



May 27, 2021

Attn: Erik Ekdahl, Deputy Director
PGCommunityInput@sonoma-county.org
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

VIA EMAIL
Erik.Ekdahl@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Ekdahl:

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the eight Water Agency Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District who purchase water from the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) urges the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to immediately approve Sonoma Water's Petitions for Temporary Urgency Change (TUCP) – Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950 and 16596 (Applications 12919A, 15736, 15737 and 19351). Sonoma Water filed the TUCPs with the Board on May 13, 2021.

The TAC is comprised of Sonoma Water's retail water contractors, including the cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Town of Windsor, the North Marin and Valley of the Moon Water Districts plus Marin Municipal Water District. The TAC helps make decisions regarding water supply issues in Sonoma Water's service area.

The Russian River watershed is facing a severe drought, with two consecutive dry years leaving Lake Sonoma at 58 percent of water storage capacity. Lake Sonoma is the primary source of water supply to TAC agencies, including 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. TAC agencies are concerned that continued dry weather will only exacerbate drought conditions and further challenge regional water resources, including water storage at Lake Sonoma. Furthermore, without Board intervention, beginning June 1st releases from Lake Sonoma into Dry Creek will exceed rates that would violate the applicable incidental take statement issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, potentially jeopardizing the survival of threatened and endangered fish species. The Water Contractors have collectively taken proactive measures and requested our communities to lower water use by 20 percent to help preserve water storage in Lake Sonoma. However, without expeditious approval of Sonoma Water's requested temporary changes, the importance of these requested reductions in water use to preserve water storage is negated as releases are made to meet current minimum in-stream flows.

Every day of additional delay by the Board in issuing an order approving Sonoma Water's TUCP results in less water supply being preserved and stored in Lake Sonoma to meet the needs of our region. The TAC urges the Board to immediately approve the TUCPs to help our communities better manage our critical water supplies during this severe drought.

Thank you,



Drew McIntyre
Chair, Technical Advisory Committee
General Manager, North Marin Water District

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