

State Water Resources Control Board

August 8, 2025

Mr. Matt Menne



CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF 2025 GROUNDWATER LOCAL COOPERATIVE SOLUTION FOR 3 H RANCHES

Dear Mr. Menne:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) readopted a regulation that went into effect on January 27, 2025, 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](#)¹, 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) of the Regulation 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, satisfies the metering and inspection requirements, is founded on a binding agreement with a Coordinating Entity if the petitioner chooses that option, and is to be implemented throughout the entirety of the irrigation season.

Summary of Proposal

The State Water Board received a proposal² from Matt Menne (petitioner) that involves reducing water use from 24 groundwater wells that irrigate a total of 1,385 acres for the

¹ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/docs/2025/2025-scott-shasta-emergency-reg-adopted-searchable.pdf

² The term "proposal" includes, as applicable, elements of the petitioners' Application Form for 2025 Local Cooperative Solution, communications with Division of Water Rights staff, and content from the petitioners' approved 2024 local cooperative solution. Generally, any applicable content is restated in this letter as part of the current proposal.

2025 season using Option 2 of the Graduated Cessation Schedule groundwater local cooperative solution. The Option 2 schedule involves ceasing:

- 20% of irrigated acres by July 20,
- 50% of irrigated acres by August 20, and
- 95% of irrigated acres by September 5, with a maximum of six inches of water to be applied to the remaining 5% of irrigated acres during the remainder of the irrigation season. This 5% can be on land previously fallowed.

To meet the conditions of this graduated cessation schedule, the petitioner proposes to cease irrigation of 298 acres by July 20, 2025, which accounts for 21% of the total 1,385 acres. On August 20, 2025, irrigation will cease on an additional 406 acres, bringing the total irrigated acres with irrigation ceased for the season to 59%. Finally, on September 5, 2025, irrigation will cease on at least 468 acres to achieve 98% cessation of the total 1,385 acres.

The proposal was posted to the State Water Board's webpage for local cooperative solutions associated with the Regulation on July 1, 2025. A further description of the site and water reduction measures that indicate compliance with Schedule 2 of the graduated cessation schedule 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 with 24-hour notice to verify compliance with the proposal.

Groundwater Metering

A groundwater local cooperative solution must include a description of any existing groundwater metering, and a proposal to meter and record such extractions or applications on a weekly basis and to report this information monthly to the Deputy Director (or the coordinating entity, if so agreed), with limited exceptions. If a meter may not be 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 installation of a meter. 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 Deputy Director may approve a time schedule for the installation of a meter if not currently installed at the start of the irrigation season.

The petitioner installed 12 meters on 12 pivots before the start of the 2025 irrigation season that irrigate 497 acres and plans to submit the metering information to the Coordinating Entity and the State Water Board throughout the irrigation season. The petitioner request's the metering requirement for the remaining 888 acres covered by the proposal to be waived, for the reasons discussed below. The petitioner plans to document water usage on unmetered irrigated acreage by either using the metered pivots to estimate water usage for pivots on unmetered acreage, or by logging the number of days and set times for wheel lines that irrigate less than 40 acres. The petitioner has an active application with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for funding to install two variable frequency drive (VFD) pump panels, replace

three older pivots with new ones that have low energy sprinklers and flow control valves, upgrade four pivots with low energy sprinklers, and install seven flow meters on pivots that would cover an additional 548 acres in 2026.

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), with the following conditions:

- Throughout the 2025 irrigation season, the petitioner shall meter, record, and maintain a log of the water pumping and usage data from the 12 groundwater meters installed on 12 pivots on a weekly basis, consistent with the Regulation. The metering data and the estimated water usage associated with the unmetered acreage shall be submitted to the State Water Board by the 10th of each month for the preceding month. The Division of Water Rights recognizes that implementation of the weekly requirement may require operational adjustments, and will allow reasonable time to achieve full compliance, provided there is demonstrable progress towards meeting the weekly requirement.
- The petitioner shall collect and maintain a log of water usage data from the seven NRCS funded groundwater meters to be installed in 2026 that will irrigate 548 acres. Water usage data shall be collected from the time of installation through the end of one full irrigation season (anticipated 2026 irrigation season). The metering data shall be collected at least weekly and submitted to the State Water Board by the 10th of each month for the preceding month. This requirement is supplemental to the approved data plan submitted in the proposal.

The Division of Water Rights waives the metering requirement for 888 irrigated acres for the 2025 season. Installing the meters at this time is infeasible due to the well configurations, which include multiple check and butterfly valves, and no straight, uninterrupted pipe sections necessary for meter installation. Additionally, while no formal cost estimation has been submitted, the modifications needed appear to be complex and potentially cost prohibitive. The petitioner has taken reasonable steps to install meters on 12 pivots and has taken reasonable steps to procure and install seven meters on pivots in 2026 that will monitor 548 additional irrigated acres, demonstrating a commitment to improved monitoring, and is expected to continue in similar efforts as resources allow in the coming years. The waiver granted for the metering requirement for a portion of the irrigated acres does not assure approval under the same conditions in the future (e.g., additional metering may be required).

The petitioner's groundwater local cooperative solution proposal is hereby approved as noted in this letter. Any failure to implement any commitments of the proposal and any conditions of this approval (collectively, the approved local cooperative solution) 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. Matt Menne
3 H Ranches

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If you have questions regarding this approval, please contact Division of Water Rights staff via an email to: ScottShastaFlows@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 'Erin Ragazzi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erin Ragazzi
Assistant Deputy Director
Acting Deputy Director for Scott-Shasta Local Cooperative Solutions
Division of Water Rights

ec: Scott River Water Trust
scottwatertrust@gmail.com