
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region Staff Summary Report May 7-8, 2025

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: Field Trip to Agricultural Operations in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

BOARD ACTION: This is an informational item; no action will be taken by the Board.

BACKGROUND: Located within Siskiyou County, the Scott River watershed (813 square miles) and the Shasta River watershed (795 square miles) are major tributaries to the Klamath River. The Shasta River watershed shares divides with the Scott River to the west, Butte Creek to the east, and the Trinity and Sacramento Rivers to the south. The Scott River watershed shares divides with the Shasta River to the east, the Trinity River to the south, and the Salmon River to the west.

The Shasta River watershed is home to over 50,000 acres of irrigated agriculture, with pasture, grain, and hay comprising the primary crops. The Scott River Watershed includes approximately 35,000 acres of irrigated agriculture, dominated by field crops, including alfalfa and other hay crops, and livestock ranching.

In 2005, the Regional Water Board adopted the Action Plan for the Scott River Sediment and Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads. In 2006, the Regional Water Board adopted the Shasta River Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen Total Maximum Daily Loads. Since 2006, the Regional Water Board adopted and has implemented a series of Orders conditionally waiving the requirement for certain agricultural producers in the watersheds to file a Report of Waste Discharge and obtain Waste Discharge Requirements.

The Regional Water Board is now undertaking a project to develop General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Agricultural Operations in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds. The Board will hear an information item on May 7th providing an update on that project.

The Siskiyou County Farm Bureau is organizing a field trip to allow Board Members and the public the opportunity to visit agricultural properties in the Scott and Shasta River watersheds. The purpose of this trip is to provide an overview of agricultural practices in the two watersheds.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: See documents provided for Agenda Item 4 and 5.