
State Water Resources Control Board

May 25, 2021

«MAIL_RECEIVER_NAME»
«MAIL_RECEIVER_ADDRESS»
«MAIL_RECEIVER_CITY», «MAIL_RECEIVER_STATE» «MAIL_RECEIVER_ZIP»

In Regard to Water Right Statement ID: «APPLICATION_NUMBER»
To: «APPLICATION_PRIMARY_OWNER»

Diminishing Russian River Water Supply – Please Conserve

Water supply in the Russian River watershed is declining due to this year's dry conditions. Data indicates that by early June water supply will be insufficient to meet the needs of post-1914 water rights holders. That supply will continue to decrease rapidly and further limit the availability of water for pre-1914 appropriative rights and riparian diverters.

Our records show you have a pre-1914 appropriative or riparian claim in the Russian River watershed upstream of the Dry Creek confluence. We are sending you this letter to ensure you are aware of the river's declining flow conditions and so you can prepare for the possibility of water becoming unavailable for your water right. We will provide you updated information on the availability of water for your water right through our email subscription list. In the meantime, please conserve and sign up to receive email updates by subscribing to Water Rights "Russian River Drought" at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml.

Development of Emergency Regulations

We are developing emergency regulations to respond to the dry conditions in the Russian River. These emergency regulations may result in curtailment orders directing water right holders to stop diverting, even those with a pre-1914 or riparian water right. Declining supplies make your conservation actions vitally important.

Potential Exceptions

If you receive a notice that water is unavailable for your water right, we may be able to assist you with identifying alternatives and exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions include the following:

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Your diversion is your only source of water for human health and safety purposes, you have no other water supply, **and** you already conserve as much as possible;
- Your diversion is for hydroelectric generation and you return all water you divert to the stream; or
- You have a contract or transfer order allowing you to divert stored water released from a reservoir.

If you divert under any the above circumstances, you will be asked to identify that information after receiving a Notice of Unavailability.

If you have questions, please contact us by email at: RussianRiverDrought@waterboards.ca.gov, or review our drought year webpage at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought>.

Sincerely,

Erik Ekdahl
Deputy Director, Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board