
State Water Resources Control Board

July 3, 2024

David and Janet Grassman
Grassman Farming



APPROVAL OF GROUNDWATER LOCAL COOPERATIVE SOLUTION FOR GRASSMAN FARMING

Dear Mr. and Ms. Grassman:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted an emergency regulation that went into effect on February 1, 2024, that establishes emergency minimum flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 875-875.9) (Regulation). Under the Regulation, local cooperative solutions by individuals or groups may be proposed by petition to the Deputy Director of the Division of Water Rights (Deputy Director) as an alternative means of reducing water use to meet or preserve the emergency minimum flows, or to provide other fishery benefits, in lieu of curtailment. Section 875, subdivision (f)(4)(D) describes three types of local cooperative solutions that are specifically available for overlying or adjudicated groundwater diversions for irrigated agriculture: Best Management Practices, Graduated Cessation Schedule, and Percent Reduction. The Deputy Director may approve a proposal submitted by an individual or group, provided that it meets the specific requirements of the applicable groundwater local cooperative solution type and satisfies the metering and inspection requirements.

Summary of Proposal

The State Water Board received a proposal from David and Janet Grassman (petitioners) that involves reducing water use from two groundwater wells that irrigate a total of 35.7 acres using Option 1 of the Graduated Cessation Schedule groundwater local cooperative solution. The Option 1 schedule involves ceasing:

- At least 15% of irrigated acres by July 15,
- At least 50% of irrigated acres by August 15, and
- At least 90% of irrigated acres by August 31, with a maximum of 8 inches of water to be applied to the remaining 10% of irrigated acres during the remainder of the irrigation season. This 10% can be on land previously fallowed.

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

To meet the conditions of this graduated cessation schedule, the petitioners propose to fallow three fields totaling seven acres on July 15, 2024, which accounts for 19.3% of the total 35.7 acres. On August 15, 2024, irrigation will cease on an additional 11 acres, bringing the total irrigated acres with irrigation ceased for the season to 50%. Finally, on August 31, 2024, irrigation will cease on 16 additional acres, achieving cessation of irrigation on 95% of the total 35.7 acres, with no more than six inches of water applied on the remaining 5% of irrigated acres covered by this groundwater local cooperative solution.

The proposal was posted to the State Water Board's webpage for local cooperative solutions associated with the Regulation on June 20, 2024. A further description of the site and water reduction measures is provided in the application submitted for this proposal. The petitioners have selected to not work with a Coordinating Entity and agree to grant property access to State Water Board staff to verify compliance with the proposal, with 24-hour notice.

Groundwater Metering

A groundwater local cooperative solution must include a description of metering in place for groundwater well extractions and a proposal to meter, record, and report such extractions to the Deputy Director or the Coordinating Entity, as applicable. If a meter has not been installed prior to the start of the irrigation season, the petitioner may submit a time schedule as part of the proposal that describes and substantiates the efforts, actions, and timelines for meter installation. Additionally, the Deputy Director may waive the metering requirement for groundwater wells irrigating less than 30 acres or upon a determination that metering in a particular instance is not feasible.

The petitioners request a waiver of the metering requirement because each of the two wells that are part of this groundwater local cooperative solution irrigates less than 30 acres. The proposal includes a plan to monitor water usage by maintaining daily records of pump times and durations for each well and submitting monthly reports to the State Water Board.

Approval

The Division of Water Rights has reviewed the groundwater local cooperative solution proposal and finds that it meets the requirements of Regulation section 875, subdivision (f)(4)(D). Further, the Division of Water Rights grants the petitioners' request for a waiver of the metering requirement given each of the two groundwater wells irrigate less than 30 acres. The petitioners' groundwater local cooperative solution proposal is hereby approved.

Any failure to implement the proposal is subject to enforcement as a violation of the Regulation. Additionally, violations of other provisions of the Regulation (e.g., surface water curtailment) may result in termination of this approval.

Mr. and Ms. Grassman
Grassman Farming

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If you have questions regarding this approval, please contact Division of Water Rights staff via email to: ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov or by leaving a message on our dedicated phone line at: (916) 327-3113.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Ekdahl', written in a cursive style.

for

Erik Ekdahl
Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights