

## Definitions Related to Use of Water Boards

### Online Cannabis Compliance Gage Mapping Tool

(Definitions of Pop-Up Box Attributes and Fields)

#### Background

The [Cannabis Policy](#) establishes principles and guidelines (requirements) for cannabis cultivation activities to protect water quality and instream flows. The purpose of the Cannabis Policy is to ensure that the diversion of water and discharge of waste associated with cannabis cultivation does not have a negative impact on water quality, aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, wetlands, and springs. The Cannabis Policy requirements are primarily implemented through the Water Boards Cannabis Cultivation General Order and Cannabis Small Irrigation Use Registration Program, in addition to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing Program. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has developed a website to provide cannabis cultivators that divert from surface water with a tool to check whether they may divert for cannabis cultivation on a given day. This document provides detailed, step-by-step instructions on how to use the Online Cannabis Compliance Gage Mapping Tool ([online mapping tool](#)).

#### Definitions

- ***Diversion Authorized, Diversion Not Authorized, More Information Needed, or Contact State Water Board at (916) 341-5363—***
  - If “**Diversion Authorized**” is displayed at the top of the pop-up box in green font, diversions are authorized for the date specified (today’s date).
  - If “**Diversion Not Authorized**” is displayed, diversions are NOT authorized for the date specified.
  - If “**More Information Needed**” is displayed, you are subject to an existing instream flow requirement and this tool is unable to determine whether diversion is authorized for the date specified. Click on the link in the pop-up box for additional information.
  - If “**Contact State Water Board at (916) 341-5363**” is displayed, both your primary and backup compliance gages are down, or data are otherwise not available, and a determination on diversion authorization cannot be made at this time. You are required to contact the State Water Board prior to diverting any surface water. You may not divert water unless you are provided written confirmation (e.g., an email) from the State Water Board that you are authorized to divert.
- ***Today’s Date*** – The date for which all data for compliance and diversion are valid. Be sure that this date reflects today’s date for accurate information on whether diversions are authorized. If the date is anything other than today’s date, try refreshing your browser. If this does not update the date field, please contact the State Water Board prior to diverting any surface water.
- ***Compliance Gage ID*** – The number or acronym that the entity who maintains the gage has assigned to a specific gage.
- ***Compliance Gage Name*** – The name that the entity who maintains the gage has assigned to a specific gage.

- **Previous Day's Average Flow** – The calculated average flow from 12:00AM to 11:59PM of the previous day based on the available published flow data.
- **Minimum Instream Flow Requirement** – The minimum monthly instream flow requirement for the compliance gage. The previous day's average flow must be greater than the value in this field for authorized diversions to occur. All flow values are in cubic feet per second (cfs).
- **Click Here For Attachment** – When displayed, this indicates that your surface water diversion is located in a stream reach with an existing instream flow requirement. Cannabis cultivators shall comply with either: (a) the existing instream flow requirement (e.g. State Water Board Orders, Biological Opinions, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license); or (b) Tessmann instream flow requirements established by the Cannabis Policy, whichever is greater. To assist those subject to existing flow requirements in determining whether diversion is authorized, the State Water Board has attached a supplemental document with additional information, which can be accessed via the “Click Here For Attachment” hyperlink.
- **Area ID** – The unique identification representing the watershed in which your point of diversion is located.
- **Backup Gage In Use** – When displayed, this field indicates that the primary compliance gage is out of service or otherwise not available based on flow data from the Gage Entity, and a backup gage has been assigned in its place.

## Other Definitions

- **Aquatic Base Flow for Groundwater Diverters (April 1 – October 31)** – NO SURFACE WATER DIVERSIONS ARE AUTHORIZED FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 31 of each year. Groundwater Aquatic Base Flow metrics will be used to help inform the State Water Board as to whether groundwater diversions are potentially having a significant impact on surface water flows.