



State Water Resources Control Board

January 31, 2024

CERTIFIED MAIL

<<PRIMARY OWNER>>
<<ADDRESS>>
<<CITY>>, <<STATE>> <<ZIP>>

CERTIFIED MAIL NO: <<CERTIFIED MAIL NO>>

Dear <<PRIMARY OWNER>>:

NOTICE OF INFORMATION ORDER AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLEAR LAKE WATERSHED

AVISO DE ORDEN DE INFORMACIÓN Y REQUISITOS PARA REPORTAR PARA LA CUENCA DE CLEAR LAKE

This letter requires your immediate attention. You are receiving this letter because you own, occupy, or are responsible for the properties listed at the end of this letter. As such, you are required to comply with the enclosed Information Order (Order) from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board). The Order is being issued under the authority of the Emergency Information Order Regulations for the Clear Lake Watershed (Regulations). This letter explains why the Order is needed, when and how to comply with the Order, and where you can find more information.

Para obtener más información en español (formularios y otra información), nos puede llamar al (916) 341-5355 o enviar un mensaje a ClearLakeHitch@waterboards.ca.gov.

Purpose of the Order

The purpose of the Order is to gather information from water users in the Clear Lake watershed to better understand how groundwater pumping and surface water diversions affect creek flows critical for the Clear Lake hitch (hitch). The hitch population, which is a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act, has been declining for some time and recent droughts have further impacted the population. A primary threat to hitch survival is water availability in creeks where the hitch spawn and migrate. Degraded habitat, passage barriers, predation, competition with invasive species, and pollution also can affect the health of the species.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Why You Are Receiving the Order

The Order is being sent to people who own or are responsible for properties located within the Big Valley Groundwater Basin; within approximately 1,000 feet of Rodman Slough, Middle Creek, Lyons Creek, Clover Creek, Tule Lake, Blue Lakes, Scotts Creek, Adobe Creek, Kelsey Creek, Cole Creek, Manning Creek, and/or McGaugh Slough; upstream of hitch spawning habitat that may have substantial surface water diversions; and/or in areas where groundwater may be connected to key hitch spawning habitat.

Where to Access Reporting Platforms and Resources

All information related to the Order is available on the State Water Board's Clear Lake Order webpage, which is located at waterboards.ca.gov/clearlakehitch/order. This webpage includes links to the Board's online reporting platform, guidance documents, and more. You can also access the webpage from the Board's main Clear Lake Hitch website at waterboards.ca.gov/clearlakehitch.

What You Need to Do

Recipients of the Order are required to complete the following activities:

- (1) Certify receipt of the Order and confirm reporting pathway by **February 29, 2024**.
- (2) Measure and record groundwater extractions by well from **March 1, 2024** through **July 31, 2024**.
- (3) Submit two reports that provide information related to diversion, extraction, and/or use of water relevant to the Board's Clear Lake hitch protection efforts: Report 1 is due by **March 31, 2024**. Report 2 is due by **August 31, 2024**. The information you must provide in each report and a list of items to gather before you report are available on the Clear Lake Order webpage.

Even if you are not currently pumping groundwater or diverting surface water, you must comply with the Order. If you fail to comply with the Order, you may be fined or subject to other enforcement action. This Order does not replace any other reporting requirements. Please continue to comply with all reporting requirements you may be subject to.

How to Comply

This section explains how to complete the required activities:

(1) How to Certify Receipt of the Order and Confirm Reporting Pathway

You must certify that you received the Order and confirm your reporting pathway through the State Water Board's online reporting platform. Reporting pathways are discussed below. The link to the Board's online reporting platform can be found on the Clear Lake Order webpage. *The platform requires you enter the following access code: **ClearLake**.*

(2) How to Measure Groundwater Extractions

You are required to measure and record weekly groundwater extractions by well from **March 1, 2024**, through **July 31, 2024**, using a method acceptable to the Board. You will provide these measurements in Report 2. For a list of acceptable measurement methods and templates for collecting measurements, please visit the Clear Lake Order webpage.

(3) How to Report

There are two pathways for reporting. You can either directly report to the State Water Board or you can report through the Lake County Farm Bureau Education Corporation (LCFBEC) Alternative Compliance Pathway (Pathway).

- **Pathway A: Directly report to the State Water Board**

This is the default option for anyone who receives the Order. If you choose this option, you must submit your reports through the Board's online reporting platform. This is the same platform you will use to certify receipt of the Order and confirm your reporting pathway. However, the platform will open for Report 1 submissions no later than March 1, 2024, and Report 2 submissions no later than August 1, 2024.

- **Pathway B: Report through the LCFBEC Pathway**

To report through the LCFBEC Pathway, you must register with the Lake County Farm Bureau (LCFB) by **February 29, 2024**. Details are available on the Clear Lake Order webpage.

Once you register for the LCFBEC pathway, you will submit reports to the LCFB and the LCFB will submit report summaries and datasets to the Board. The LCFB will provide instructions on how to report after you register. You must call or email Rebecca Harper with the LCFB at (707) 263-0911 or lcfarmbureau@sbcglobal.net to register for the LCFBEC Pathway.

Due dates are the same no matter which reporting pathway you choose.

How to Learn More and Ask Questions

We understand these are new requirements and you may have questions. The following resources are available to help:

- **Clear Lake Hitch Website – waterboards.ca.gov/clearlakehitch**
Details on the Order, resources to help you comply, and information about other hitch activities are available on the State Water Board’s Clear Lake Hitch website. You can access the Clear Lake Order webpage from this website.
- **Compliance Workshop – Friday, February 16, 2024, 11:00 am in Lakeport**
Ask questions and receive details on reporting pathways, deadlines, resources, and more at the in-person workshop (255 N. Forbes St #109, Lakeport, CA 95453).
- **Virtual Office Hours**
We will hold office hours to help you fill out reports. Dates and times will be posted on the State Water Board’s Clear Lake Hitch website.
- **Email Subscription List**
Receive key updates from our email subscription list. Sign-up information is available on the Board’s Clear Lake Hitch website.
- **Email or call us at ClearLakeHitch@waterboards.ca.gov or 916-341-5355.**

Property Information

You are receiving this letter as the owner of record of the land parcel(s) listed below. The Order applies to you and all agents, successors in interest, grantees, and assigns thereto. If someone else extracts, diverts, or uses water on your property, you are expected to notify that person of the Order. As the recipient of the Order, you are ultimately responsible for compliance with the Order. All requirements in the Order pertain to all parcels identified in the following list:

Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs): <<APNS>>

Sincerely,



Jessica Bean
Assistant Deputy for Drought and Water Rights Modernization
Division of Water Rights

Enclosure: Order 2024-0003-DWR: Information Order and Reporting Requirements in the Matter of Water Use in the Clear Lake Watershed