

# Agenda

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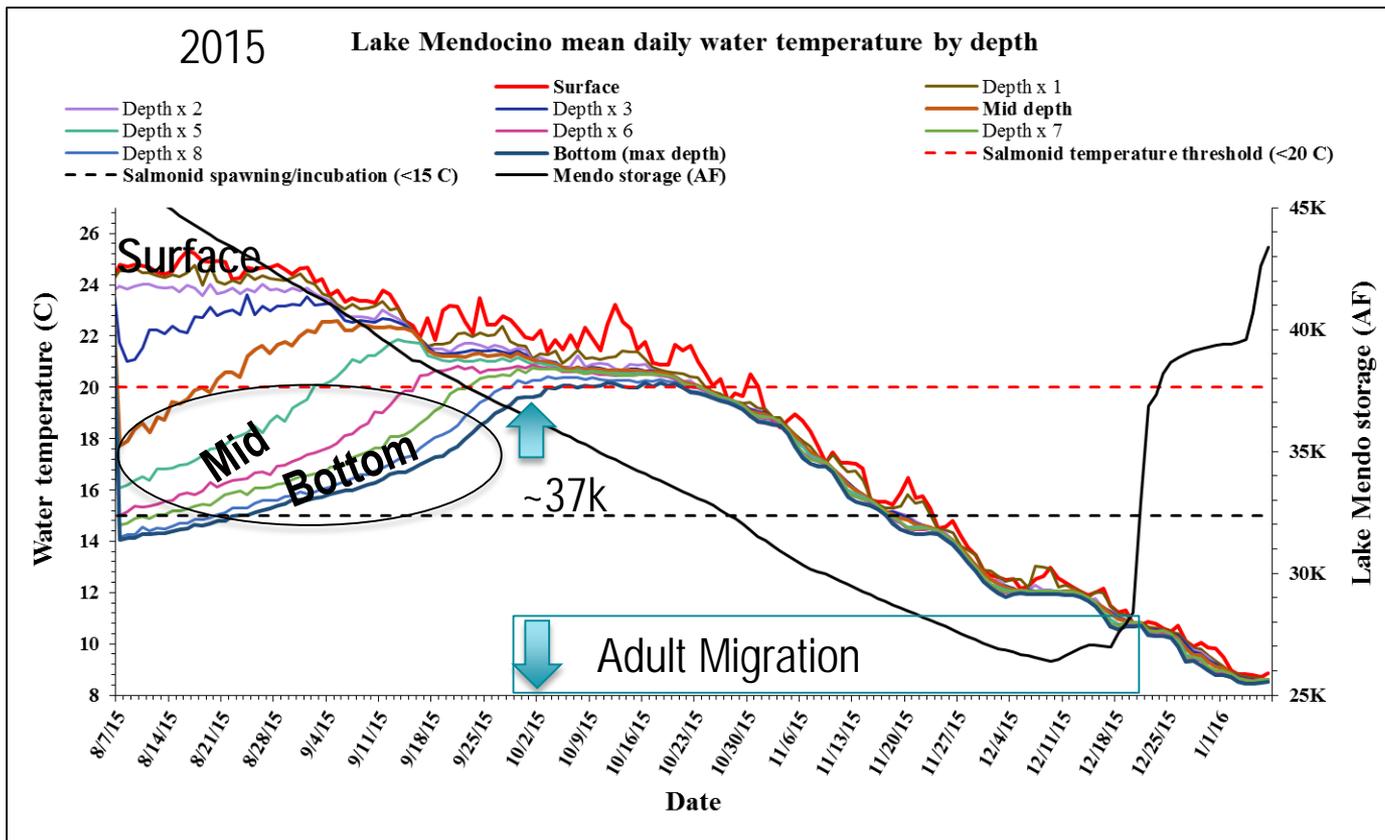
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- Project purpose
- Proposed project
- Potential impacts disclosed in Draft EIR
- Timeline
- Receive comments
  - Please fill out speaker card
  - Written comments also accepted



# Background

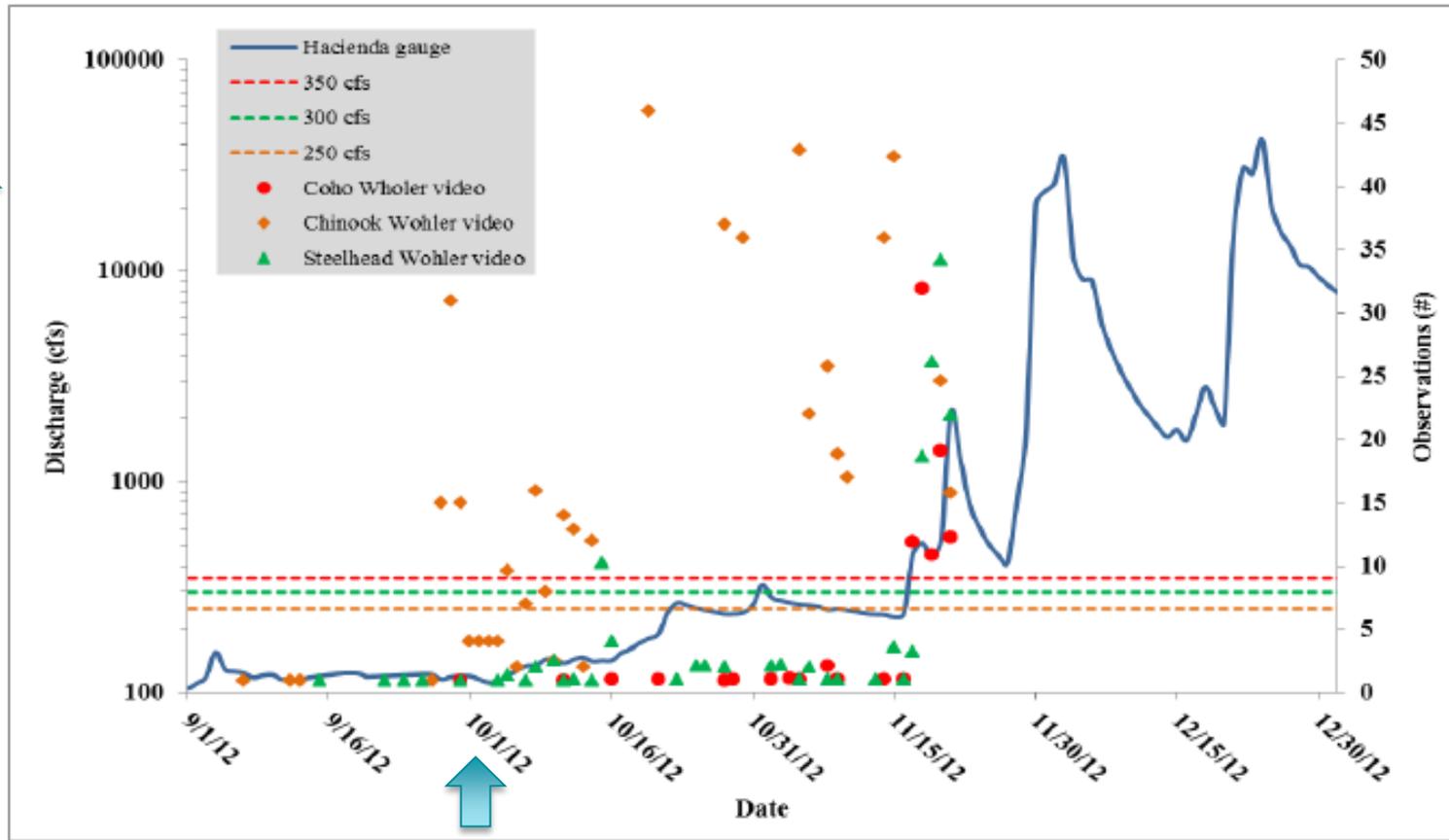
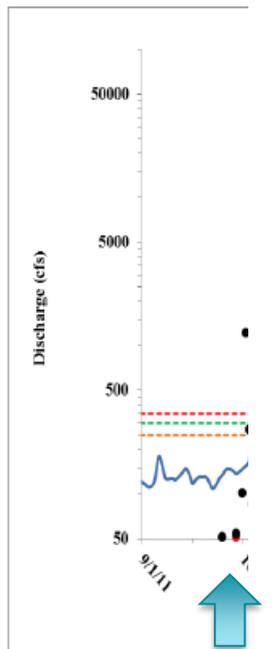
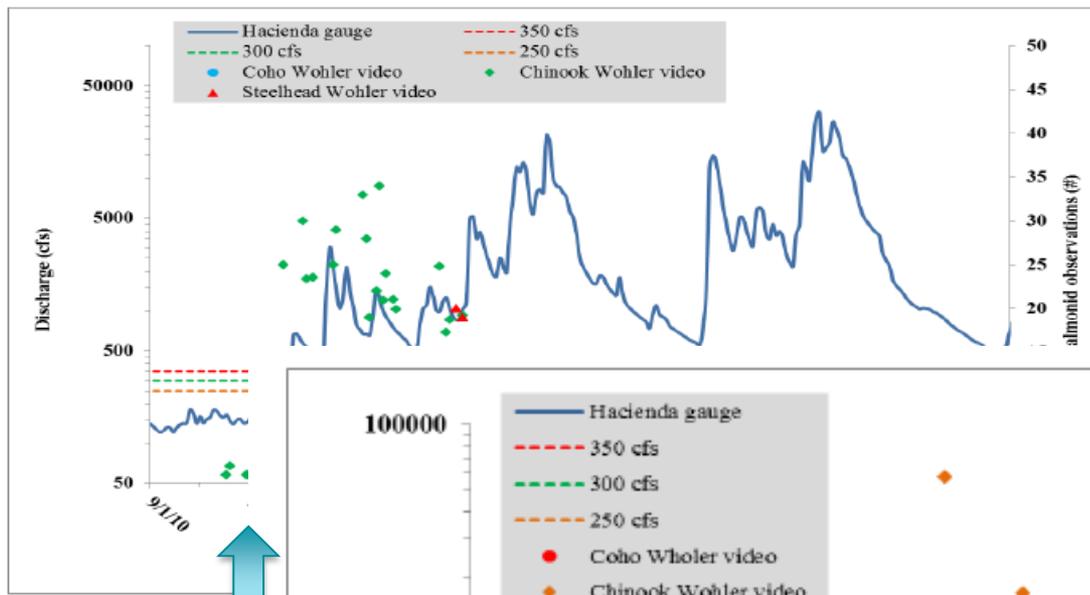
- 2008 BiOp found that flows mandated by D1610 would **likely jeopardize and adversely modify the critical habitats of endangered CCC coho salmon and threatened CC steelhead.**
  - result in high water velocities that **reduce the quality and quantity of rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead.**
  - **disrupt lagoon formation and retention of the Russian River estuary.**
- D1610 provides SWRCB with *"jurisdiction to amend SCWA's permit if a fishery study is conducted which shows that a **different flow schedule would be better...."**.*
- **NMFS is reviewing the scientific data** in the DEIR, and our own data to assist in our evaluation
- Reduced flows will improve fish habitat, maintenance of the coldwater pool, and carryover storage

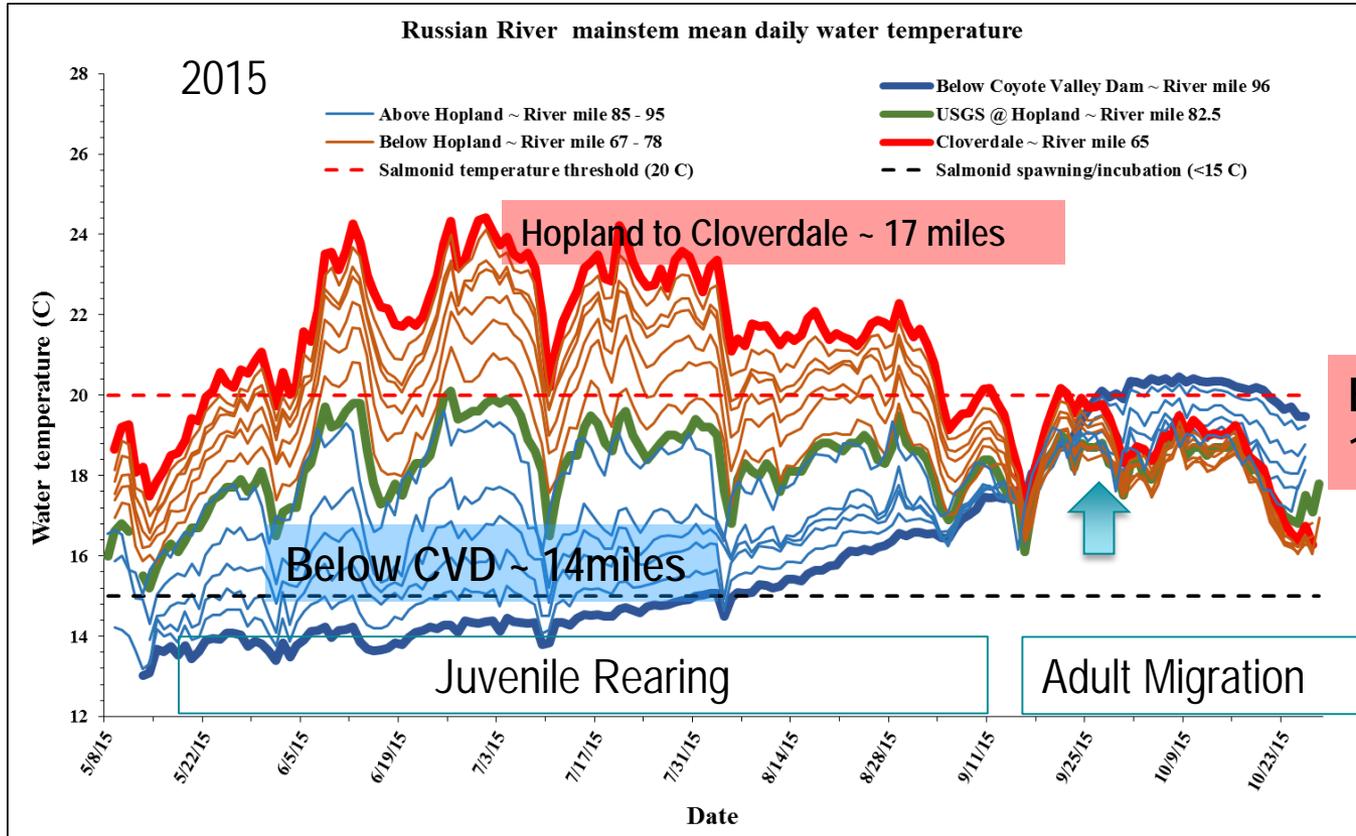


**Lake Temperature Profile  
every 8 feet**

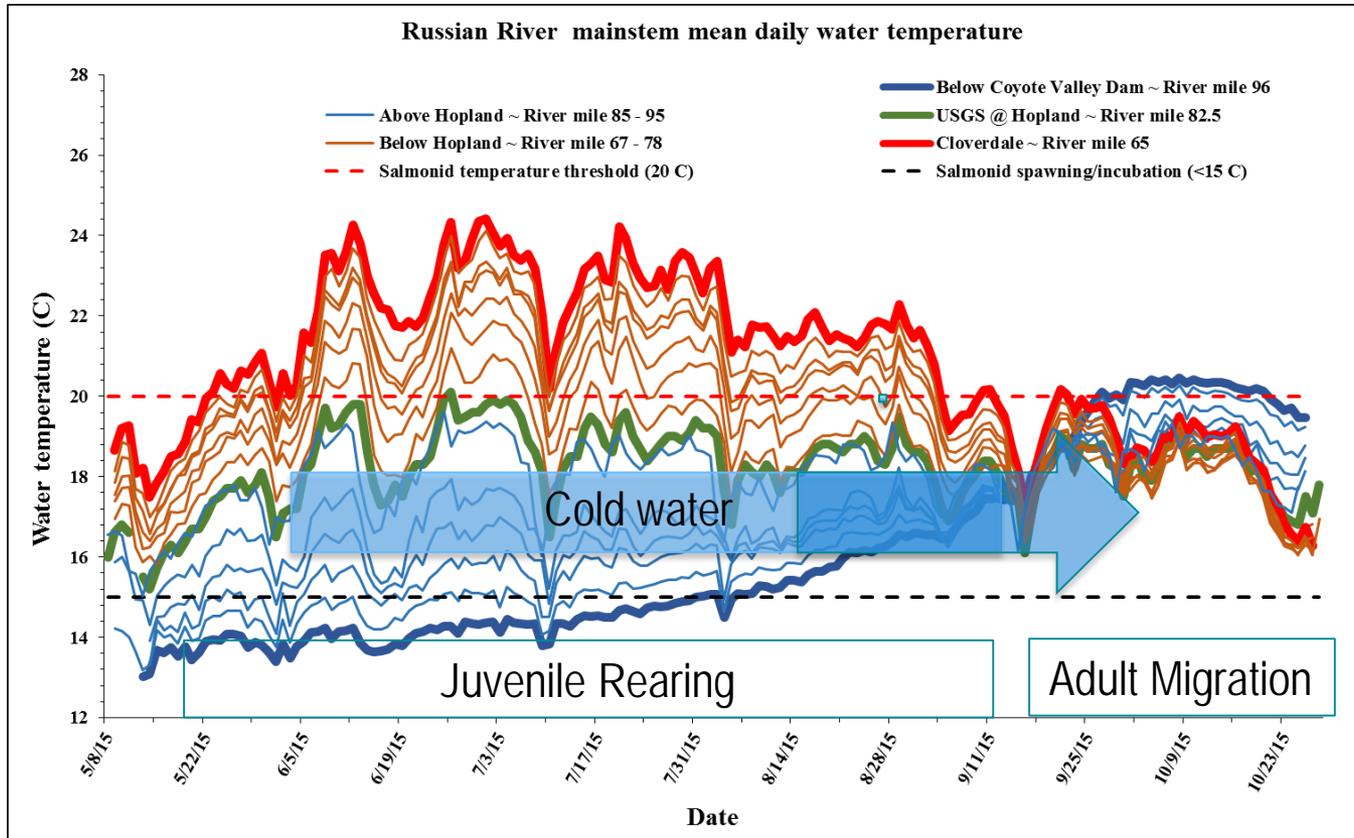


# Fish Returns 2010-12





**River Temperature every 2 miles**



# Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project Draft Environmental Impact Report Public Hearing



# Biological Opinion Background

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- Lower minimum instream flow
- Annual (temporary) petitions to SWRCB
- Petition State Water Board for permanent changes (Fish Flow Draft EIR)

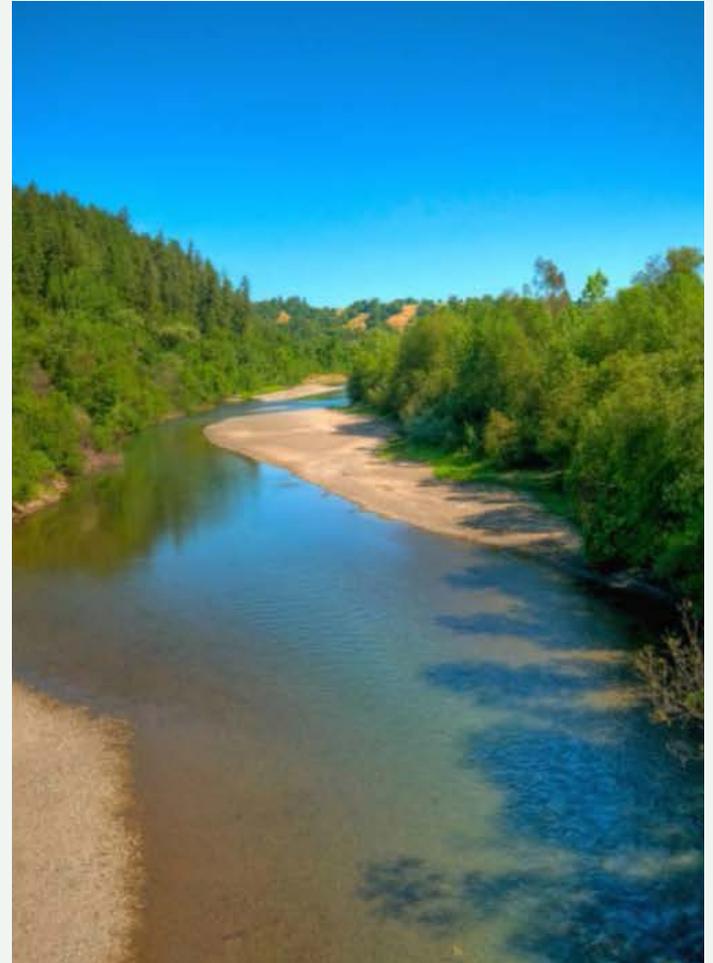


# SCWA Water Rights

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- 1986 State Water Resources Control Board's Decision 1610
- Authorize diversion and re-diversion of 75,000 acre-feet per year
- Water Year Type (Hydrologic Index) based on Lake Pillsbury inflow
- Set minimum instream flows for Russian River and Dry Creek

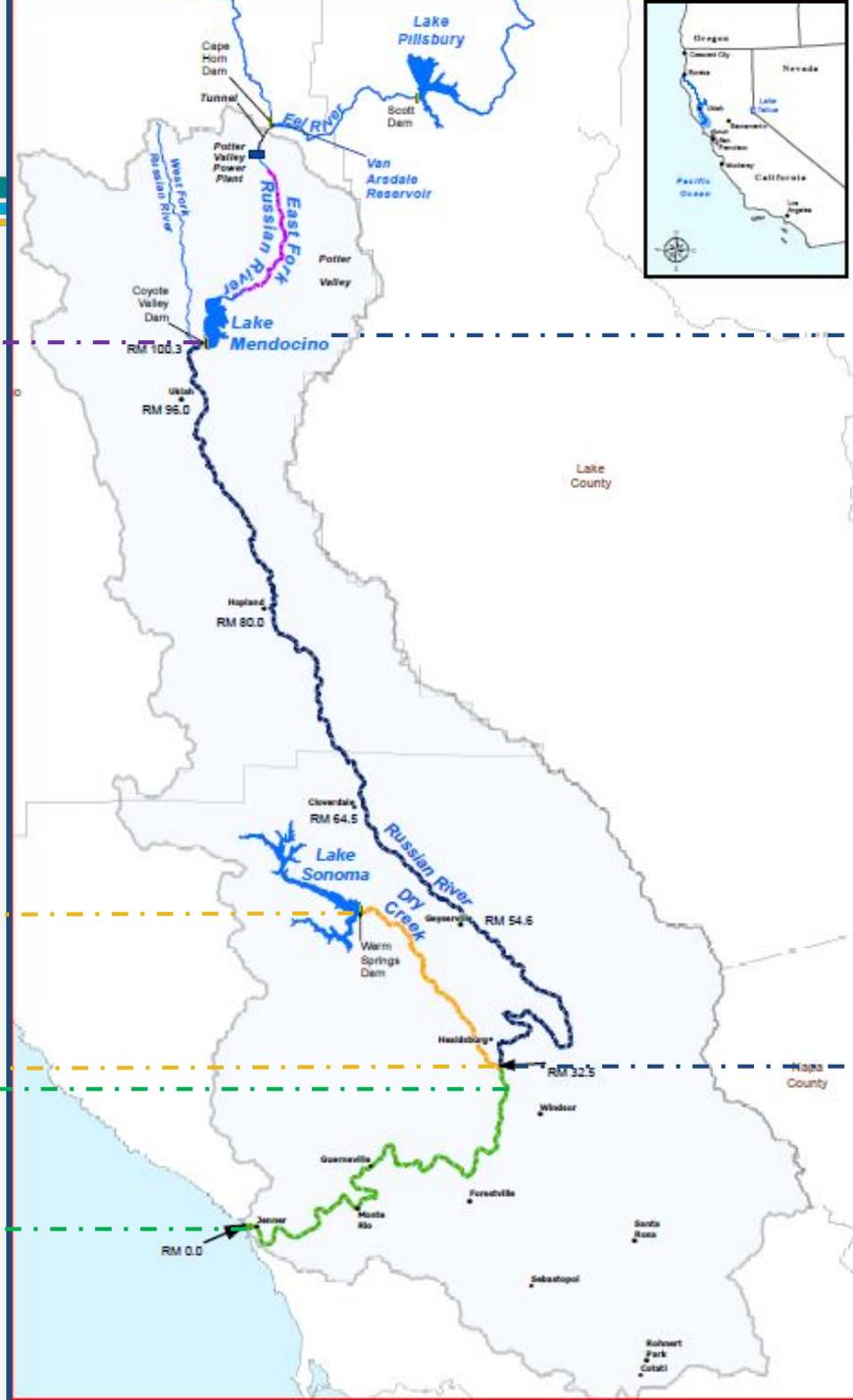


East Fork Russian River

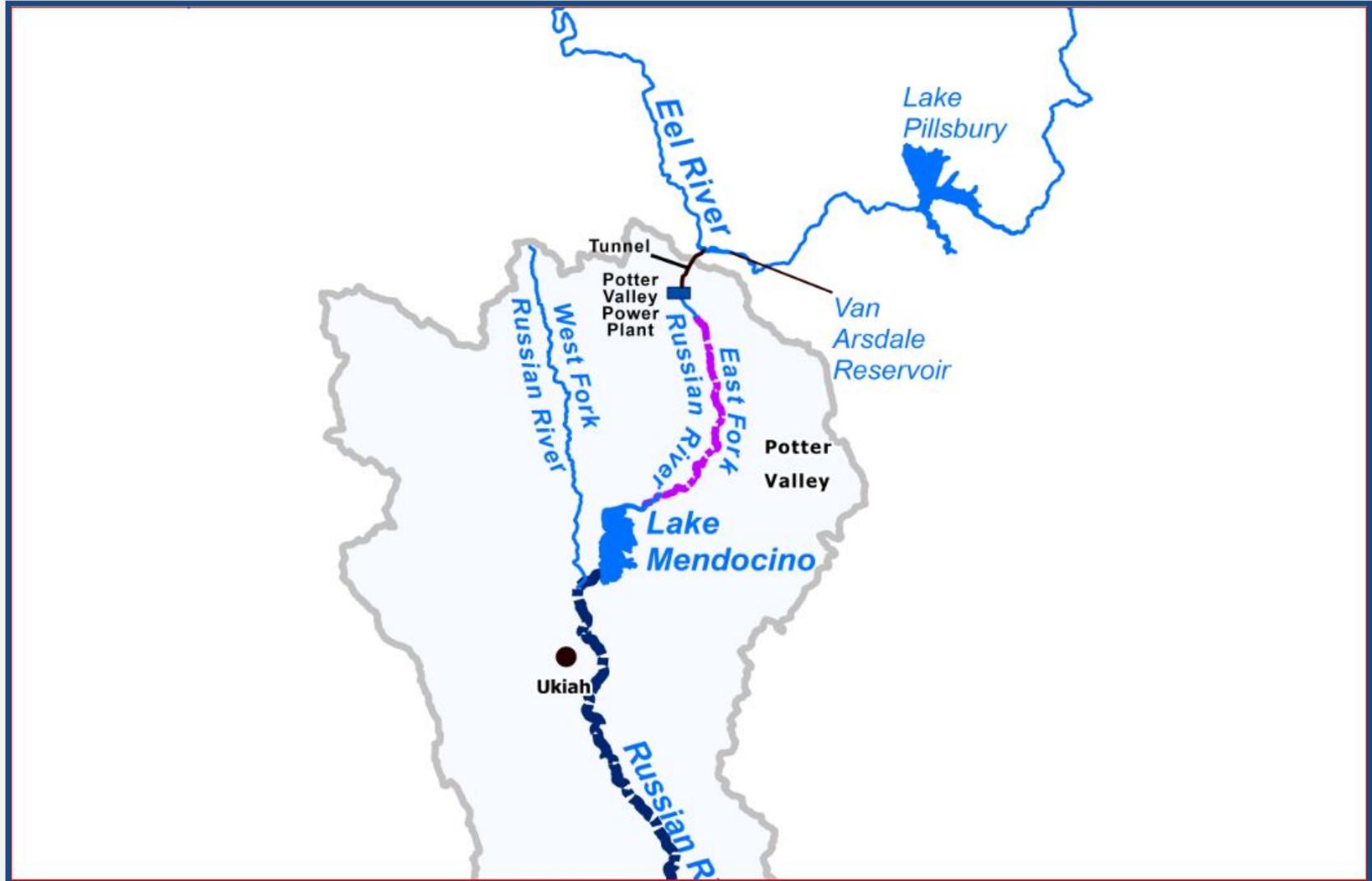
Dry Creek

Lower Russian River

Upper Russian River



# Existing Index and Minimum Flow Requirements



# Project Purpose and Need

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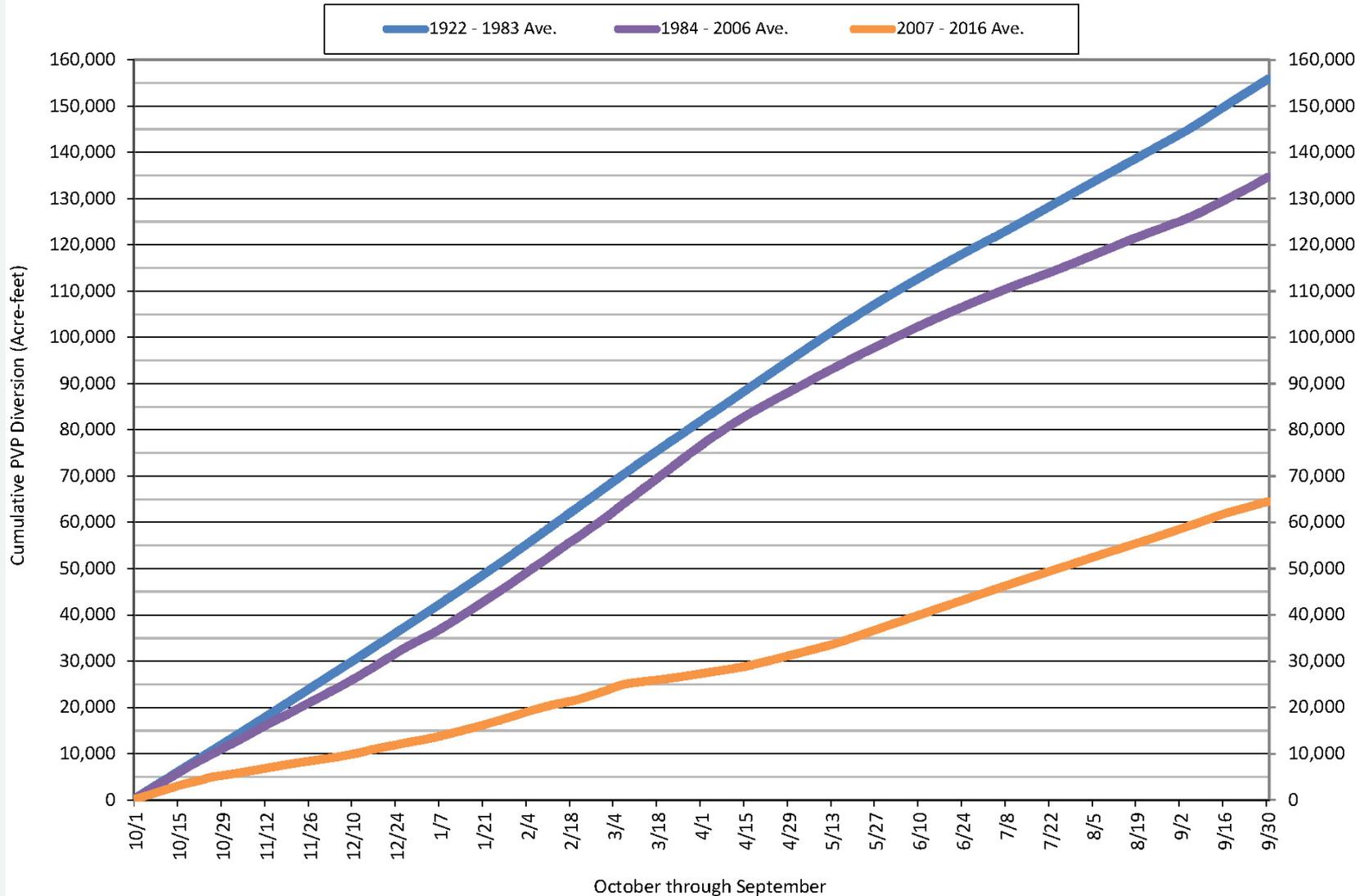
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- Decision 1610 hydrologic index and minimum instream flow requirements no longer appropriate
- Need to comply with Biological Opinion and Endangered Species Act to avoid jeopardizing coho salmon and steelhead
- Changes in inflows into Lake Mendocino reflect the changes in operation of PG&E's Potter Valley Project



# Reduced Inflow to Lake Mendocino

## Cumulative Diversions to Potter Valley Project by Water Year



# Fish Flow EIR Project Objectives

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- Manage Lake Mendocino & Sonoma water supply releases to improve salmonid habitat
- Update existing water rights to reflect current conditions
- Meet requirements of Biological Opinion



# Fish Flow EIR Project Description

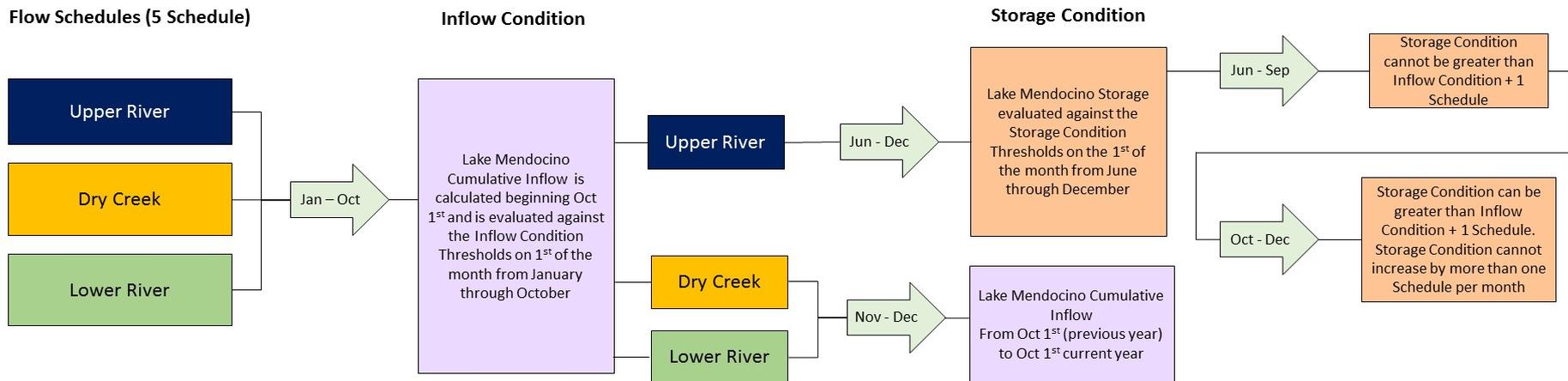
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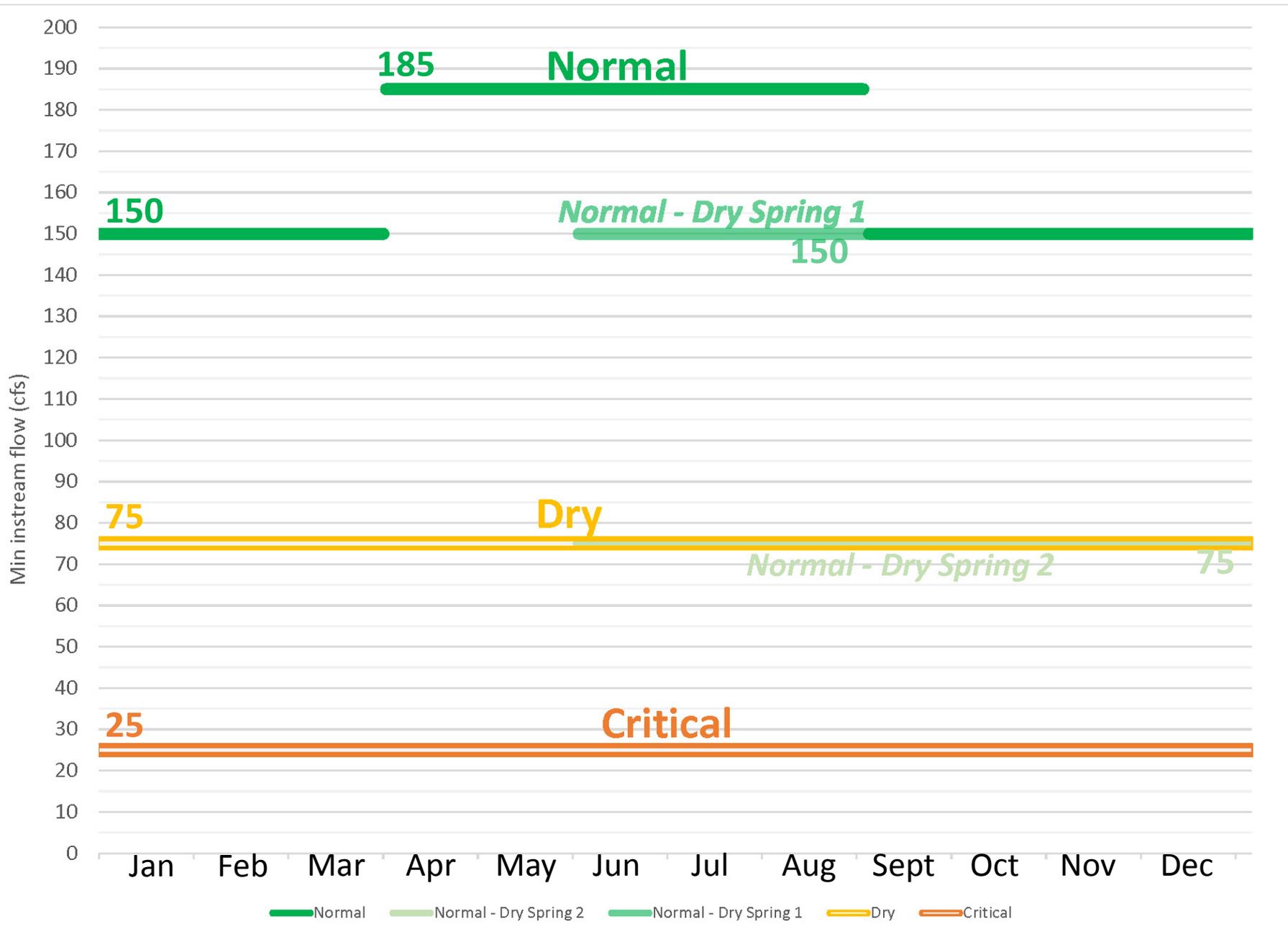
- Replace existing index with new Russian River hydrologic index
- Change minimum instream flow requirements to improve coho and steelhead rearing habitat and Chinook salmon migration
- Extend deadlines for completing beneficial use of existing water rights to year 2040
- Proposed project does not increase or change the quantities of water diverted from the Russian River and Dry Creek
- No request for new water rights or construction of new facilities

# Proposed Russian River Hydrologic Index

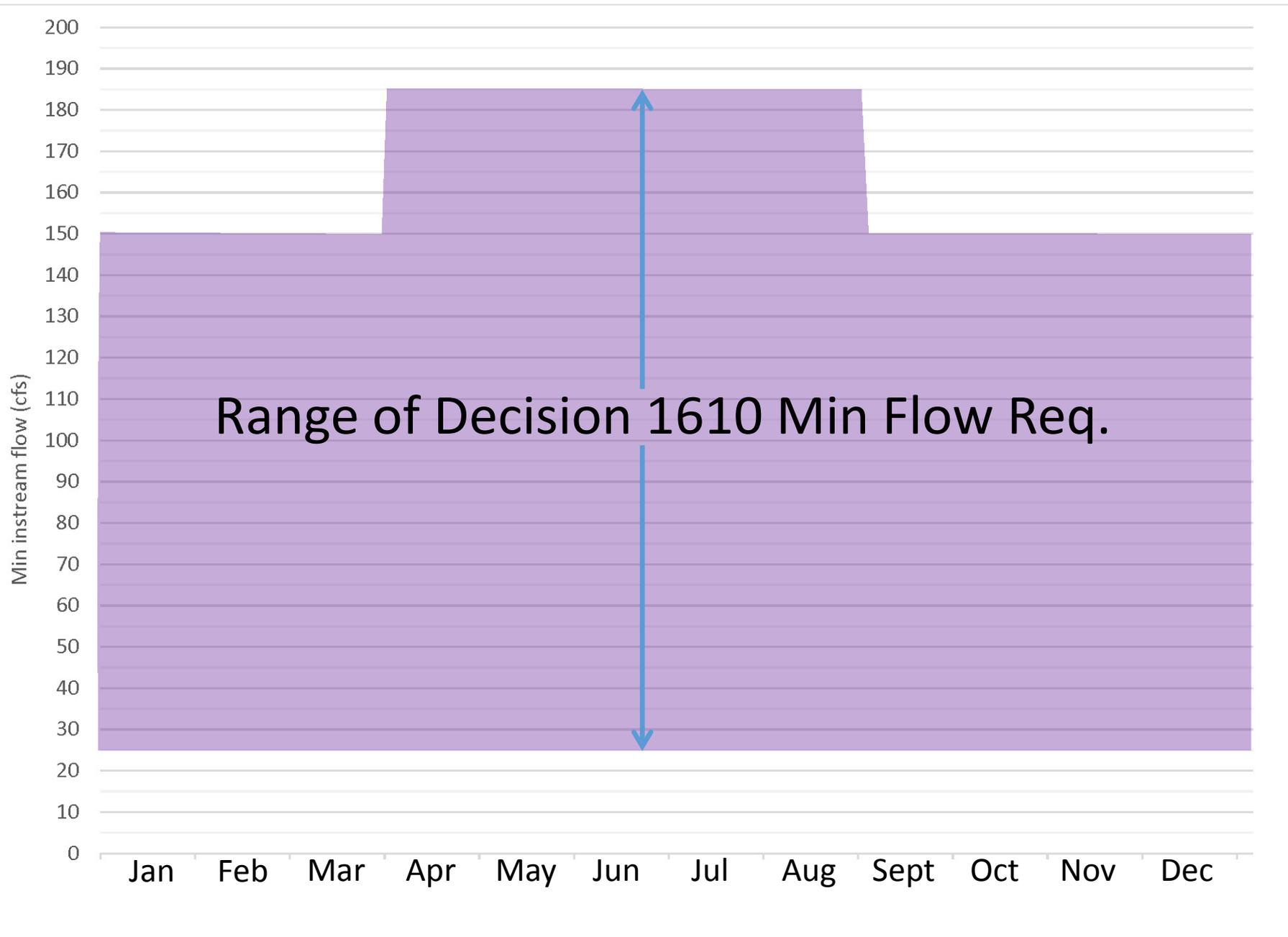
- Moves index from Lake Pillsbury to Lake Mendocino
- Based on inflow and reservoir storage
- Increases number of minimum instream flow schedules from 3 to 5



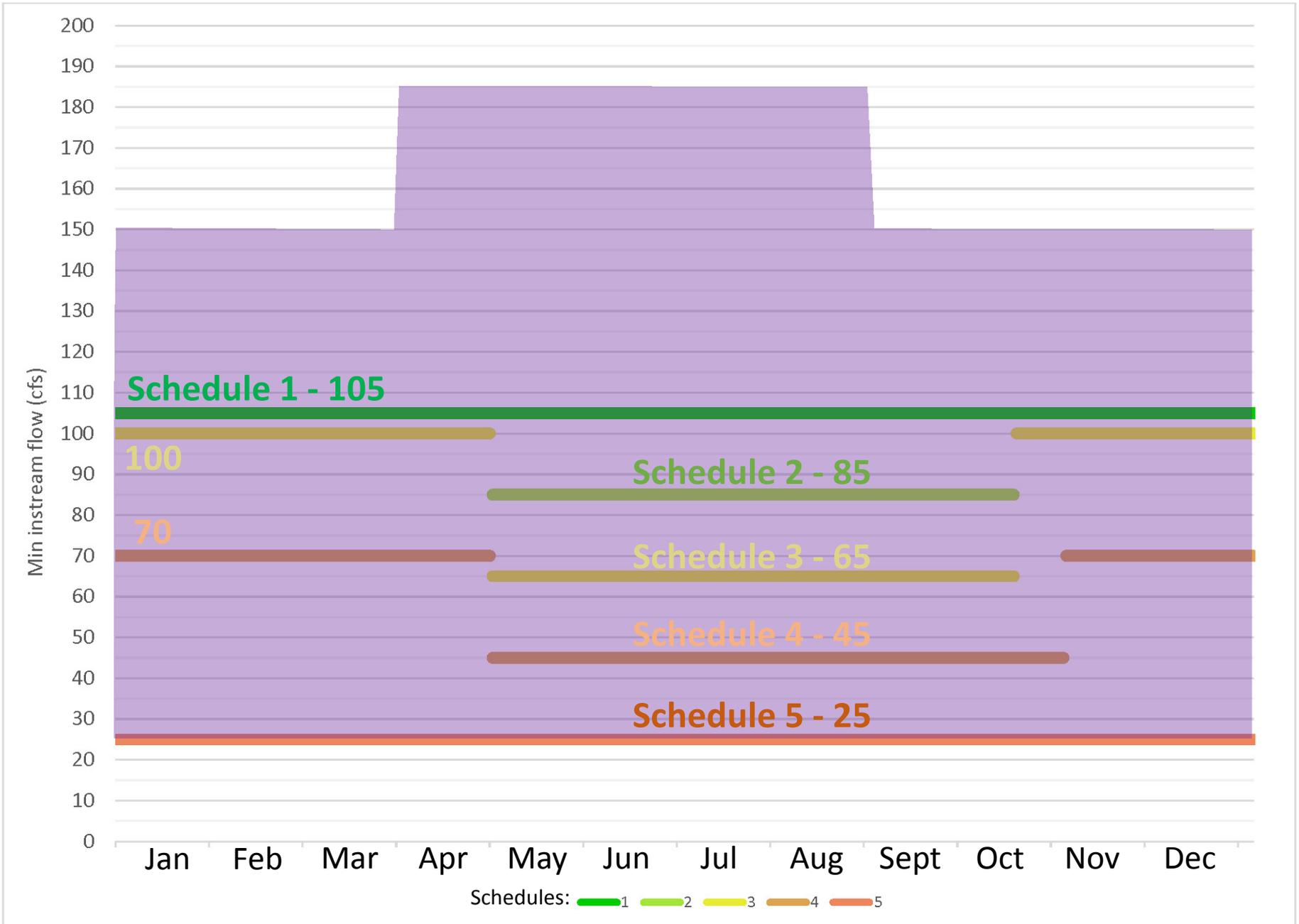
# Upper River Decision 1610 Minimum Instream Flow Requirements



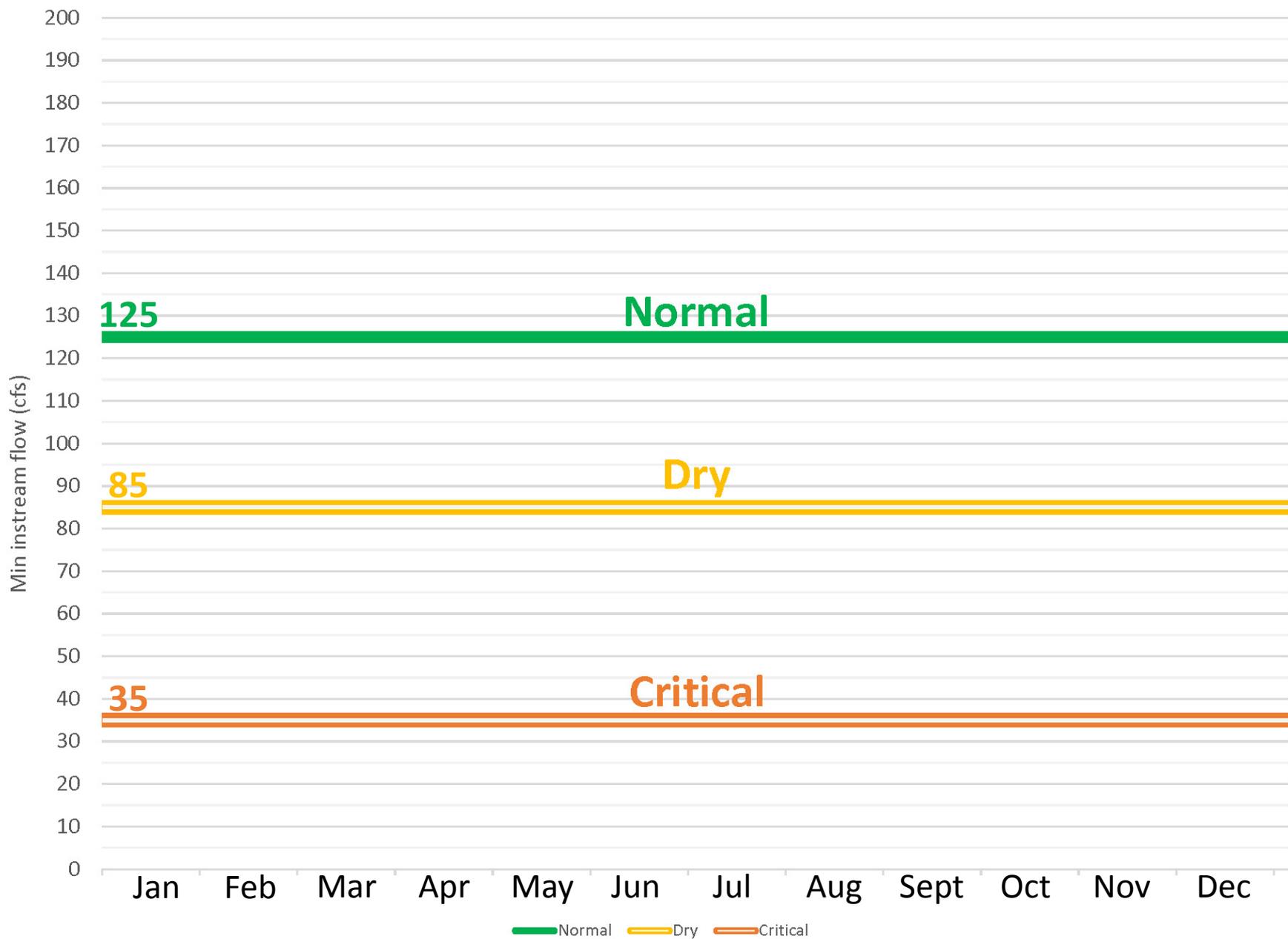
# Upper River Decision 1610 Minimum Instream Flow Requirements



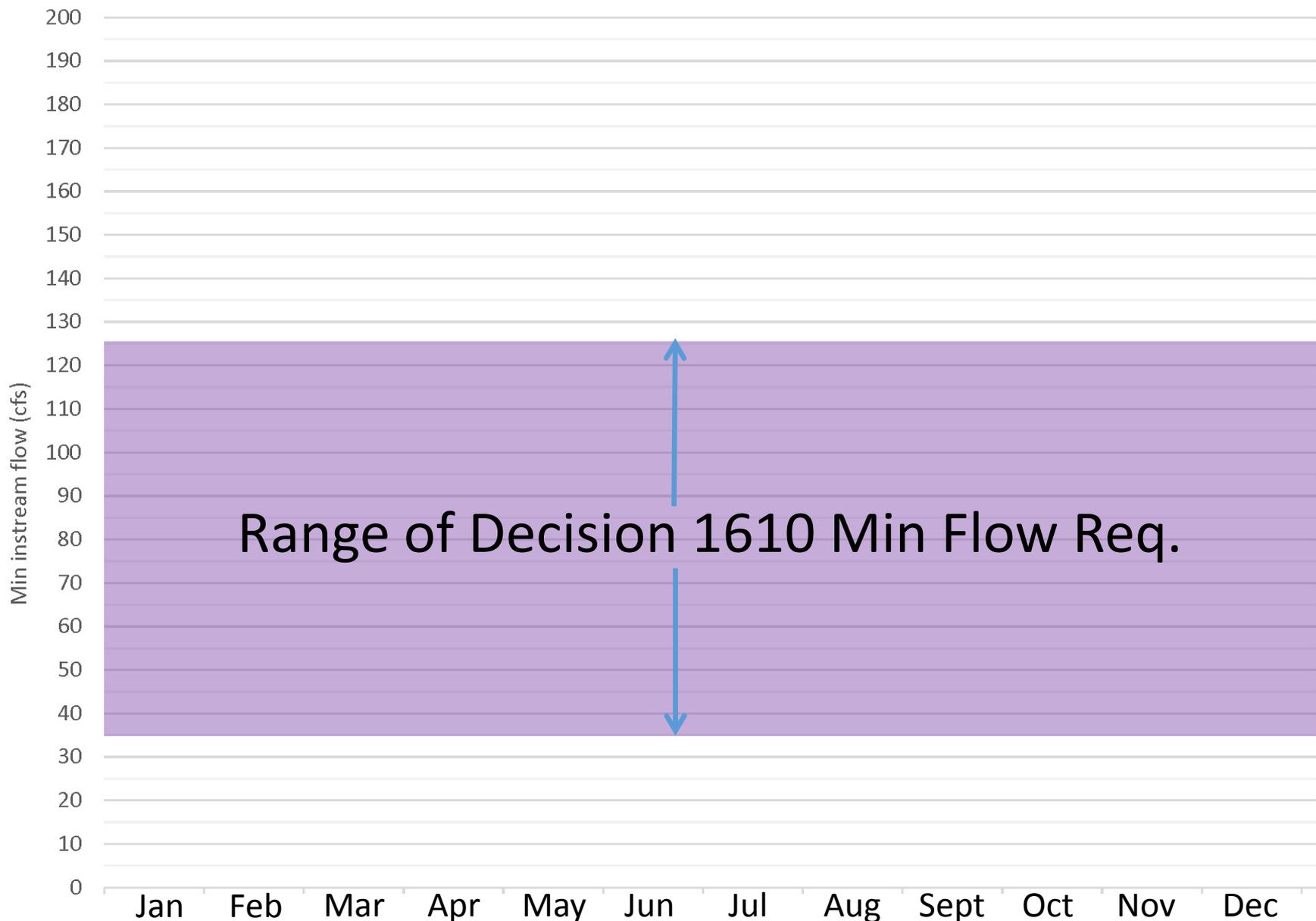
# Proposed Project Upper River Minimum Instream Flow Requirements



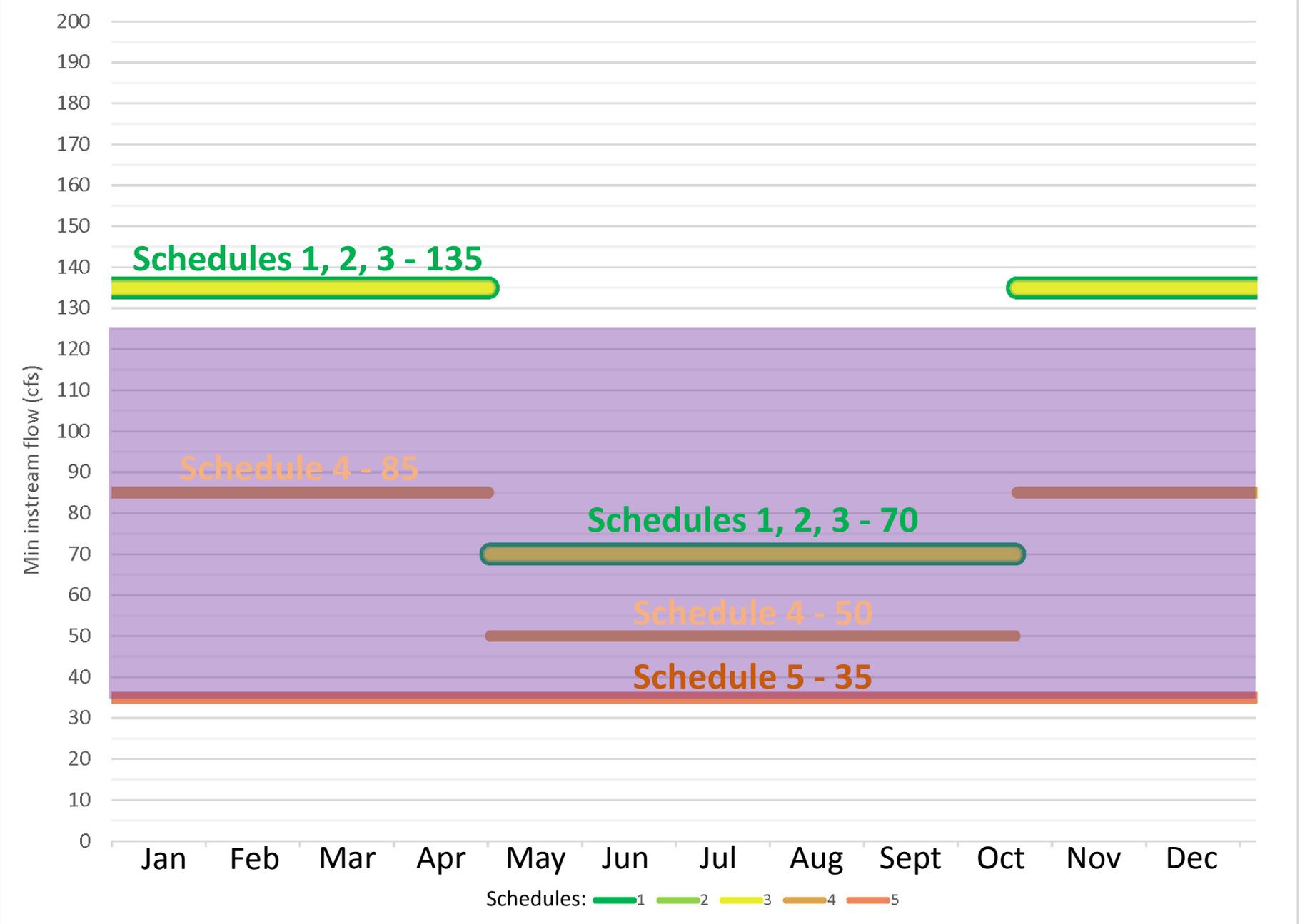
# Lower River Decision 1610 Minimum Instream Flow Requirements



# Lower River Decision 1610 Minimum Instream Flow Requirements



# Proposed Project Lower River Minimum Instream Flow Requirements



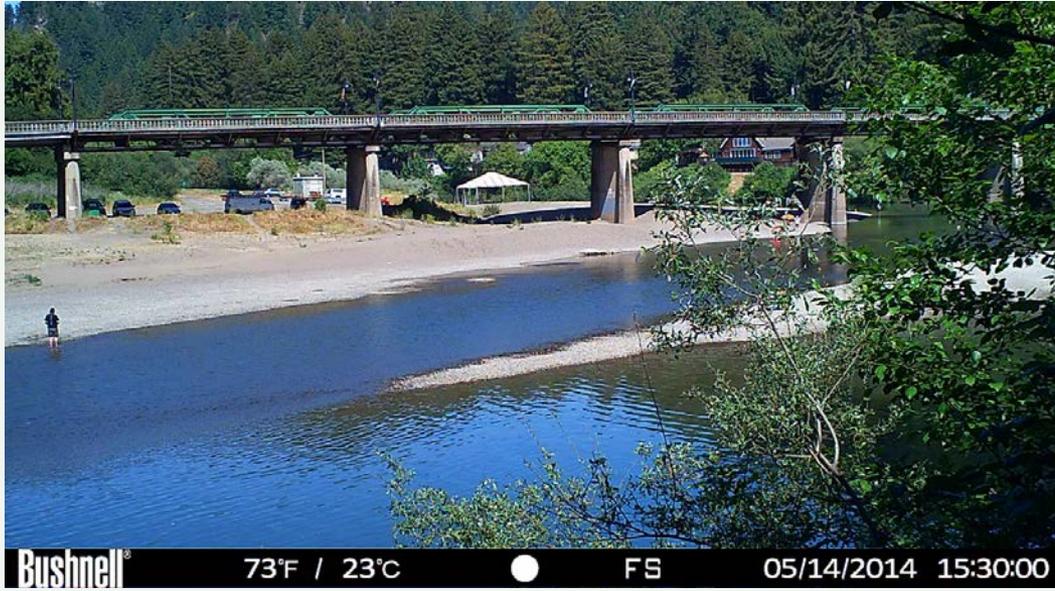
# Draft Environmental Impact Report

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- Reduce/minimize environmental impacts
- Disclose public agency decision making
- Analysis includes:
  - Hydrology
  - Water Quality
  - Fisheries Resources
  - Vegetation and Wildlife
  - Recreation
  - Energy
  - Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
  - Cultural Resources
  - Aesthetics
  - Public Services and Utilities
  - Cumulative
  - Other Statutory Requirements
  - Alternatives

# Draft EIR Appendices



Monte Rio, 05/14/14 at 158 cfs



Monte Rio, 05/25/14 at 88 cfs

# Fisheries Resources

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- Beneficial impacts:
  - Quantity of rearing habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon fry, rearing juvenile Chinook salmon in the Upper Russian River
  - Quality of rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead through improved water temperatures in the months April through November
  - Movement of salmonids in the Upper Russian River and Dry Creek
  - Quantity of spawning habitat for salmonids in the Russian River
  - Habitat for spawning sunfish at Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma



# Fisheries - Water Temperatures

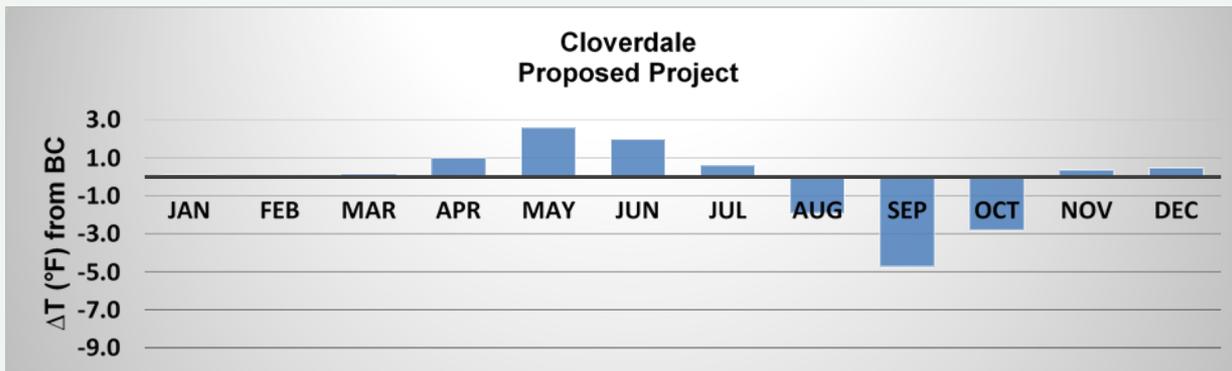
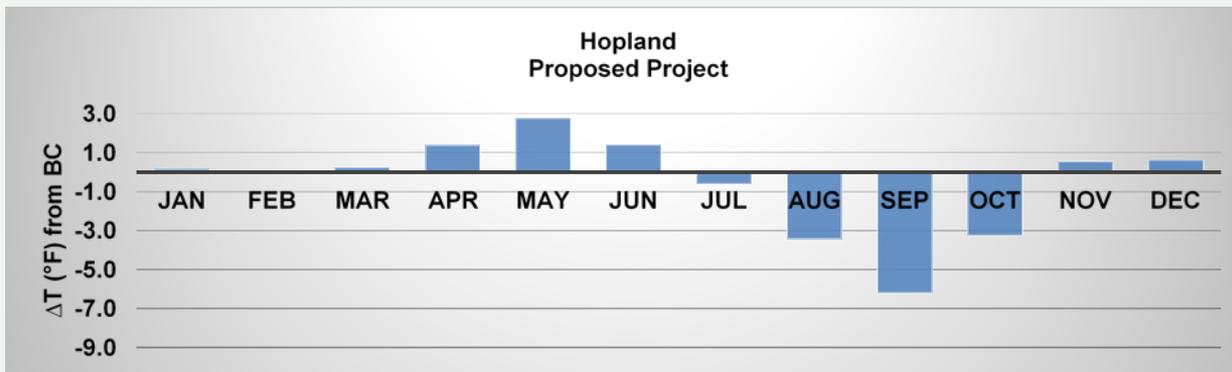
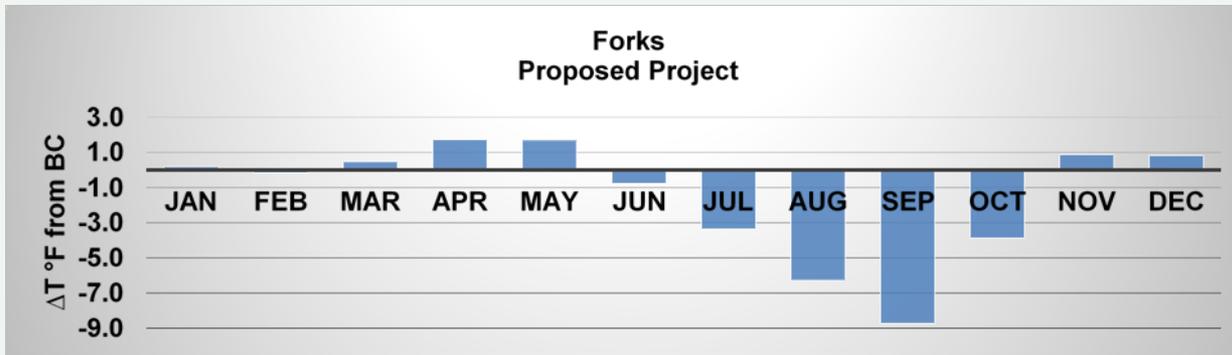


Figure 4.3-14 from Draft EIR, page 4.3-91

# Significant & Unavoidable Impacts

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- Hydrology
  - risk of flooding during tsunami
- Public Services & Utilities
  - minimum bypass flow terms in water rights permits
- Water Quality
  - biostimulatory conditions



# Water Quality - Biostimulatory

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- Analysis based on observed Russian River water quality data from USGS/SCWA stream gages and water quality grab samples
  - Instream flow
  - Temperature
  - Nutrients
  - Chlorophyll a (algae)
  - Dissolved oxygen
- Water quality monitoring data under range of flow conditions demonstrate elevated concentrations of biostimulatory substances under Baseline Conditions

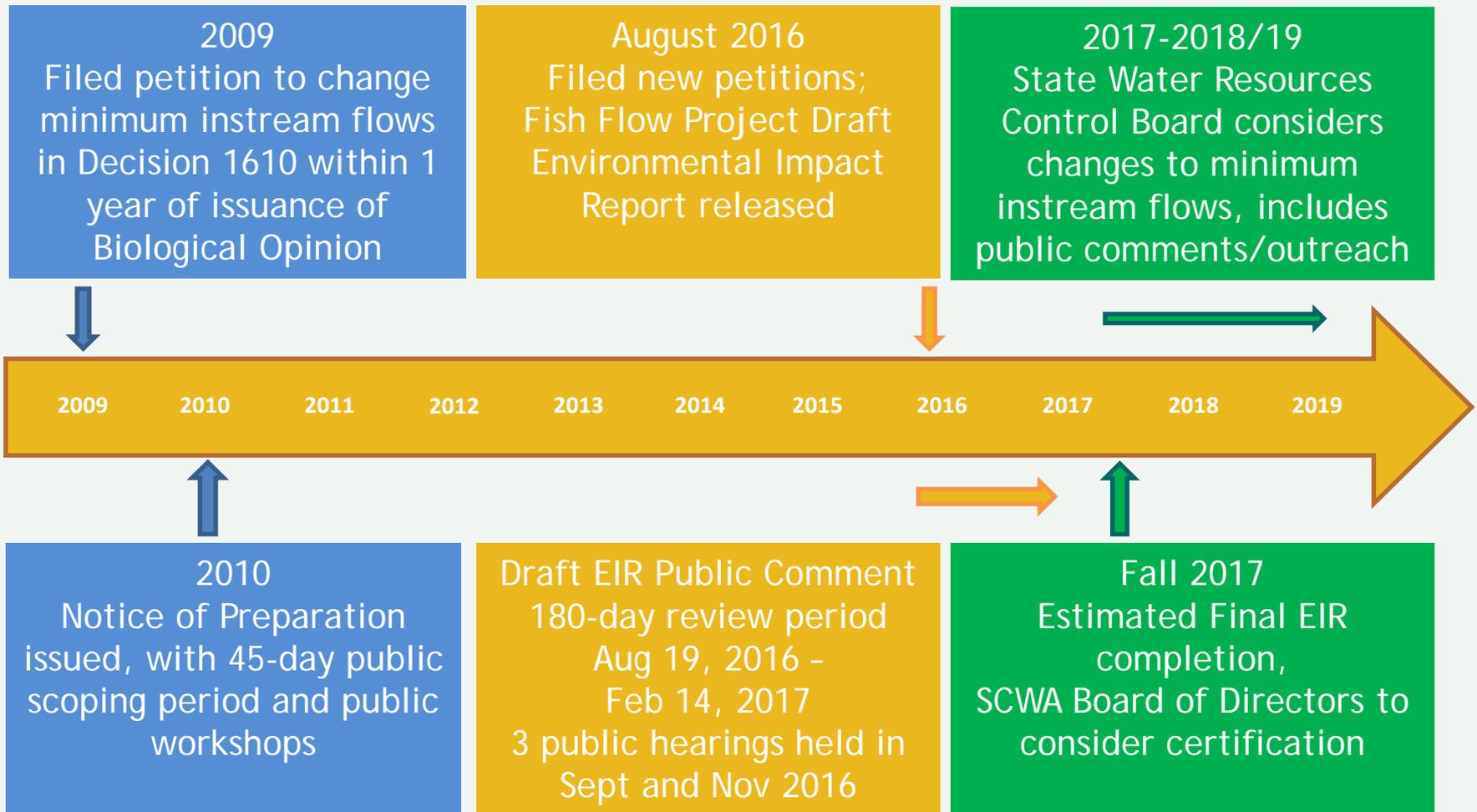
# How to Comment on Draft EIR

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- Review at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org), local libraries, or SCWA offices
- Provide verbal or written comments at public hearings
- Submit written comments before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, to either:
  - [fishflow-eir@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:fishflow-eir@scwa.ca.gov); or
  - Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Attn: Jessica Martini-Lamb, Environmental Resources Manager

# Process for Changing Minimum Instream Flows



# Public Hearing Process

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- Please fill out a speaker card
- Hearing officer will indicate time allotted to speakers
- Transcript will be prepared by court reporter
- All comments received during comment period will be addressed in response to comments in Final EIR

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# Public Hearing