

## State Water Resources Control Board

August 14, 2025

Mr. Cliff Munson  
Kohl Creek Angus Ranch



### CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF 2025 GROUNDWATER LOCAL COOPERATIVE SOLUTION FOR KOHL CREEK RANCH

Dear Mr. Munson:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) readopted a regulation that went in 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](#)<sup>1</sup>, 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 solution proposals 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 proposal<sup>2</sup> from Cliff Munson (petitioner) for a Best Management Practice groundwater local cooperative solution for the 2025 season that proposes to reduce water use from one groundwater well on 160 acres of the petitioner's irrigated land.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott\\_shasta\\_rivers/docs/2025/2025-scott-shasta-emergency-reg-adopted-searchable.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/docs/2025/2025-scott-shasta-emergency-reg-adopted-searchable.pdf)

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

- The petitioner proposes to use a low-energy precision application (LEPA) system on all irrigated acreage, including the hay field and the pasture, use soil moisture sensors to inform irrigation timing, stop irrigating corners by wheel line after June 15, and forgo the use of end guns.

The proposal was posted to the State Water Board's webpage for the local cooperative solutions associated with the Regulation on April 28, 2025. 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 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 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 Deputy Director may also approve a time schedule for the installation of a meter if not currently installed at the start of the irrigation season.

The petitioner has installed a meter on the pivot that irrigates the total acreage covered by the proposal. The proposal includes a plan for the petitioner to collect meter readings by cell phone photos and maintain a log of the metered water use data. The Coordinating Entity will collect the data monthly throughout the entire irrigation season and provide it to the State Water Board monthly.

### **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:

- The petitioner shall meter, record, and maintain a log of the water usage data from the meter on the pivot through the 2025 irrigation season on a weekly basis, consistent with the Regulation. The Division of Water Rights recognizes that implementation of the requirement for weekly recording of metered data may require operational adjustments, and will allow reasonable time to achieve full compliance, provided there is demonstrable progress towards meeting the weekly requirement. The metering data shall be submitted to the State Water Board by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month for the preceding month.

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.

If you have questions regarding this approval, please contact Division of Water Rights staff via an email to: [ScottShastaFlows@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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, cursive script.

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](mailto:scottwatertrust@gmail.com)