



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
**June 9, 2008**

**CONTACT:**  
Brad Sherwood  
Public Information Officer  
707.547.1927 (office)  
707.322.8192 (cell)

### **Surplus Water Service Temporarily Terminated**

(Santa Rosa, CA) —The Sonoma County Water Agency on July 1 will temporarily terminate delivery of water to its surplus customers in order to save water in Lake Mendocino and the Russian River. The Agency provides 23 customers with water service on a surplus only basis and is expecting to save approximately 100 acre-feet of water between July and October due to the termination of service. Surplus water customers include a variety of vineyards, businesses and a county government agency.

“We have been working closely with our contractors, along with the business and agricultural community, to immediately implement voluntary water conservation measures,” said Pam Jeane, deputy chief engineer of operations. “We all must use less water so we have more in Lake Mendocino to ensure water supply for fisheries in the fall and to continue providing high quality water for more than 600,000 residents in Sonoma and Marin counties.”

Under the Agency’s Water Service Rules that apply to all surplus customers, surplus water service deliveries will be made only during those periods during which, in sole judgment of the Agency, there is an available source of water supply and sufficient transmission system delivery capacity which exceeds the existing and anticipated requirements of the Agency and its regular customers.

On May 27, the Agency called for voluntary water-saving measures similar to last summer from its contractors, including the cities of Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Sonoma, and Cotati; the Town of Windsor; North Marin Water District, Valley of the Moon Water District and the Marin Municipal Water District. The Agency is also seeking reduced water use from municipalities, businesses and agricultural communities in Mendocino and Sonoma counties that rely on the Russian River for water. The call comes after receiving historically low rainfall this spring and continued reductions in diversion from the Potter Valley Project.

The Agency’s goal is to save 12,000-15,000 acre-feet in Lake Mendocino by the end of October. Water supply projections show water levels in Lake Mendocino falling below 20,000 acre-feet by early fall, a time when the Agency would like to see at least 30,000 acre-feet in Lake Mendocino to release into the upper Russian River for spawning Chinook salmon.

###

*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).*