

**Place of Use** (If irrigation, then state number of acres to be irrigated within each 40-acre tract.)

Present see permits Proposed no change

**Purpose of Use**

Present see permits Proposed no change

Does the proposed use serve to preserve or enhance wetlands habitat, fish and wildlife resources, or recreation in or on the water (See WC 1707)? Yes (yes/no)

The temporary urgency change(s) is to be effective from April 6, 2009 to October 2, 2009  
(Cannot exceed 180 days)

Will this temporary urgency change be made without injury to any lawful user of water? Yes (yes/no)

Will this temporary urgency change be made without unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, and other instream beneficial uses? Yes (yes/no)

State the "Urgent Need" (Water Code 1435(c)) that is the basis of this temporary urgency change petition (attach additional information as necessary):

Please See Attached Report "Hydrologic Analysis of Lake Mendocino Storage Under 2009 Conditions"

If the point of diversion or redirection is being changed, is any person(s) taking water from the stream between the old point of diversion or redirection and the proposed point?

Not Applicable (yes/no)

Are there any persons taking water from the stream between the old point of return flow and the new point of return flow? Not Applicable (yes/no)

If yes, give name and address, as well as any other person(s) known to you who may be affected by the proposed change.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I (we) consulted the California Department of Fish and Game concerning this proposed temporary change. Yes (yes/no)

If yes, state the name and phone number of the person contacted and the opinion concerning the potential effects of your proposed temporary urgency change on fish and wildlife and state the measures required for mitigation.

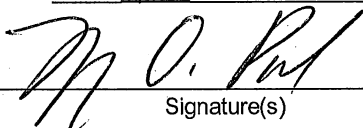
Contacted, Dan Wilson: (707)-944-5534, California Department of Fish and Game, (DFG). DFG will be providing comments under separate cover.

Contacted Dr. William Hearn, (707) 575-6062, NOAA Fisheries. NOAA Fisheries will be providing comments under separate cover.

**THIS TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE DOES NOT INVOLVE AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF THE APPROPRIATION OR SEASON OF USE. THIS TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE IS REQUESTED FOR A PERIOD OF ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS OR LESS.**

I (we) declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge and belief.

Dated April 6, 2009 at Santa Rosa, California

 (707) 521-6205  
Signature(s) Telephone No.

404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
(Address)

**NOTE:** All petitions must be accompanied by the **filing fee**, (see fee schedule at [www.waterrights.ca.gov](http://www.waterrights.ca.gov)) made payable to the State Water Resources Control Board and an **\$850 fee** made payable to the Department of Fish and Game must accompany this petition. Separate petitions are required for each water right.

California Environmental Protection Agency

State Water Resources Control Board

**DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS**

**P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000**

Info: (916) 341-5300, FAX: (916) 341-5400, Web: <http://www.waterrights.ca.gov>

**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION  
FOR PETITIONS**

X  Petition for Change

     Petition for Extension of Time

Before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) can approve a petition to change your water right permit or a petition for extension of time to complete use, the SWRCB must consider the information contained in an environmental document prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This form is not a CEQA document. If a CEQA document has not yet been prepared, a determination must be made of who is responsible for its preparation. As the petitioner, you are responsible for all costs associated with the environmental evaluation and preparation of the required CEQA documents. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability and submit any studies that have been conducted regarding the environmental evaluation of your project. If you need more space to completely answer the questions, please number and attach additional sheets.

**1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES OR WORK REMAINING TO BE COMPLETED**

For a petition to change, provide a description of the proposed changes to your project including, but not limited to, type of construction activity, structures existing or to be built, area to be graded or excavated, increase in water diversion and use (up to the amount authorized by the permit), changes in land use, and project operational changes, including changes in how the water will be used. For a petition for extension of time, provide a description of what work has been completed and what remains to be done. Include in your description any of the above elements that will occur during the requested extension period.

The Sonoma County Water Agency requests that the State Water Resources Control Board make the following temporary changes to the Decision 1610 (D-1610) instream flow requirements: (a) for April 6 through June 30, the D-1610 requirements for Dry conditions will apply in the Russian River (these requirements are 75 cfs in the Upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork to its confluence with Dry Creek) and 85 cfs in the Lower Russian River (downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek)); (b) if, during the period from April 1 through June 30, total inflow into Lake Mendocino is less than or equal to 25,000 AF, then, for July 1 through October 2, the D-1610 requirements for Critical Dry conditions will apply in the Russian River (these requirements are 25 cfs in the Upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork to its confluence with Dry Creek) and 35 cfs in the Lower Russian River (downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek)); (c) if, during the period from April 1 through June 30, 2009, total inflow into Lake Mendocino is greater than 25,000 AF, then, for July 1 through October 2, the D-1610 requirements for Dry conditions will apply in the Russian River. These conditions must be implemented to prevent Lake Mendocino from going dry severely impacting listed and threatened Russian River fish species, create serious water-supply impacts in Mendocino County, in the Alexander Valley in Sonoma County and harm Lake Mendocino and Russian River recreation

*See Attached – Hydrologic Analysis of Lake Mendocino Storage Under 2009 Conditions*

**2. COUNTY PERMITS**

a. Contact your county planning or public works department and provide the following information:

Person contacted: Not Applicable Date of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

County Zoning Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Are any county permits required for your project? YES  NO If YES, check appropriate box below:

Grading permit Use permit Watercourse Obstruction permit Change of zoning

General plan change Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Have you obtained any of the required permits described above? YES NO

If YES, provide a complete copy of each permit obtained.

See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_

**3. STATE/FEDERAL PERMITS AND REQUIREMENTS**

a. Check any additional state or federal permits required for your project:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission U.S. Forest Service Bureau of Land Management  
Soil Conservation Service Dept. of Water Resources (Div. of Safety of Dams) Reclamation Board  
Coastal Commission State Lands Commission Other (specify) Not Applicable

b. For each agency from which a permit is required, provide the following information:

AGENCY	PERMIT TYPE	PERSON(S) CONTACTED	CONTACT DATE	TELEPHONE NO.
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See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_

c. Does your proposed project involve any construction or grading-related activity that has significantly altered or would significantly alter the bed or bank of any stream or lake? YES  NO

If YES, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_

- d. Have you contacted the California Department of Fish and Game concerning your project?  YES  NO  
If YES, name and telephone number of contact: Dan Wilson: (707)-944-5534

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS**

- a. Has any California public agency prepared an environmental document for your project?  YES  NO  
If YES, submit a copy of the latest environmental document(s) prepared, including a copy of the notice of determination adopted by the California public agency. Public agency: Sonoma County Water Agency
- b. If NO, check the appropriate box and explain below, if necessary:  
The petitioner is a California public agency and will be preparing the environmental document.\*  
I expect that the SWRCB will be preparing the environmental document.\*\*  
I expect that a California public agency other than the State Water Resources Control Board will be preparing the environmental document.\* Public agency: \_\_\_\_\_

*See Attached – Notice of Exemption*

\* **Note:** When completed, submit a copy of the final environmental document (including notice of determination) or notice of exemption to the SWRCB, Division of Water Rights. Processing of your petition cannot proceed until these documents are submitted.

\*\* **Note:** CEQA requires that the SWRCB, as Lead Agency, prepare the environmental document. The information contained in the environmental document must be developed by the petitioner and at the petitioner's expense under the direction of the SWRCB, Division of Water Rights.

**5. WASTE/WASTEWATER**

- a. Will your project, during construction or operation, (1) generate waste or wastewater containing such things as sewage, industrial chemicals, metals, or agricultural chemicals, or (2) cause erosion, turbidity or sedimentation? YES  NO

If YES, or you are unsure of your answer, explain below and contact your local Regional Water Quality Control Board for the following information (See instruction booklet for address and telephone no.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

*See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_\_*

- b. Will a waste discharge permit be required for your project? YES  NO  
Person contacted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of contact: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What method of treatment and disposal will be used? Not Applicable

*See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_\_*

**6. ARCHEOLOGY**

- a. Have any archeological reports been prepared on this project? YES  NO
- b. Will you be preparing an archeological report to satisfy another public agency? YES  NO
- c. Do you know of any archeological or historic sites located within the general project area? YES  NO

If YES, explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

See Attachment No. \_\_\_\_

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING Not Applicable**

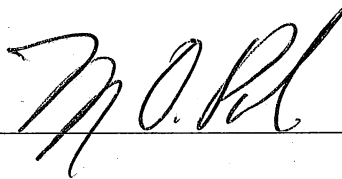
Attach **three complete sets of color photographs**, clearly dated and labeled, showing the vegetation that exists at the below-listed three locations. For time extension petitions, the photographs should document only those areas of the project that will be impacted during the requested extension period.

1. Along the stream channel immediately downstream from the proposed point(s) of diversion.
2. Along the stream channel immediately upstream from the proposed point(s) of diversion.
3. At the place(s) where the water is to be used.

**8. CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the statements I have furnished above and in the attachments are complete to the best of my ability and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date: April 6, 2009

Signature: 



TO THE TREASURER OF THE  
 COUNTY OF SONOMA  
 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA  
 OR ANY BANK OR BANKER

CLAIMS WARRANT  
 REVOLVING FUND 10-052-000

WARRANT NO.  
 1026030

11-35  
 1210

PAY THIS AMOUNT
*****\$21,915.70

DATE 04/02/2009  
 VOID AFTER SIX MONTHS

PAY *Twenty one thousand nine hundred fifteen and 70/100 Dollars*

To The Order Of  
 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
 CONTROL BOARD  
 PO BOX 2000  
 SACRAMENTO CA 95810

*[Signature]*  
 ROSEMARY A. DOLE  
 AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

SIGNATURE AREA CONTAINS A KNIGHT & FINGERPRINT CHECK WORDING

⑈0001026030⑈ ⑆21000358⑆ 00439⑈80050⑈

ABSENCE OF PINK U.S. PATENT NUMBERS UNDER SIGNATURE INDICATES CHECK IS FRAUDULENT. PATENT NUMBERS ARE PRINTED WITH HEAT SENSITIVE INK & WILL DISAPPEAR WHEN BLOWING OR RUBBING



TO THE TREASURER OF THE  
 COUNTY OF SONOMA  
 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA  
 OR ANY BANK OR BANKER

CLAIMS WARRANT  
 REVOLVING FUND 10-052-000

WARRANT NO.  
 1026031

11-35  
 1210

PAY THIS AMOUNT
*****\$850.00

DATE 04/02/2009  
 VOID AFTER SIX MONTHS

PAY *Eight hundred fifty and 00/100 Dollars*

To The Order Of  
 CA ST DEPT-FISH & GAME  
 P O BOX 944209  
 SACRAMENTO CA 94244-2090

*[Signature]*  
 ROSEMARY A. DOLE  
 AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

SIGNATURE AREA CONTAINS A KNIGHT & FINGERPRINT CHECK WORDING

⑈0001026031⑈ ⑆21000358⑆ 00439⑈80050⑈

ABSENCE OF PINK U.S. PATENT NUMBERS UNDER SIGNATURE INDICATES CHECK IS FRAUDULENT. PATENT NUMBERS ARE PRINTED WITH HEAT SENSITIVE INK & WILL DISAPPEAR WHEN BLOWING OR RUBBING

# Hydrologic Analysis of Lake Mendocino Storage Under 2009 Conditions



East Fork of the Russian River at Lake Mendocino, January 29, 2009 – Photo Credit: Kent Porter / The Press Democrat

Submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights  
in Support of Temporary Urgency Change Petition

Sonoma County Water Agency  
April 2009

The current storage level in Lake Mendocino is approximately 53,000 acre-feet (AF). This is roughly 17,000 AF lower than Lake Mendocino storage was in 2007 at this time. 2007 is the most recent year during which the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) filed a temporary urgency change petition to change the minimum Russian River instream flow requirements in the Agency's water-right permits. Although Lake Mendocino storage is unusually low, cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury during this water year has been sufficiently high that, under the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) Decision 1610 (D-1610), 2009 is classified as a *Normal* year and will likely retain this classification for the remainder 2009. The water year classifications (*Normal, Dry or Critical*) specified in D-1610 are based on cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury beginning October 1. Analyses recently prepared by Agency engineering staff indicate that if significant inflows into Lake Mendocino, from either storm events or diversions by Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) from the Eel River by the Potter Valley Project (PVP) do not occur between now and June 1, then releases from Lake Mendocino to meet water demands on, and minimum instream flow requirements for, the Russian River under D-1610 *Normal* year requirements will drain Lake Mendocino. Consequently, the Agency is filing a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) to request that the State Board reduce the minimum instream flow requirements for the Russian River in the Agency's water-right permits, to maintain sufficient storage in Lake Mendocino so that it will not dry up during the fall of 2009.

Low Lake Mendocino storage levels could severely impact listed and threatened Russian River fish species, create serious water-supply impacts in Mendocino County and the Alexander Valley in Sonoma County, and harm Lake Mendocino and Russian River recreation. To address this emergency, the Agency is filing a TUCP, which requests that the State Board make the following temporary changes to the D-1610 instream flow requirements: (a) for April 6 through June 30, the D-1610 requirements for *Dry* conditions will apply in the Russian River (these requirements are 75 cfs in the Upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork to its confluence with Dry Creek) and 85 cfs in the Lower Russian River (downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek)); (b) if, during the period from April 1 through June 30, total inflow into Lake Mendocino is less than or equal to 25,000 AF, then, for July 1 through October 2, the D-1610 requirements for *Critical* conditions will apply in the Russian River (these requirements are 25 cfs in the Upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork to its confluence with Dry Creek) and 35 cfs in the Lower Russian River (downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek)); and (c) if, during the period from April 1 through June 30, 2009, total inflow into Lake Mendocino is greater than 25,000 AF, then, for July 1 through October 2, the D-1610 requirements for *Dry* conditions will apply in the Russian River.

During water year 2002, hydrologic conditions in the Eel River and Russian River watershed caused Lake Mendocino storage levels to decline to dangerously low levels by the end of the dry season. Although Eel River runoff conditions during 2002 were technically "Normal", PG&E changed its project operations after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) reclassified the year as "Dry". This resulted in significantly lower diversions from the Eel River by the PVP to the Russian River watershed. Although 2002 hydrologic conditions in the Russian River watershed were similar to those in the Eel River watershed, Lake Mendocino still was operated under D-1610 *Normal* year instream flow requirements. This *Normal* year operation, coupled with unusually high water demands and low Lake Mendocino inflows, caused a severe decline in storage levels in Lake Mendocino. This decline resulted in: (1) recreation at Lake Mendocino being severely impaired; (2) serious risks to water supply and listed Russian River

salmonid fishery resources, particularly adult Chinook salmon; (3) the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors declaring a state of emergency; and (4) the storage levels in Lake Mendocino declining to a low of 24,400 AF in December 2002.

On June 2, 2004, FERC directed PG&E, effective June 9, 2004, to change its PVP diversions to comply with the terms of an amendment to PG&E's FERC license made by FERC in January 2004. As a result of the FERC directive, diversions from the PVP during the summer of 2004 were very similar to those during the summer of 2002. Consequently, water year 2004 presented similar risks as in 2002. These risks were mitigated through the Agency's filing a TUCP with the State Board and the State Board approving this TUCP. The State Board's order reduced the minimum instream flow requirements to 75 cfs in the Russian River from the confluence of the East and West Forks Russian River to the confluence of Dry Creek and the Russian River. From the Dry Creek confluence to the mouth of the Russian River, the minimum instream flow requirement was reduced to 85 cfs. Approval of the 2004 TUCP was critical in protecting storage in Lake Mendocino. Conservation efforts and use of local water supplies combined with reduced minimum instream flow requirements resulted in a minimum lake level of 38,000 AF in December of that year. Even though the lake levels in 2002 and 2004 were similar at the start of the irrigation season, end-of-season storage levels were approximately 14,000 AF higher in 2004 than in 2002. This was largely due to the State Board's approval of reductions in the applicable instream flow requirements.

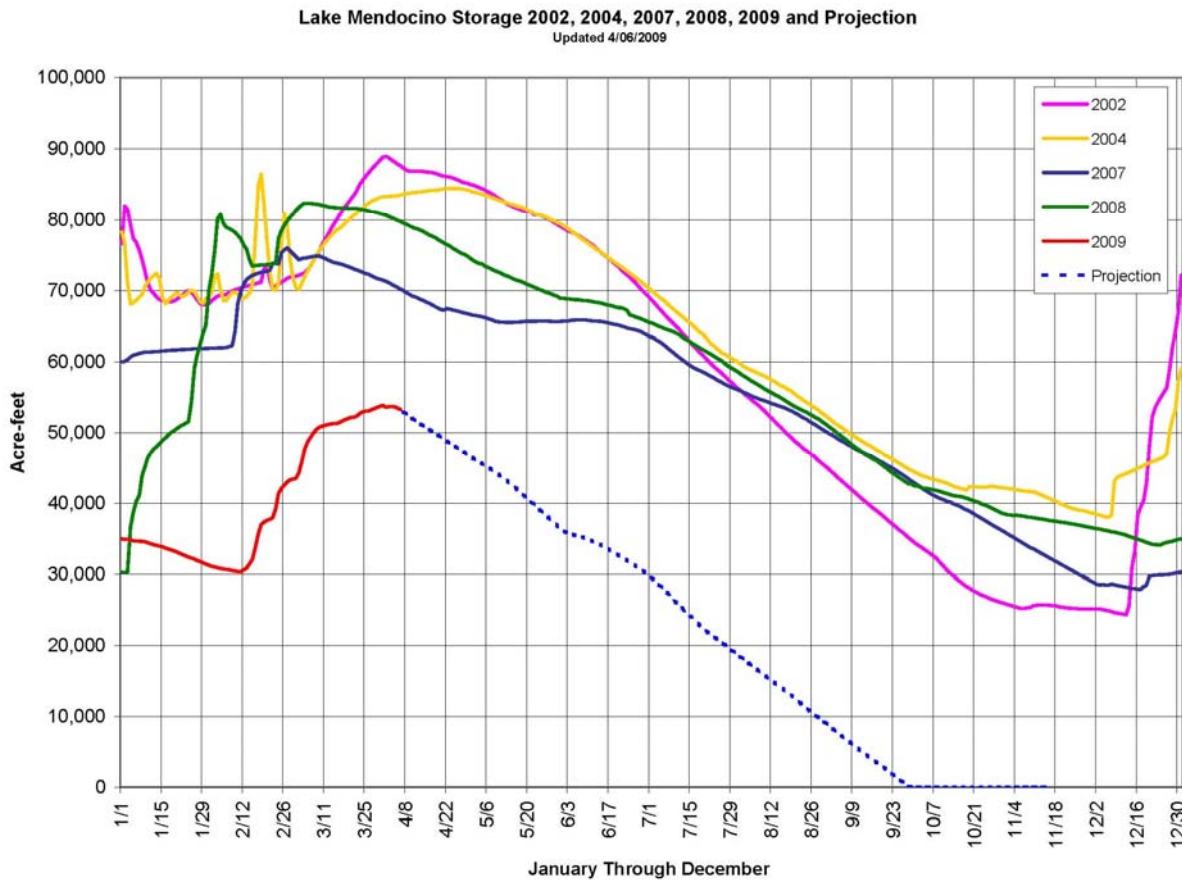
During 2006, it was discovered that PG&E had not properly implemented one of the terms in its FERC license for the PVP since 2004, which resulted in spring and summer PVP imports from the Eel River into the Russian River watershed that were higher than would have occurred if PG&E had properly implemented this term. Since early March 2007, PG&E's proper implementation of the FERC license has resulted in a significant and permanent reduction of PVP diversions from the Eel River to the Russian River. In addition to PG&E's new implementation of its FERC license for the PVP, there also was structural damage to the fish screens on the PVP's Eel River diversion, which resulted in an inability to operate the PVP powerhouse at its full 300 cfs capacity.

Water year 2007, while similar to 2004 hydrologically, was even more severe. By early May 2007, Lake Mendocino storage was 20,000 AF less than storage at the same time in 2004. Although Lake Mendocino storage was at critically low in the late spring of 2007, the water year still was classified as *Normal*, based on the D-1610 water-year classification criteria, which are based on cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury. Based on the storage reduction rates that were observed in 2002, the Agency projected that storage levels in Lake Mendocino would drop to about 8,000 AF by November 2007 if releases were continued to be made satisfy the minimum instream flow requirements for *Normal* water years. As in 2004, conservation efforts by the region coupled with the State Board's order approving a TUCP, which reduced the minimum instream flow requirements to 75 cfs in the Upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork to its confluence with Dry Creek) and to 85 cfs in the Lower Russian River (downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek) from May 1 through October 28, 2007 prevented Lake Mendocino from dropping to dangerously low levels. The the 2007 efforts resulted in a Lake Mendocino minimum storage of almost 30,000 AF in December 2007.

It is extremely important to note that PG&E's operations at PVP are dependent on Lake Pillsbury storage, and specifically on what are commonly referred to as the reservoir's "Target Storage

Curves” (TSC). The TSC were developed during the process that led to the Biological Opinion that was issued by National Marine Fisheries for the PVP. The TSC now regulate when PG&E may increase releases of water from Lake Pillsbury for diversion by the PVP into the Russian River watershed. This year, the storage in Lake Pillsbury did not exceed the TSC until early March. At that time, PG&E began to increase its diversions through the PVP, which resulted in an increase in flows into Lake Mendocino. However, within a week, Lake Pillsbury storage fell below the TSC due to the lake spilling through its flood gates, and PG&E therefore had to reduce the flow through the PVP to the minimum levels that are specified in its FERC license. From October 1 to date, PVP imports have resulted in approximately 17,000 AF of inflow into Lake Mendocino. In contrast, in 2007 Lake Pillsbury storage remained above the TSC for two months (from the first week in January through the first week of March), resulting in PVP operations that caused approximately 44,000 AF of inflow into Lake Mendocino.

Figure 1 shows historical Lake Mendocino storage levels during 2002, 2004, 2007 and 2008. Figure 1 also shows the Lake Mendocino storage levels that have occurred so far during 2009 and the storage levels that are projected to occur during the rest of 2009, if the D-1610 instream flow requirements are not changed.



**Figure 1**

In 1986, when D-1610 was adopted, the State Board recognized that conditions affecting the availability of water for Russian River instream flows could change, and the State Board reserved jurisdiction to modify the Russian River instream flow requirements. Since 1986, such changed conditions have occurred. Specifically, PVP diversions have decreased, demands on the

Russian River system have increased, and three fish species have been listed as threatened or endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Additionally, the evidence from water years 2002, 2004 and 2007 show that reductions in the minimum instream flow requirements combined with conservation and use of local sources can preserve water in storage to protect the Chinook salmon during migration and spawning, while maintaining high recreational values in the Russian River and good water quality.

This report provides the information upon which Sonoma County Water Agency bases its request for a temporary urgency change of Russian River minimum instream flow requirements.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Russian River System**

The Russian River originates in central Mendocino County, approximately 15 miles north of Ukiah (see Figure 2). It drains an area of 1,485 square miles including much of Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, and empties into the Pacific Ocean about 20 miles west of Santa Rosa. The main channel of the Russian River is about 110 miles long and the river flows generally southward from its headwaters near Redwood and Potter Valleys, to Mirabel Park, where the direction of flow changes to generally westward as it crosses the Coast Range.

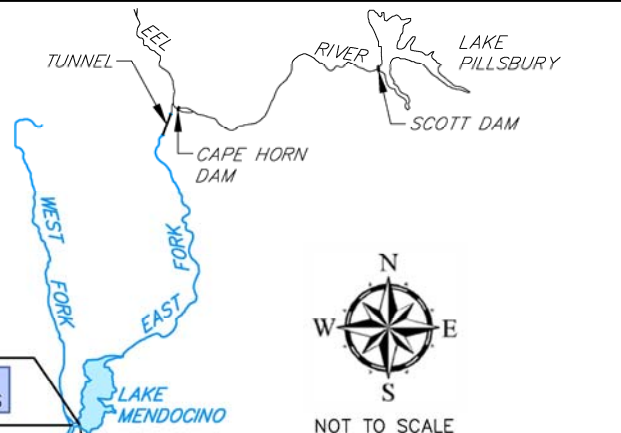
Three major reservoirs provide the summer water supply for the Russian River watershed: Lake Pillsbury on the Eel River, Lake Mendocino on the East Fork Russian River, and Lake Sonoma on Dry Creek. These three reservoirs are described below. Most of the streamflow in the upper Russian River during the summer months is provided by water released from Lake Mendocino. During normal years, much of this supply historically has originated in the Eel River watershed and been diverted at Cape Horn Dam to the East Fork Russian River via the Potter Valley Project.

### **Lake Pillsbury and Potter Valley Project**

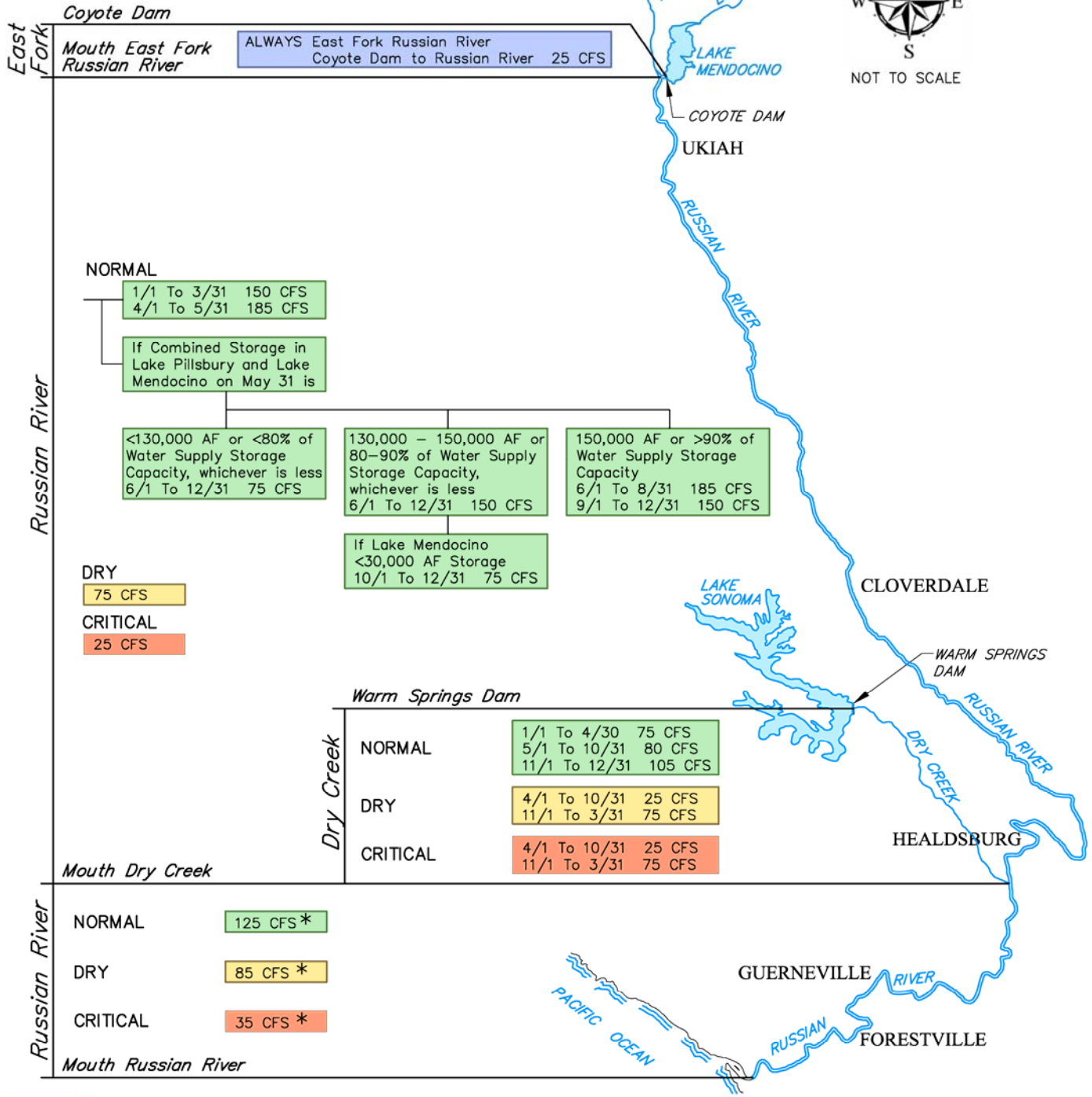
In 1908, W. W. Van Arsdale and the Eel River Power & Irrigation Company (later the Snow Mountain Power Company) completed construction of Cape Horn Dam and Van Arsdale Reservoir on the Eel River in Mendocino County, along with a diversion tunnel that led from the Eel River, through the mountains, to the East Fork of the Russian River (see Figure 2). The 450-foot drop in elevation between the Eel River and the East Fork Russian River was used to generate electrical energy at the Potter Valley Power Plant, located approximately 25 miles northeast of the City of Ukiah, to provide power to small electric companies in Sonoma, Napa, Lake, and Mendocino Counties.

In 1921, Scott Dam was constructed on the headwaters of the Eel River, forming Lake Pillsbury. Scott Dam is a concrete gravity dam that captures runoff from a drainage area of 298 square miles. Lake Pillsbury began storing water in December 1921 and had an original gross storage capacity of 94,400 AF. Sedimentation since 1921 has reduced the lake's gross storage capacity to 74,993 AF. Lake Pillsbury has a surface area of 2,280 acres at the normal maximum pool elevation of 1,828 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Water is released from Lake Pillsbury to the Eel River, and then re-diverted 12 miles downstream at Cape Horn Dam to the Potter Valley

Cumulative Inflow to Lake Pillsbury (Acre Feet) as of						
	1/1	2/1	3/1	4/1	5/1	6/1
NORMAL	≥ 8,000	≥ 39,200	≥ 65,700	≥ 114,500	≥ 145,600	≥ 160,000
DRY	< 8,000	< 39,200	< 65,700	< 114,500	< 145,600	< 160,000
CRITICAL	< 4,000	< 20,000	< 45,000	< 50,000	< 70,000	< 75,000



All flows are minimums, expressed in cubic feet per second.  
 \* Unless Lake Sonoma Elevation is below 292.0, or if prohibited by the United States Government.  
 AF Acre Feet



WATER\_TRANSMISSION\STUDIES\WATER\_SYSTEM\_STUDY\STREAMFLOW-TUCP-2009.dwg APRIL\_6\_,\_2009



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**Russian River Basin Streamflow Requirements**  
 Per State Water Resources Control Board Decision 1610, April 1986

Figure 2

Power Plant through the diversion tunnel. The water then flows through the East Fork of the Russian River to Lake Mendocino.

All of the facilities described above, including Scott Dam and Lake Pillsbury, Cape Horn Dam and the diversion tunnel, and the Potter Valley Power Plant, comprise the Potter Valley Project (PVP). The PVP was purchased by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) in September, 1929.

Since 1908, diversions from the Eel River have been used to generate power, irrigate agricultural land in Potter Valley, and augment summer flows in the Russian River. The quantity of water that can be diverted to PG&E's Potter Valley Power Plant is affected by the PVP releases required to maintain the fishery in the Eel River. The release schedule is included in the FERC license for the PVP. PG&E also has an agreement with the United States Forest Service to maintain high reservoir levels in Lake Pillsbury until Labor Day of each year for recreational use. From water years 1986 to 2008, PVP diversions to the Russian River watershed averaged 125,000 acre-feet per year (AFY). For water year 2009, the Agency is projecting PVP diversions of approximately 44,000 AF.

### **Lake Mendocino**

Lake Mendocino, located 3 miles east of the City of Ukiah, is created by Coyote Valley Dam, located on the East Fork of the Russian River, 0.8 mile upstream of the East Fork's confluence with the Russian River (see Figure 2). Coyote Valley Dam is a rolled earth embankment dam with a crest elevation of 784 feet above MSL, which is 160 feet above the original streambed.

Lake Mendocino, which began storing water in 1959, has a design capacity of 122,500 AF at the spillway crest elevation of 764.8 feet above MSL, and captures runoff from a drainage area of about 105 square miles. The design water supply pool capacity of Lake Mendocino is 70,000 AF. The Agency and the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (Mendocino District) have water right permits authorizing the storage of up to 122,500 AFY in the reservoir. Because the Agency is the local sponsor of the Coyote Valley Dam Project, it has the exclusive right to control releases from the water supply pool in Lake Mendocino. When the water level rises above the top of the water supply pool (elevation 737.5 feet above MSL) and into the flood control pool, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) assumes control of releases. In February 2008, the Agency made a standing request with the USACE that on March 1<sup>st</sup> of 2008 and future years that the USACE operate to maximize storage by allowing the lake level to increase the summer pool to elevation 761.8, which correlates to a storage of 111,000 AF. Additionally Lake Mendocino has recreational facilities which are heavily used and provide significant economic benefits to the local area.

During the rainy season (November through May), natural streamflow (rather than reservoir releases) accounts for most of the flow of the Russian River. On the other hand, from June through October, most of the water in the Russian River downstream of Coyote Valley Dam and above Dry Creek is water that was released from storage in Lake Mendocino or that was imported by the Potter Valley Project.

## **Lake Sonoma**

Lake Sonoma, located about 5 miles southwest of the City of Cloverdale, is created by Warm Springs Dam, located on Dry Creek, about 11 miles upstream of Dry Creek's confluence with the Russian River (see Figure 2). Warm Springs Dam is a rolled earth embankment dam with a crest elevation of 495 feet above MSL.

Lake Sonoma, which began storing water in 1983, has a design capacity of 381,000 AF at the spillway crest elevation of 495 feet above MSL, and captures runoff from a drainage area of about 130 square miles. The design water supply pool capacity of Lake Sonoma is 212,000 AF. The Agency has a water right permit authorizing the storage of up to 245,000 AFY in the reservoir. Because the Agency is the local sponsor of the Warm Springs Dam Project, it has the exclusive right to control releases from the water supply pool in Lake Sonoma. When the water level rises above the top of the water supply pool (elevation 451.1 feet above MSL) and into the flood control pool, the USACE assumes control of releases.

The USACE operates Warm Springs Dam for flood control purposes in accordance with the criteria outlined in the *Warm Springs Dam and Lake Sonoma, Dry Creek, California Water Control Manual* (USACE 1984). Objectives described in this document include: (1) providing the maximum reduction in peak-flood discharges on Dry Creek and the Russian River below Healdsburg; (2) providing the maximum practical amount of conservation storage without impairment to other project functions; and (3) maintaining a minimum pool elevation of 292 feet above MSL to assure operation of the fish hatchery that is located immediately downstream of the dam. The 130,000 AF of flood control storage in Lake Sonoma was designed to provide control of a flood the size of the December 1955 flood event, which had a peak discharge of approximately 26,000 cfs at the dam site and represents about a 20-year flood event.

During the dry season (May through October), natural streamflow (rather than reservoir releases) accounts for very little of the flow in Dry Creek. Most of the water present in Dry Creek during this season results from the Agency's water supply releases from Warm Springs Dam. Water supply releases from Lake Sonoma are used to meet minimum instream flow requirements and municipal, domestic, and industrial demands in the lower Russian River area and portions of Sonoma and Marin counties (USACE 1998b). To meet these demands, water released from Lake Sonoma combines with releases from Coyote Valley Dam and runoff from other tributaries. Inflow to Lake Sonoma approaches zero from July through September, and the reservoir normally reaches its lowest level in November.

## **Water Rights**

The Agency holds water right Permit 12947A for storage of water in Lake Mendocino and for direct diversion and rediversion of water at the Agency's Wohler/Mirabel diversion facilities. Under this permit, the combined direct diversion and rediversion rates Wohler/Mirabel are limited to 92 cfs (average monthly rate) and 37,544 AFY. The Agency holds water right Permit 16596 for storage of water at Lake Sonoma and for direct diversion and rediversion of 180 cfs from the Russian River at Wohler/Mirabel. The Agency also holds water right Permits 12949 and 12950 for direct diversions of 20 cfs and 60 cfs, respectively, at Wohler/Mirabel. The combined direct diversion and rediversion rates at Wohler/Mirabel under all four of the

Agency's water right permits presently are limited to no more than 180 cfs (116.3 million gallons per day [MGD]) and 75,000 AF during each October 1 to September 30 period.

The Mendocino District holds water right permit 12947B for storage of water at Lake Mendocino and for direct diversion and rediversion of water at many points along the Russian River in Mendocino County. Under this permit, the combined direct diversion and rediversion quantities are limited to 8000 AFY.

### **State Water Resources Control Board Decision 1610 (D-1610 )**

The Agency controls and coordinates water supply releases from the Coyote Valley Dam and Warm Springs Dam projects in accordance with the provisions of D-1610, adopted by the SWRCB on April 17, 1986. D-1610 specifies the minimum flow requirements for Dry Creek and the Russian River. These requirements vary based on defined hydrologic year conditions.

D-1610 requires a minimum flow of 25 cfs in the East Fork Russian River from Coyote Valley Dam to the confluence with the Russian River during all water year types. From that junction to Dry Creek, the required minimum Russian River flow requirements are 185 cfs from April through August and 150 cfs from September through March during *Normal* conditions, 75 cfs during *Dry* hydrologic conditions and 25 cfs during *Critical* hydrologic conditions. D-1610 further specifies two variations of the *Normal* hydrologic condition, commonly known as *Dry Spring 1* and *Dry Spring 2*. The occurrence of these conditions results in lower minimum flow requirements in the upper Russian River during times when the combined storage in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino is unusually low. Under *Dry Spring 1*, the minimum flow requirement for the upper Russian River between the confluence of the East and West Forks and Healdsburg is 150 cfs from June through December. Under *Dry Spring 2*, the upper River minimum flow requirement is 75 cfs from June through December.

From Dry Creek to the Pacific Ocean, the required minimum flow is 125 cfs during *Normal* conditions, 85 cfs during *Dry* hydrologic conditions and 35 cfs during *Critical* conditions. There are no adjustments in these requirements for *Dry Spring 1 or 2*.

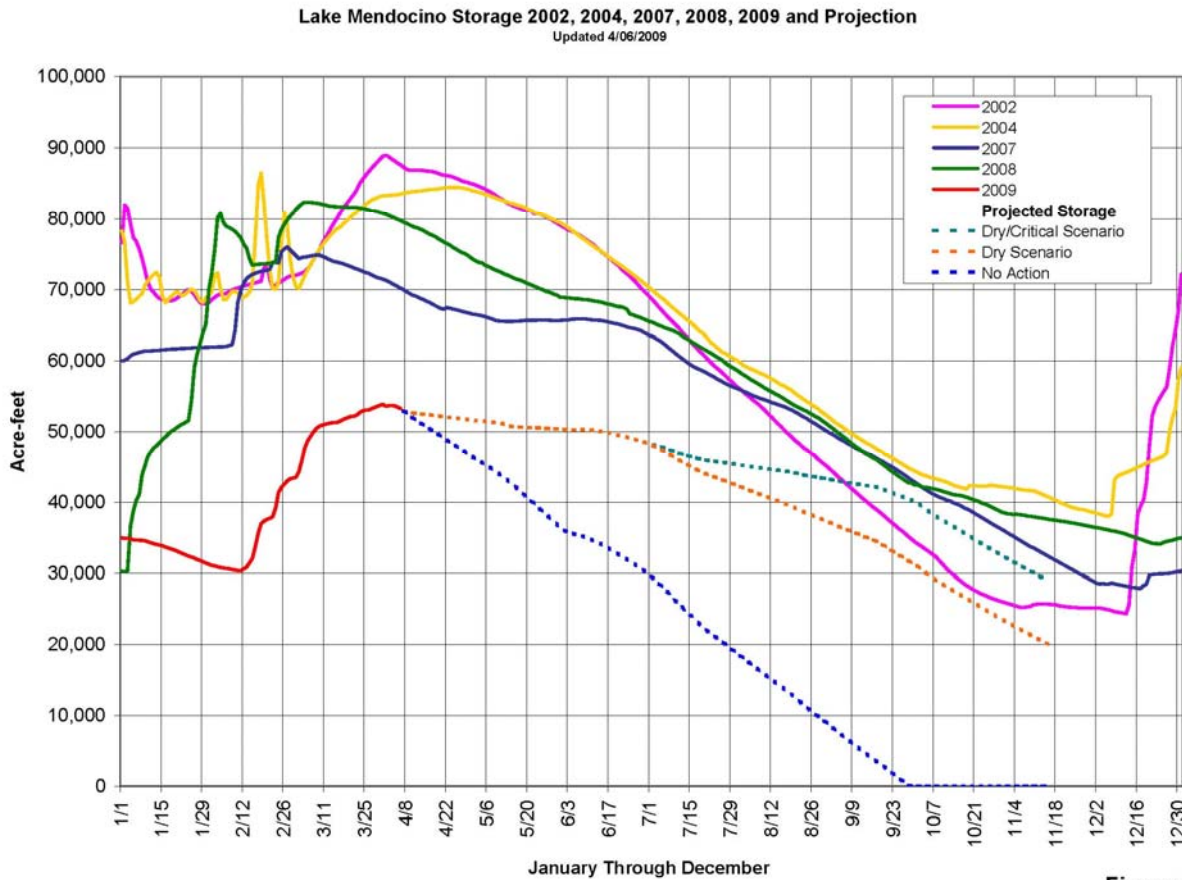
In Dry Creek, the required minimum flows are 75 cfs from January through April, 80 cfs from May through October, and 105 cfs in November and December during *Normal* conditions. During *Dry* and *Critical* conditions, these requirements are 25 cfs from April through October, and 75 cfs from November through March. Figure 2 shows all of the required minimum instream flow requirements specified in D-1610 by river reach, along with definitions of the various hydrologic conditions.

On April 6, 2009, the cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury was 142,000 AF. This means that 2009 will be classified as a *Normal* water year, probably until June 1, 2009 when it is projected that the total combined storage in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino on May 31, 2009 will be less than 130,000 AF, and *Dry Spring 2* conditions therefore will go into effect.

### **Storage Projections**

Figure 3 shows the Lake Mendocino storage levels that have occurred so far during 2009 and that are projected to occur during the remainder of 2009, for 3 scenarios: No Action, Dry, and

Dry/Critical. Projections are based on 2007 releases from Lake Mendocino and assume minimum flows of the East Branch of the Russian River (Potter Valley Project to Lake Mendocino) for a Normal water supply condition (35 cfs from March 26 to April 14, 75 cfs from April 15 to September 15 and 35 cfs from September 16 to November 15) as inflow into Lake Mendocino. The No Action scenario assumes a minimum flow requirement for the Russian River East Fork to Dry Creek of 185 cfs from April 6 to May 31 (Normal) and 75 cfs from June 1 to November 15 (Dry Spring 2). The Dry scenario assumes a minimum flow requirement for the Russian River East Fork to Dry Creek of 75 cfs from April 7 to November 15 (Dry). The Dry/ Critical scenario assumes a minimum flow requirement for the Russian River East Fork to Dry Creek of 75 cfs from April 7 to June 30 (Dry), 25 cfs from July 1 to September 30 (Critical) and 75 cfs from October 1 to November 15 (Dry). Additionally both the Dry and Dry/Critical scenarios assume a 20% cumulative conservation of 2007 releases by both agricultural producers and water districts including the Agency on the Upper Russian River from May 15, the assumed end of the frost protection season, to November 15. As indicated in this figure, without any changes in the instream flow requirements or conservation, Lake Mendocino storage is predicted to be empty in September 2009. On the other hand, if the Agency’s temporary urgency change petition is granted, and the requested changes in the instream flow requirements begin, on April 7, 2009, then Lake Mendocino storage is predicted to drop to approximately 29,000 AF by November 2009.



**Figure 3**

Since Lake Mendocino first was filled, its storage never has dropped below 12,000 AF, and it is uncertain whether water could continue to be released from Lake Mendocino into the East Fork Russian River if its storage were to drop below this level. If water could not be released from Lake Mendocino during October and November 2009, then there would be severe impacts on the fishery and recreation resources that depend on the upper Russian River, and on water users that rely on the upper Russian River for their water supplies. If the Agency predicts that lake storage levels are to drop well below current predictions then the Agency may need to pursue another TUCP to enact further reductions in minimum flow requirements.

### **Dry Creek and Lower Russian River Flows**

During September and October 2001, the Agency, in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries – National Marine Fisheries Service, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the USACE conducted a study of salmonid flow-habitat relationships (Study) in the Russian River and in Dry Creek. The results of the Study formed the basis for many of the evaluation criteria used in the Russian River Biological Opinion and indicate that the Russian River and Dry Creek summer flows are at levels too high to provide optimal salmonid rearing habitat conditions. The habitat values for rearing salmonids peak when flows in the Russian River and Dry Creek are in the 40-125 cfs range, and these habitat values begin to drop off at higher flows, as a result of increased velocities and reduced habitat complexity. Dry Creek was identified as the stream reach most susceptible to salmonid rearing habitat degradation resulting from dam releases. During *Normal* water supply years, the Biological Opinion directs that the minimum flow in Dry Creek be reduced from 80 cfs to 40 cfs. In the mainstem Russian River between the East Fork and the mouth of Dry Creek, the BO directs that the minimum flow be reduced from 185 cfs to 125 cfs between June 1 and August 31, and from 150 cfs to 125 cfs between September 1 and October 31. The BO also directs that the minimum flow be reduced from 125 cfs to 70 cfs between the mouth of Dry Creek and the mouth of the Russian River. During dry water supply years, the biological Opinion directs that the minimum flow in the Russian River between the mouth of Dry Creek and the mouth of the Russian River be reduced from 85 cfs to 70 cfs.

Because of the potential of habitat degradation in Dry Creek under high flows, it would not be desirable to “make up” for reduced releases from Lake Mendocino by making higher releases from Lake Sonoma. For this reason and to prevent flow related impacts to rearing salmonids in Dry Creek, the Agency is requesting: (a) reductions in the lower Russian River instream flow requirements from 125 cfs to 85 cfs for April 6 through October 2, 2009; and (b) further reductions in lower Russian River instream flow requirements to 35 cfs for July 1 through October 2, 2009, if cumulative inflow in Lake Mendocino between April 1 and June 30, 2009 is less than 25,000 AF. Without these reductions in the lower Russian River instream flow requirements, any reductions in upper Russian River flows would have to be “made up” with increased releases from Lake Sonoma, which would cause significant adverse impacts to salmonid rearing habitat in Dry Creek.

### **Conclusion**

For the reasons discussed in this memorandum, the Agency requests that the State Water Resources Control Board issue an order approving the Agency’s TUCP. This order will allow the Agency to operate Lakes Mendocino and Sonoma to maintain storage levels in Lake Mendocino at levels that will provide improved protections for fishery, recreation, and water supply interests in the Russian River Valley.

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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To: X Office of Planning & Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Boulevard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

X County Clerk  
County of Sonoma  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

X County Clerk  
County of Mendocino  
Ukiah, CA 95482

**Project Title:** Petition by Sonoma County Water Agency Requesting Approval of a Temporary Urgency Change in Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16596 in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties (Applications 12919A, 15736, 15737, and 19351)

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**Project Location:** The proposed action would occur in Mendocino and Sonoma counties at Lake Mendocino, along the Russian River below Coyote Valley Dam/Lake Mendocino, and Dry Creek below Warm Springs Dam/Lake Sonoma. Figure 1 shows the streamflow requirements for the Russian River system. Communities and cities along the Russian River include Ukiah, Hopland, Cloverdale, Geyserville, Healdsburg, Forestville, Mirabel Park, Rio Nido, Guerneville, Monte Rio, Duncans Mills, and Jenner.

**Description of Project:** Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) is filing a temporary urgency change petition with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) that asks the SWRCB to make the following changes in the instream flow requirements for the Russian River mainstem that are specified in SWRCB Decision 1610 (D-1610) and SCWA's water right permits: (a) for April 6 through June 30, 2009 the D-1610 instream flow requirements for Dry conditions will apply in the Russian River (these requirements are 75 cfs in the upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East fork of the Russian River to its confluence with Dry Creek) and 85 cfs in the lower Russian River (downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek)); (b) if, during the period from April 6 through June 30, 2009, total inflow into Lake Mendocino is less than or equal to 25,000 acre-feet, then, for July 1 through October 2, 2009, the D-1610 instream flow requirements for Critical conditions will apply in the Russian River (these requirements are 25 cfs in the upper Russian River and 35 cfs in the lower Russian River); and (c) if during the period from April 6 through June 30, 2009, total inflow into Lake Mendocino is greater than 25,000 acre-feet, then, for July 1 through October 2, 2009, the D-1610 requirement for Dry conditions will apply in the Russian River.

SCWA states that, without these requested changes in the minimum flows, Lake Mendocino is projected to be empty by September 2009, which would in turn cause severe impacts on the fishery and recreation resources that depend on the upper Russian River, and on water users that rely on the upper Russian River for their water supplies. If Lake Mendocino is empty, the municipal, domestic and agricultural water users who depend on direct diversions from the river or from wells near the river could be without water, presenting an imminent danger to public health, safety, and fire protection activities.

During the fall of 2002, low water levels in Lake Mendocino caused serious risks to Mendocino County water supplies and to fish species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA): coho salmon (endangered), steelhead (threatened), and Chinook salmon (threatened). Additionally, recreation at Lake Mendocino was seriously impaired. Because of these problems, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors declared a state of emergency in 2002. Similar problems were avoided during 2004 and 2007,

other similarly dry years, because the SWRCB temporarily amended the D1610 minimum flow requirements through its WR Order 2004-0035-EXEC and WR Order 2007-0022.

Since water year 2009 presents even more serious risks, SCWA is requesting that the SWRCB temporarily change the instream flow requirements in SCWA's water right permits to reduce the amount of water that SCWA is obligated to release from Lake Mendocino, conserving water in that lake during the summer. The temperature of water released from Lake Mendocino increases as storage decreases. The proposed reduction in required minimum instream flows would allow for cooler and more stable flows in the upper Russian River during the fall. Because temperatures in the late summer and early fall period are already higher than optimal for salmonids, an increase of water temperatures due to low water storage in Lake Mendocino could negatively affect juvenile steelhead rearing in the main stem Russian River. Since adult Chinook salmon will be migrating upstream to spawn during the fall period, it would be more favorable for Chinook to reduce flows during the summer to conserve storage in Lake Mendocino than to wait until October to begin ramping down when adult Chinook are already in the river.

The SCWA controls and coordinates water supply releases from the Coyote Valley Dam and Warm Springs Dam projects in accordance with the requirements of Decision 1610, adopted by the SWRCB in 1986. Decision 1610 specifies the minimum flow requirements for Dry Creek and the Russian River (see Figure 1). These requirements vary based on defined hydrologic year conditions. The requested reduction in Russian River instream flow requirements would be in effect through October 2, 2009. Under Normal hydrologic conditions, minimum flows during this time period could be as high as 185 cfs in the upper Russian River, 125 in the lower Russian River, and 80 cfs in Dry Creek. Under the proposed change, minimum flows could be as low as 25 cfs in the upper Russian River and 35 cfs in the lower Russian River. The minimum flow in Dry Creek is proposed to remain at 80 cfs. The proposed change in Russian River instream flow requirements would not result in unusual circumstances, because the proposed minimum instream flow requirements are the same as those that already occur during Dry and Critical hydrologic conditions under SWRCB Decision 1610.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** State Water Resources Control Board- Division of Water Rights

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Sonoma County Water Agency

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
  - Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
  - Emergency Project (Sec.21080 (b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
  - Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
  - Statutory Exemptions. State Code number:
- CEQA Statutes 21080(b)(4): Specific actions to prevent or mitigate an emergency
- State CEQA Guidelines 15307: Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources
- State CEQA Guidelines 15308: Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment
- State CEQA Guidelines 15301(i): Existing Facilities

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The proposed action is statutorily exempt under CEQA Statute 21080(b)(4) and categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15307, 15308, and 15301(i).

*A. Actions to Prevent or Mitigate an Emergency*

CEQA Statute 21080(b)(4) provides that the specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency are exempt from CEQA. Without the proposed action, Lake Mendocino is projected to be empty by September 2009, causing severe impacts on the fishery resources that depend on the upper Russian River and serious public health, safety, and welfare consequences for water users that rely on the upper Russian River for their water supplies. The proposed action would conserve water in Lake Mendocino to prevent or mitigate emergency conditions for fishery resources and upper Russian River water users.


*B. Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources and the Environment*

Guidelines Sections 15307 and 15308 provide that actions taken by regulatory agencies to assure the maintenance, restoration or enhancement of a natural resource and the environment are categorically exempt. The proposed change in Russian River instream flow requirements would conserve water in Lake Mendocino to benefit adult Chinook salmon migrating upstream in the fall.

*C. Existing Facilities*

Guidelines Section 15301(i) provides, generally, that the operation of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination is categorically exempt from CEQA. The examples in subdivision (i) of Section 15301(i) specifically provide that the maintenance of streamflows to protect fish and wildlife resources is exempt. SCWA's request to operate Lake Mendocino from April 6, 2009 through October 2, 2009 under the same instream flow requirements that normally apply during Dry or Critical hydrologic conditions for the purpose of conserving water storage in Lake Mendocino to benefit salmonids would not expand SCWA use or increase the water supply available to SCWA for consumptive purposes. The proposed change in Russian River instream flow requirements would still be within the existing operational parameters for Lake Mendocino established by SWRCB Decision 1610. In addition, the proposal would maintain streamflows specifically to protect ESA-listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, and coho salmon.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Erica Phelps Area Code/Telephone: 707-547-1934

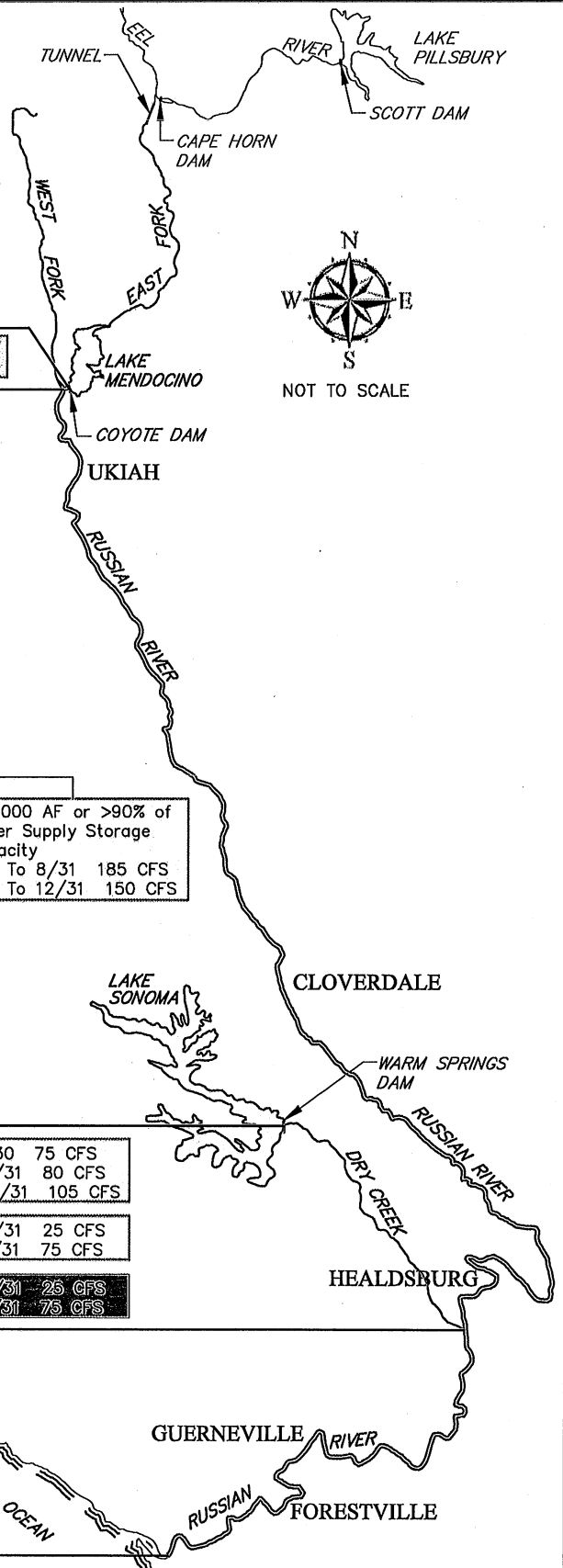
Signature:  Date: 4/6/09 Title: General Manager/ Chief Engineer

Lead Agency  Applicant  
Date Received for filing at OPR:

Cumulative Inflow to Lake Pillsbury (Acre Feet) as of						
	1/1	2/1	3/1	4/1	5/1	6/1
NORMAL	≥ 8,000	≥ 39,200	≥ 65,700	≥ 114,500	≥ 145,600	≥ 160,000
DRY	< 8,000	< 39,200	< 65,700	< 114,500	< 145,600	< 160,000
CRITICAL	< 4,000	< 20,000	< 45,000	< 50,000	< 70,000	< 75,000

Water Supply Conditions Prevailing on 6/1 Apply Through 12/31

All flows are minimums, expressed in cubic feet per second.  
 \* Unless Lake Sonoma Elevation is below 292.0, or if prohibited by the United States Government.  
 AF Acre Feet



**East Fork Russian River**  
 Coyote Dam  
 Mouth East Fork Russian River

ALWAYS East Fork Russian River Coyote Dam to Russian River 25 CFS

NORMAL

1/1 To 3/31 150 CFS  
 4/1 To 5/31 185 CFS

If Combined Storage in Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino on May 31 is

<130,000 AF or <80% of Water Supply Storage Capacity, whichever is less  
 6/1 To 12/31 75 CFS

130,000 - 150,000 AF or 80-90% of Water Supply Storage Capacity, whichever is less  
 6/1 To 12/31 150 CFS

150,000 AF or >90% of Water Supply Storage Capacity  
 6/1 To 8/31 185 CFS  
 9/1 To 12/31 150 CFS

DRY

75 CFS

CRITICAL

25 CFS

Warm Springs Dam

**Dry Creek**

NORMAL

1/1 To 4/30 75 CFS  
 5/1 To 10/31 80 CFS  
 11/1 To 12/31 105 CFS

DRY

4/1 To 10/31 25 CFS  
 11/1 To 3/31 75 CFS

CRITICAL

4/1 To 10/31 25 CFS  
 11/1 To 3/31 75 CFS

Mouth Dry Creek

**Russian River**

NORMAL

125 CFS \*

DRY

85 CFS \*

CRITICAL

35 CFS \*

Mouth Russian River

WATER TRANSMISSION STUDIES WATER SYSTEM STUDY STREAMFLOW-NOE-Emergency-Change-2009.dwg APRIL 6, 2009



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## Russian River Basin Streamflow Requirements

Per State Water Resources Control Board Decision 1610, April 1986

Figure 1