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SWEETWATER SPRINGS
WATER DISTRICT

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FILE:CF/42-0-9.1 SWRCB MODIFYING THE MINIMUM INSTREAM FLOW REQUIREMENTS (APPLICATIONS 12919A, 15736, 15737 AND 19351)

July 2, 2010

Sweetwater Springs Water District
Stephen Mack, General Manager
PO Box 48
Guerneville, CA 95446

RE: WATER RIGHTS PETITION TO MODIFY MINIMUM INSTREAM FLOW REQUIREMENTS

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Sonoma County Water Agency has received your recent protest to the Water Agency's petition to permanently modify minimum instream flows in the Russian River. This petition asks the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to reduce some of the minimum instream flow requirements for the Russian River and Dry Creek that are in the Water Agency's water rights permits (Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950 and 16596). The *Russian River Biological Opinion*, which was issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in September 2008, required the Water Agency to file this petition. A copy of the Biological Opinion is available at www.scwa.ca.gov/rrifr. Section X(A)(1) of the Biological Opinion describes the changes in these requirements as specified by the NMFS.

The Water Agency is waiting for the SWRCB to issue notice on which protests they have accepted. We expect that the SWRCB's notice will direct us to file formal answers to the protests that are accepted. The Water Agency will also prepare an Environmental Impact Report under the California Environmental Quality Act, which will describe the proposed changes to the minimum instream flow requirements and the possible environmental impacts of such changes. These will be the first steps in the lengthy process that will occur before the SWRCB decides whether or not to make such changes. You will have several opportunities to provide input during this process before it is completed.

We appreciate your interest in the Russian River watershed and look forward to your continued participation in this process.

Sincerely,

Pamela Jeane for
Grant Davis
General Manager

c: J. Jasperse, P. Jeane, D. Seymour, A. DuBay, T. Schram — Sonoma County Water Agency
S. Shupe — Sonoma County Counsel
A. Lilly — Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan

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