



State Water Resources Control Board

May 27, 2026

Keiko Mertz
Policy Director
Friends of the River
3336 Bradshaw Rd., Ste. 335
Sacramento, CA 95827

Meghan Quinn
Director, California Dam Removal and Hydropower Reform
American Rivers
100 Union St., Ste 116
Nevada City, CA 95959

Sent via email: keiko@friendsoftheriver.org, mquinn@americanrivers.org

Updates Regarding the State Water Board Analysis of the 2022 Merced River Drying Event

Dear Ms. Mertz and Ms. Quinn:

On February 29, 2026, Friends of the River and American Rivers requested an update regarding the status of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) report on the Merced River drying event that occurred in 2022 and requested release of the report.

Since the fall of 2022, staff from the State Water Board Division of Water Rights (Division) have analyzed available information to understand the factors that contributed to dry conditions on the Merced River and communicated with many of the parties that submitted letters of concern. A webpage was established to document the drying of the Merced River and operates as an information source for response actions.¹ Division staff developed an analysis of flows and diversions during the months the Merced River went dry that is being documented in a draft report, created an interactive map of

¹ Merced River Conditions in 2022

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/merced/index.html

May 27, 2026

riparian and pre-1914 claims on the Merced River, and developed fact sheets describing the core principles of California water rights and water use reporting that apply to all diverters.

The Division was working toward release of the report and analysis of Merced River flows and diversions by the end of 2024. However, additional analytical work and review are needed to complete the analysis and report. In addition, staff are working on other high priority actions, including proposed updates to the water quality control plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We anticipate releasing the report and analysis of Merced River flows and diversions by the end of 2026, if not sooner.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Erin Foresman, Project Manager, by email to: Erin.Foresman@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondence should be directed to:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights – Bay Delta Branch
Attn: Erin Foresman

P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Oppenheimer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Eric Oppenheimer

ec: