

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD OCTOBER 6, 2023 STAFF  
WORKSHOP REGARDING EMERGENCY REGULATION EFFORTS IN SCOTT RIVER  
AND SHASTA RIVER WATERSHEDS**

**SCHEDULE**

**Date: Friday, October 6, 2023**

**Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (targeted end time)**

**Location:**

- **In-person:** Coastal Hearing Room at Joe Serna Jr. CalEPA Building (1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA) – You can RSVP to provide comments using the [online form<sup>1</sup>](#).
- **Virtual:** Watch via [webcast<sup>2</sup>](#) or participate via [Zoom by completing the online form<sup>3</sup>](#) – see [notice<sup>4</sup>](#) for more details on how to participate virtually. *(The workshop will be recorded and transcribed for participants that are unable to participate.)*

TIME (APPROXIMATE)	ITEM	SPEAKER(S)
9:00 – 9:30 am	Welcomes, Logistics, Ground Rules, Overview, and Framing for Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State Water Board Staff</b></li> </ul>
9:30 – 10:50 am (followed by 10-minute break for logistics)	<p><b>State of Fisheries in Scott and Shasta Rivers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each listed panelist will have their designated time to respond to specific questions* provided by Board staff related to the status of fisheries in the Scott and Shasta watersheds.</li> <li>• Additional time will be used for staff to ask questions of invited speakers and comments** from in-person and virtual workshop attendees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and National Marine Fisheries Service staff</b> (20 minutes)</li> <li>• <b>Councilman Troy Hockaday</b>, Karuk Tribe (15 minutes)</li> <li>• <b>Michael Belchik</b>, Yurok Tribe (15 minutes)</li> <li>• <b>Sarah Schaefer</b>, Quartz Valley Indian Tribe (15 minutes)</li> </ul>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<p><b>Emergency Flow Requirements for Scott and Shasta Rivers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each speaker will have their designated time to respond to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CDFW Staff</b> (25 minutes)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sari Sommarstrom</b> (15 minutes) – Scott only</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> URL:

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=JWoY\\_kI95kGZQQXSKB02wdZD1CI3H\\_5AIMmZbdaI\\_0xUNEMwWEdNRVUzOFk4QU5MWEQ1QVA0WFA1WS4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=JWoY_kI95kGZQQXSKB02wdZD1CI3H_5AIMmZbdaI_0xUNEMwWEdNRVUzOFk4QU5MWEQ1QVA0WFA1WS4u)

<sup>2</sup> URL: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/#/>

<sup>3</sup> Same URL as Footnote 1

<sup>4</sup> URL:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/calendar/docs/2023/notice\\_scottshastawks\\_p\\_090823.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/docs/2023/notice_scottshastawks_p_090823.pdf)

**October 6, 2023 Staff Workshop Regarding Emergency Regulation Efforts  
in Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds**

<b>TIME (APPROXIMATE)</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>SPEAKER(S)</b>
	<p>specific questions* provided by Board staff related to appropriate emergency fishery flows in the Scott and Shasta Rivers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional time will be used for staff to ask questions of invited speakers and comments** from in-person and virtual workshop attendees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gary Black</b>, Shasta Producers (15 minutes) – Shasta only</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:40 pm	Lunch Break	
12:40 – 1:50 pm (followed by 5-minute break for logistics)	<b>Emergency Flow Requirements for Scott and Shasta Rivers (continued)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elias Scott</b>, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (20 minutes)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Thomas Harter</b> and <b>Leland Scantlebury</b>, UC Davis (10 minutes)</li> <li>• <b>Bronwen Stanford</b>, The Nature Conservancy (10 minutes)</li> </ul>
1:55 – 3:20 pm (followed by 10-minute break for logistics)	<b>Groundwater Local Cooperative Solutions (LCSs)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Water Board staff will provide an overview of the groundwater LCS program.</li> <li>• Each listed speaker will have <b>up to 10 minutes</b> to respond to specific questions* provided by Board staff related to groundwater LCSs.</li> <li>• Additional time will be used for staff to ask questions of invited speakers and comments** from in-person and virtual workshop attendees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State Water Board Staff</b></li> <li>• <b>Chris Voigt</b>, formerly with Siskiyou RCD</li> <li>• CDFW Staff</li> <li>• <b>Eli Asarian</b>, Riverbend Science</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Thomas Harter</b> and <b>Leland Scantlebury</b>, UC Davis</li> <li>• <b>Theodora Johnson</b>, Scott Valley Agricultural Water Alliance</li> </ul>
3:30 – 4:10 pm	<b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Water Board staff will give an overview of current data availability and needs.</li> <li>• Additional time will be used for comments** from in-person and virtual workshop attendees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State Water Board Staff</b></li> </ul>

**October 6, 2023 Staff Workshop Regarding Emergency Regulation Efforts  
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<b>TIME (APPROXIMATE)</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>SPEAKER(S)</b>
4:10 pm – close (targeting no later than 5:00 pm)	<b>Additional Comments**</b>  <b>Workshop Wrap-up</b>	<b>• Workshop Attendees</b>  <b>State Water Board Staff</b>

\* **Questions provided to speakers are attached to this schedule.**

\*\* **Comments may also be submitted via email to: [ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov).**

# October 6, 2023 Staff Workshop Regarding Emergency Regulation Efforts in Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

## PANELIST QUESTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMENTS

Broken out by topic below are questions that invited speakers at the October 6, 2023, workshop have been asked to address in their presentations on the topics of State of the Fisheries, Emergency Flows, Groundwater Local Cooperative Solutions, and Data.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) staff will ask additional questions, as needed, as part of the workshop. If you would like to suggest additional questions for Board staff's consideration, please email the questions to: [ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov).

### State of the Fisheries:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and National Marine Fisheries Service Staff (20 minutes)
  - Please describe the state of the fisheries in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds with a focus on coho, Chinook, and steelhead.
  - What would healthy fish numbers be for these watersheds?
  - How important are the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds to coho, Chinook, and steelhead populations to the Klamath Basin populations?
- Councilman Troy Hockaday, Karuk Tribe (15 minutes)
  - What is the state of Klamath/Pacific fisheries, and how has that status affected your tribe? Please provide any information on recent trends, life history, or other items you think are relevant.
- Michael Belchik, Yurok Tribe (15 minutes)
  - What is the state of Klamath/Pacific fisheries, and how has that status affected your tribe? Please provide any information on recent trends, life history, or other items you think are relevant.
- Sarah Schaefer, Quartz Valley Indian Tribe (15 minutes)
  - What is the state of Klamath/Pacific fisheries, and how has that status affected your tribe? Please provide any information on recent trends, life history, or other items you think are relevant.
- Open for comments from attendees\*\*.

### Emergency Flows:

- CDFW Staff (25 minutes)
  - Please provide support and background for the drought emergency minimum flows, with a focus on the summer flow of 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the Shasta River and the summer and early fall flow requirements on the Scott River.
- Dr. Sari Sommarstrom – Scott River only (15 minutes)
  - What emergency minimum flows do you propose and what scientific data and information support these flows?
- Gary Black, Shasta Producers – Shasta River only (15 minutes)
  - What emergency minimum flows do you propose and what scientific data and information support these flows?
- Elias Scott, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (20 minutes)

## October 6, 2023 Staff Workshop Regarding Emergency Regulation Efforts in Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

- Please provide a brief overview of your February 10, 2023 [Analysis of Mike Podlech's Memo<sup>5</sup> dated June 13, 2023, Regarding CDFW Instream Flow Recommendations for the 2022 Readoption of Drought Emergency Recommendations](#), as well as other water quality data and information pertinent to evaluating the impact of the emergency regulation.
- Did water quality change in the Scott and Shasta following implementation of the emergency flow requirements? If so, describe the data and changes that were observed, and any associated conclusions regarding benefits to water quality parameters associated with Scott/Shasta fisheries.
- Dr. Thomas Harter and Leland Scantlebury, UC Davis Scott Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (SVIHM) Representatives (10 minutes) and Bronwen Stanford, The Nature Conservancy (10 minutes)
  - Some third parties characterize the existing Scott Valley Integrated Groundwater Hydrologic Model results as saying that the emergency flow targets are too high and would be impossible to meet in most years. Is this a fair characterization? Why or why not?
- Questions for All Panelists
  - What other factors should the Board be considering with respect to emergency flows (e.g., provide recommended ramp down flows at end of regulation, etc.)?
  - The flow requirements in the Scott River watershed were not met in the summer and fall of 2022, even though curtailments were in place. The Board has received conflicting input regarding these flow targets, one set of input stating that the flow targets are too high and cannot be met in certain water years, another set of input stating that noncompliance with curtailments and additional curtailment of groundwater would have resulted in higher flows, and another set focused on the improvements in the system even when the target flows themselves are not reached. What factors or information should the Board be considering relative to the fact that the flows were not met?
- Open for comments from attendees\*\*.

### **Groundwater Local Cooperative Solutions (10 minutes per speaker):**

State Water Board staff will provide an overview presentation of 2022 groundwater local cooperative solution program in the Scott River watershed to set the stage for this discussion. This will include introducing the role of the Coordinating Entities.

- Groundwater Local Cooperative Solution Coordinating Entities (Chris Voigt, formerly with Siskiyou Resource Conservation District and CDFW Staff)
- What observations do you have from assessing groundwater local cooperative solutions?
  - What was your role in verifying compliance with the groundwater local cooperative solution commitments?

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<sup>5</sup> URL:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott\\_shasta\\_rivers/docs/2023/ncrwqcb-2023-podlech-memo-analysis.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/docs/2023/ncrwqcb-2023-podlech-memo-analysis.pdf)

## October 6, 2023 Staff Workshop Regarding Emergency Regulation Efforts in Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

- Are there recommendations you have that would improve the process of developing and verifying groundwater local cooperative solutions?
- Should future groundwater local cooperative solutions, if adopted, incorporate conservation and efficiency investments made prior to 2021? If so, how?
- Eli Asarian, Riverbend Science
  - Please provide a brief overview of your [report<sup>6</sup>](#) on *Evaluating the hydrologic effects of 2021-2022 Scott and Shasta irrigation curtailments using remotes sensing and streamflow gages* and its findings.
  - What conservation actions would best support the regulation's goals of enhancing streamflow while providing for other beneficial uses of water? Why?
  - Given the lack of groundwater pumping information, what water use baseline would you propose to evaluate new groundwater local cooperative solutions?
- Dr. Thomas Harter and Leland Scantlebury, UC Davis Scott Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (SVIHM) Representatives
  - What actions would support the regulation's goals of enhancing streamflow while providing for other beneficial uses of water? Why?
  - Given the lack of groundwater pumping information, what water use baseline (if any) would you propose to evaluate new groundwater local cooperative solutions?
- Theodora Johnson, Scott Valley Agriculture Water Alliance
  - What conservation practices did parties implement to reduce water use during the emergency regulation beyond those implemented as part of groundwater local cooperative solutions?
  - What additional actions or practices are planned to reduce water use moving forward?
  - Are there additional components or approaches to groundwater local cooperative solutions that the Board could consider, given the goal of enhancing flow while providing for other beneficial uses?
- Open for comments from attendees\*\*.

### **Data:**

State Water Board staff will provide an overview of the data available to the State Water Board, as well as a summary of what data are needed and for what purpose. Board staff will also provide an overview of the current modeling efforts in these watersheds that includes the status of these models, remaining work, and the anticipated timelines for completion.

- Open for comments from attendees\*\*.

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<sup>6</sup> URL:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott\\_shasta\\_rivers/docs/2023/riverbend-2023-scott-shasta-curtailment.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/docs/2023/riverbend-2023-scott-shasta-curtailment.pdf)

## October 6, 2023 Staff Workshop Regarding Emergency Regulation Efforts in Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

### **\*\*Opportunity for Comments:**

Following the conclusion of speaker presentations on each topic, there will be an opportunity for comments from virtual and in-person attendees (see schedule above). Comments by in-person attendees will be prioritized before virtual speakers to assist in-person attendees with travel arrangements. Any comments not heard during the allotted topic period may be provided at the end of the workshop as part of a final comment period. Please refer to the [workshop notice](#)<sup>7</sup> details on how to provide comments at the workshop.

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<sup>7</sup> Same URL as Footnote 4