

## A Primer of Common Terms\*

**State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)** – An appointed five-member state body that is responsible for allocating surface water rights in California. The SWRCB considers petitions from water users, such as the Sonoma County Water Agency. The SWRCB is the body that will decide whether to grant the Water Agency's petition to change minimum instream flows in the Russian River and Dry Creek, that was required by the Russian River Biological Opinion.

**Decision 1610 (D1610)** – Decision 1610 is a 1986 decision by the SWRCB that established the minimum instream flow requirements in the Russian River and Dry Creek. D1610 established different minimum rates of flow depending on the time of year and whether the water supply conditions are normal, dry or critical.

**Minimum instream flow requirements** – Minimum instream flow requirements refers to the minimum rate of flow of water that the Water Agency must maintain in the Russian River and Dry Creek, as required by the SWRCB in D1610. The required flows vary by the time of year and whether the water supply conditions are normal, dry or critical. In the Russian River and Dry Creek, flows are continuously measured at a number of locations by stream gages and reported in cubic feet per second (cfs).

**Cubic feet per second (cfs)** – Cubic feet per second is a common measure of the rate of flow in a river, creek or stream.

**Acre-feet per year (AFY)** – Acre-feet per year is a measure of the annual volume of water used or allocated. One acre-foot of water would cover an acre of land to a depth of one-foot.

**Diversion** – In the water rights world, "diversion" refers to water that a user diverts or takes from a river, stream or creek. A related term, "rediversion" refers to water that a user takes from a river, stream, creek, or lake that has first been diverted to a man-made storage reservoir (such as a lake or pond). The water is then released from storage and 're-diverted". Technically and legally, the terms have different meanings, but the term 'diversion' is generally used for a non-technical audience to apply to both. The volume of water that is diverted or rediverted is often measured in acre-feet.

**Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16956** – Permits issued to the Water Agency by the SWRCB for the diversion/rediversion and use of water from the Russian River watershed.

**Water year** – The water year is the 12-month period from October through September.

**Hydrologic Index** – Hydrologic indexes are measurements used to determine whether a water supply condition is normal, dry or critical. The Sonoma County Water Agency's hydrologic index is based on flows into PG&E's Lake Pillsbury, which is located on the Eel River outside the Russian River watershed.

*\* Comprehensive discussions of many of these terms can be found in the Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for the Fish Habitat and Water Rights Project (Fish Flow Project) and at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).*