

Update to Scott River Surface Water Curtailments for Farmer's Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District

From California Water Boards <public@info.waterboards.ca.gov>

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To Zwahlen, Zachary@Waterboards <Zachary.Zwahlen@Waterboards.ca.gov>

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Update to Scott River Surface Water Curtailments for Farmer's Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District

To: Scott River Water Right Holders (sent to water right holders for which the Board has email addresses and to the Scott-Shasta Drought E-mail List)

This addendum expires at 11:59 pm on Monday, September 30, 2024, unless amended or superseded prior to that date.

Farmer's Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District are the only surface water right holders that submitted information and requested to divert following the State Water Board's previous addenda to [Order WR 2024-0024-DWR](#).

Based on consideration of the current flow and generally stable flows of between 44 to 46 cubic feet per second (cfs) during the last week at the [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\) Fort Jones gage](#), precipitation, temperature, flow forecasts, and requested diversion amounts, this Addendum provides for the limited, conditional suspension of curtailment for Farmer's Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District, under the conditions noted below. **This addendum applies only to Farmer's Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District, as they are the only surface water diverters that submitted a request to the State Water Board under the provisions of the previous addenda. If you did not submit a request under the addendum (issued September 6, 2024 and September 17, 2024), your surface water right(s) remains curtailed (unless you have a local cooperative solution or meet an exception to curtailment like human health and safety or minimum livestock watering).**

Farmer's Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District shall comply with the following conditions:

- Limit diversions to the lesser of:
 - For Farmers Ditch Company: 7 cfs (the amount identified in its request) and for Scott Valley Irrigation District: 7.5 cfs under its right described in Schedule D3 in the Scott River Adjudication (the amount identified in its request).
 - The amount of excess water in the Scott River watershed, which is defined as the instantaneous flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage that exceeds the minimum flow requirement of 33 cfs for September.
- Cease diversions when the instantaneous flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage approaches the minimum flow requirement (33 cfs for September) to ensure the diversion is not contributing to non-attainment of the flow requirement.
- Cease diversions immediately if directed to do so by the State Water Board.

The State Water Board encourages Farmer's Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District to manage their diversions in a way that supports connectivity.

Again, surface water diverters that have not submitted the requested information identified in Addendums 2 and 3 (issued September 6, 2024, and September 17, 2024, respectively) and received approval from the Board to divert under this addendum remain curtailed.

If you want to divert surface water under a potential further suspension of surface water diversions, you must submit the following information to the State Water Board via email to: scottshastadrought@waterboards.ca.gov and provide the following information:

- Certification that the diverted water will not be used for inefficient livestock watering until the requirements of Section 875.7 of the Emergency Regulation are met;
- An estimate of amount of water that the diverter would like to divert (e.g., 0.5 cfs) for the weeks of October 1-6, October 7-13, October 14-20, October 21-17, and October 28-31); and
- The water right(s) associated with the desired surface water diversion.

The Board will consider the total demand of all submittals and water right priority in determining whether to issue a further suspension of the curtailment order.

As a reminder, this addendum does not modify any local cooperative solutions. The Curtailment Orders do not apply to participants with approved local cooperative solutions or those listed as received on the State Water Board's [2024 Local Cooperative Solutions website](#). All surface water rights with a local cooperative solution, including 'approved' or 'received', must continue to follow their proposals.

Background:

This is Addendum 4 to [Order WR 2024-0024-DWR](#) curtailing surface water rights in the Scott River watershed under the Emergency Regulation. Flows at the [USGS Fort Jones gage](#) have been at or above the minimum flow requirement since September 16th (September flow requirement 33 cfs) generally increasing between September 16-20, and generally between 44-46 cfs since September 20, 2024. Based on the current flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage and other available information (i.e., flow response to recent precipitation, flow and precipitation forecasts, existing Farmer's Ditch diversion, and water demand requests), the State Water Board is expanding the suspension of curtailment to include a portion of the surface water right for Scott Valley Irrigation District in addition to a portion of the Farmer's Ditch Company approved as part of the September 6, 2024 addendum. All surface water right holders who want to start diverting must submit the requested information above for the Board to consider in determining whether to issue any further suspensions.

The State Water Board will continue to monitor flows, flow, precipitation, and

temperature forecasts, desired demand, and watershed conditions regularly to determine if further adjustments to curtailments are appropriate and if the suspension can be extended.

Questions and How to Stay Informed

Please monitor your email and our website [Scott River and Shasta River Emergency Regulation Response website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/) for future updates. If an email notice is issued on the weekend or after business hours, the website will not be updated until the following workday due to service limitations.

If you have questions regarding this email, please contact staff by email at:

ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov or leave a message at our dedicated Scott River and Shasta River Drought phone line at: (916) 327-3113.

If you received this notice in a forwarded message and would like to receive future emails related to this and similar efforts, please sign up for the State Water Board's "Scott-Shasta Drought" [email subscription list](#) under "Water Rights" at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe

Erik Ekdahl
Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights

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