
(Name: Please Print)

(Street Address)

(Town)

(Zip Code)

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Attn: Jennifer Dick-McFadden
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
Email: Jennifer.Dick-McFadden@waterboards.ca.gov

October, 2016

PROTESTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM ON NOV. 22, 2016

PROTEST REGARDING: NOTICE OF SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY (SCWA) PETITIONS FOR CHANGE AND PETITIONS FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PERMITS 12947A, 12949, 12950, AND 16596 (APPLICATIONS 12919A, 15736, 15737, AND 19351)

Dear Ms. Dick-McFadden:

SCWA's *Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project (Fish Flow Project: SCH #2010092087)* preferred project calls for lowering minimum flows in the lower Russian River as measured at the Hacienda Bridge between May 1st and October 15th during normal hydrologic years from 125 cfs (Decision 1610) to 70 cfs. as called for in the Biological Opinion, and from 85 cfs to 50 cfs during dry years. The DEIR considers no other flow alternatives between 70 cfs and 125 cfs during normal years for the lower river. The excessive 50 cfs minimum in dry years is 20 cfs lower than what is called for in the Biological Opinion.

I am challenging this petition because I am concerned about the impacts to water quality from this flow reduction including possible increased pollution from nutrients, regulated and emerging toxins, bacteria, temperature, invasive species, toxic algae, etc. This action will seriously impede my enjoyment of the river and possibly my health and that of my loved ones. I am also concerned about impacts to other species such as amphibians, sea birds, seals, invertebrates, unlisted fish, etc. I am concerned that justification for changing these flows is to maintain a closed estuary that provides fresh water habitat for juvenile steelhead. Yet in six years of trying, while our river continued to degrade, Estuary conditions met project requirements only once in a 15-year period between 1999 and 2014, for about a week in June, 2010.

The EIR states the following un-mitigatable significant Impact 4.2-4 on page 1-20 of the Executive Summary: "*Changes to minimum instream flows could result in a violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise degrade water quality relating to biostimulatory substances in the Russian River.*" In fact, two dogs died last year from exposure to toxic algae and low levels of the toxin were discovered this year during the low flow period. Local beaches were posted with warning notices about possible harm to people and pets. I am concerned about the safety of my pets and loved ones.

Detailed evidence of these allegations will be provided to you by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee and other agencies and organizations. I have sent a copy of this letter to the Sonoma County Water Agency, 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA, 95403, Attention Todd Schram or Todd.Schram@scwa.ca.gov . Please list me as a formal protester of this project.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

(Date)

