



June 4, 2021

SENT VIA: EMAIL

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Ukiah
- County of Mendocino
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

ANDY RODGERS
Executive Director

300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 508-3670
cleanwater@rrwatershed.org
www.rrwatershed.org

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Attn: Jane Ling
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

SUBJECT: Support for Sonoma Water's Petitions for Temporary Urgency Change (TUCP) – Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950 and 16596 (Applications 12919A, 15736, 15737 and 19351)

Dear State Water Resources Control Board Members:

The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is a coalition of ten public agencies in the Russian River Watershed in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water and watershed enhancement. On behalf of our member agencies, RRWA supports Sonoma Water's Petitions for Temporary Urgency Change (TUCP) – Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950 and 16596 (Applications 12919A, 15736, 15737 and 19351) and urges the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to immediately approve the petitions. Sonoma Water filed the TUCPs with the Board on May 13, 2021. Every day delaying the State Water Board issuing an order approving Sonoma Water's TUCP results in more water being released from Lake Sonoma to meet current minimum in-stream flow requirements and therefore less water supply is preserved and stored in Lake Sonoma for our communities.

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 most RRWA agencies, including 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. RRWA 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, releases from Lake Sonoma into Dry Creek will exceed the maximum release authorized in the Russian River Biological Opinion starting June 1st. RRWA member agencies have collectively 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.

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The RRWA urges the Board to immediately approve the TUCPs to help our communities better manage our water supplies during this severe drought.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Rodgers", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andy Rodgers, RRWA Executive Director

cc: RRWA Board of Directors