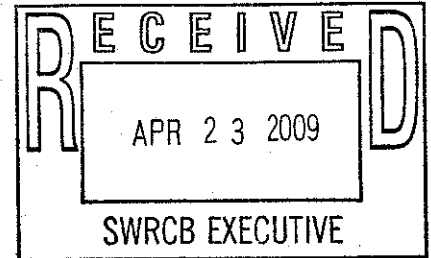


From: Jim Meyers <jimmeyers@mindspring.com>
To: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: Thu, Apr 23, 2009 8:39 PM
Subject: RR Waterflow this Summer

April 24, 2009

State Water Resources Control Board:



My wife and I have been owners of a riverfront property in Monte Rio since 1994. We use our second home for our use, but mostly as a vacation rental through RR Getaways. We understand the hard choices that have to be made during a drought, but it is not clear to us why more water has not been allocated to the lower Russian River. At the levels you've determined for this summer, the river at our property is likely to be unavailable to renters for either swimming or kayaking, making our house much less desirable as a rental and potentially reducing our property value, which has already dropped considerably because of the recession.

We are in a location on the river that already has been inundated by algae and an invading water plant. Both of those pests will grow dramatically at such a reduced flow, given our history on the river. Camille from Getaways has suggested these possible remediations, and we support them:

- > In order to reduce the impacts from reduced flows under Order 2009-0027-DWR we
- > urge you on May 6 to take action to protect water quality and beneficial uses
- > in the Russian River.
- > Specifically we urge you to:
- >
- > - Increase frequency of chemical water quality monitoring to every two weeks
- > with results posted promptly on a public website to proactively prevent water
- > quality problems such as algae blooms from increased nutrient concentrations
- >
- > - Include new provisions in the order to require flow changes in response to
- > violations in water quality standards or as needed to protect juvenile ESA
- > listed fish over the summer, the water agency released water to protect grapes
- > from frost on April 14 to 16th so we expect increases to protect water quality
- > as well
- >
- > - Installation of additional gauges as needed to ensure instantaneous flow
- > compliance levels are maintained, in 2004 and 2007 compliance levels were
- > violated under previous orders
- >
- > - A minimum of 25% mandatory conservation for SCWA customers and all users
- > downstream of Dry Creek to to help maintain flows and conserve water in case
- > of multi-year drought.
- >
- > - Mandatory conservation by all permitted water diversions upstream of Dry
- > Creek including agricultural and rural residential diversions and streamside
- > wells pumping underflow
- >
- > - Additional prohibitions in the Order on diversions that are not permitted in
- > critically dry conditions or if needed a separate order restraining those
- > unpermitted diversions to protect water storage in Lake Mendocino and maintain
- > higher flows
- >

- > - Keep order prohibition on commercial turf irrigation in SCWA service area
- > and expand to include all commercial turf using water from the Russian River
- >
- > We believe that modifying the order to include these provisions will improve
- > protection of water quality, juvenile endangered fish and likely result in
- > somewhat higher flows due to reduced diversions. We greatly appreciate your
- > consideration of our comments.
- >
- > Thank you,

Jim Meyers and Laurel Pallock
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