



## Press Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Light Rainfall to Result in 600 Acre-Feet of Water Savings**

#### ***Agency to reduce flows from Lake Mendocino in anticipation of reduced irrigation from agriculture, residents***

Santa Rosa, CA– Last night’s light rainfall has prompted the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) to reduce flows from Lake Mendocino in order to save every drop of water it can over the next ten days. While the rainfall from last night and early this morning only amounted to about a tenth of an inch, the Agency is expected to save nearly 600 acre-feet of water over the next ten days by reducing flows from Lake Mendocino by thirty cubic-feet-per-second (cfs) as a result of anticipated reductions in outdoor water use by agriculture and residents. The flows from Lake Mendocino will be reduced to about 225 cfs.

“It is our hope that residents turned off their irrigation systems due to the rain this morning,” said Chris Murray, principal engineer. “The agricultural community can also assist by not irrigating for a full day due to the rain.”

Saving every drop of water counts this summer, especially when the Agency and its contractors have yet to meet its mandatory reduction in diversions from the Russian River of fifteen percent set by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). To date the Agency has reduced diversions by approximately 10 percent.

Depending on actual rainfall amounts, residents who have installed Smart Irrigation Controllers may expect that their gardens and lawns will not be watered tomorrow due to the rain received today. The Smart Irrigation Controller is a weather-based irrigation controller and an effective technology for reducing water usage outdoors, replacing the standard automatic timer that controls landscape sprinkler systems. The Smart Irrigation Controller incorporates the rainfall as part of the daily watering schedule. Thus, these residents will not only be saving water, but money. Rebates are available for the purchase of Smart Irrigation Controllers. Go to [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org) to learn more about this rebate program and others.

“Instead of turning on the sprinklers, the Smart Irrigation Controller knows that Mother Nature already took care of watering for the day,” said Brian Lee, water conservation specialist.

The reduced outdoor water use due to today’s rainfall is expected to permit the Agency to maintain required stream flows in the Russian River despite the reduced releases from Lake Mendocino. Staff will continue to closely monitor flow levels and will order increases in releases from the lake if necessary to maintain required flow rates.

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*Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).*