



California Voluntary Drought Initiative



VOLUNTARY DROUGHT AGREEMENT

Priority Tributaries to the Russian River
To Conserve Water and Help Salmon in Your Creek
Residential Landowner

Whether or not you use creek water or well water, have a lawn or use water for a garden or landscaping, water conservation in and around your home will help the salmon in your creek. If you are already taking water conservation actions or are willing to implement water conservation actions that are applicable to you, please sign this Agreement and help the salmon.

This Voluntary Drought Agreement (Agreement) is developed to implement the goals of the California Voluntary Drought Initiative (Initiative). This Agreement is between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and a residential landowner in the Russian River Watershed (Landowner).

Priority Watershed

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown proclaimed a drought State of Emergency, directing State officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortfalls. On April 25, 2014, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order directing CDFW to work with other State and Federal agencies and landowners in priority watersheds to protect certain species. On May 13, 2014, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and CDFW adopted a California Voluntary Drought Initiative (Initiative), expressing an intention to work with water users in high priority watersheds in the state to reduce the negative effects of the drought on salmon and steelhead. The Russian River Watershed, which this Agreement covers, was identified as a Priority Watershed in the Initiative. This watershed contains Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon and CCC steelhead, which are listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) as Endangered and Threatened, respectively. Coho salmon are also listed as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). **This Agreement will conserve water in your home and yard to leave more water in the creek for the salmon.**

Water Conservation Measures

The Landowner agrees to:

Forgo irrigation of all lawn areas and minimize irrigation of landscaping and where possible;

- Install water conservation measures and limit indoor water use;
- Reduce instantaneous diversion rates (withdraw water more slowly);
- Use alternative water sources that will not directly or indirectly affect instream flow;
- Coordinate diversions among adjacent landowners so that instantaneous diversion rates can be limited by withdrawing water at different times;
- Consider additional voluntary conservation actions proposed by CDFW.

Landowner Access for Monitoring and Fish Relocation

The Landowner agrees to:

- Allow reasonable access to property to facilitate fish rescue and relocation by NMFS and CDFW staff and their representatives; and
- Allow reasonable access to property for fisheries monitoring by NMFS and CDFW staff and their representatives.

Reporting

1. Please indicate approximately how many square feet of lawn will not be watered:

2. Please indicate approximately how many gallons of water is expected to be saved per month:

3. If applicable, please indicate any other action that are being taken to conserve water:

This Agreement represents an extraordinary measure intended to enable fish to survive the critical 2015 drought period. This Agreement does not allow for the installation or operation of any new diversion or instream structure. Once signed, this agreement will remain in place until May 31, 2016, or until Federal or State drought emergency declarations or designations are no longer in effect, whichever comes first. If the Landowner chooses to terminate this agreement prior to that date, the Landowner agrees to notify the CDFW in writing, at the address listed below, prior to such termination.

PARTICIPATING PARTIES

Landowner Name (Print):	Watershed:
Address:	APN Number(s):
Email Address:	Phone Number:
Landowner (Signature):	Date:

Scott Wilson, Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bay Delta Region
7329 Silverado Trail, Napa, CA 94558

Date