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## State Water Resources Control Board

August 9, 2024

Judd Hanna  
Hanna Bros. Ranch



### **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF GROUNDWATER LOCAL COOPERATIVE SOLUTION FOR HANNA BROS. RANCH**

Dear Mr. Hanna:

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 Judd Hanna (petitioner) for a percent reduction groundwater local cooperative solution that proposes to reduce water use by 39% percent compared to water use in the 2020 irrigation season. The proposal covers 1,187 acres of land irrigated by twelve groundwater wells. The petitioner proposes to achieve the water use reduction with the following water conservation actions:

- Reduced amount of water applied by pivots compared to the amount used during the 2020 baseline year;
- Reduced set times for the wheel lines to shorter durations than used in the 2020 baseline year; and

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

- Installation of six new pivots with the Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) system since the 2020 baseline year.

The proposal was posted to the State Water Board's webpage for local cooperative solutions associated with the Regulation on May 22, 2024. A further description of the site and water reduction measures is provided in the application submitted for this proposal. The application identifies Scott River Water Trust as the Coordinating Entity and includes a Binding Agreement that grants property access to verify compliance with the proposal.

### **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. 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 petitioner has installed a meter on nine pivots that irrigate 465 acres. The proposal includes a plan to record and maintain a log of the meter data and provide monthly reports to the Coordinating Entity. The petitioner has an active application with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for funding to install meters on five wells and two additional pivots that will irrigate an additional 628 acres, in addition to upgrading a pivot with the LEPA system. The petitioner agrees to record and maintain a log of the meter data from the time of installation through one full irrigation season and submit it to the State Water Board. Additionally, the proposal includes a request to waive the metering requirement for one well because it irrigates less than 30 acres.

### **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), and is approved with the follow condition:

- The petitioner shall collect and maintain a log of the water usage data from the seven groundwater meters to be installed on five wells and two pivots from the time of installation through the end of one full irrigation season (anticipated 2025 irrigation season). The metering data shall be submitted to the State Water Board by the 10th of each month for the preceding month.

The Division of Water Rights grants the petitioner's request for a waiver of the metering requirement for one groundwater well because the well irrigates less than 30 acres.

The groundwater local cooperative solution proposal is hereby approved, as conditioned. Any failure to implement the proposal or violation of the conditions of this

Mr. Judd Hanna  
Hanna Bros. Ranch

- 3 -

August 9, 2024

approval are 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.

If you have questions regarding this approval, please contact Division of Water Rights staff via email to [ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Erik Ekdahl  
Deputy Director  
Division of Water Rights

ec: Scott River Water Trust  
[scottwatertrust@gmail.com](mailto:scottwatertrust@gmail.com)