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## State Water Resources Control Board

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

## TO INFORM RE-ADOPTION OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY REGULATION FOR SCOTT RIVER AND SHASTA RIVER WATERSHEDS

In response to continued emergency drought conditions in the Klamath River watershed, and specifically throughout the Shasta River and Scott River watersheds, **State Water Board staff is hosting a meeting to accept public comments on what worked and what could be improved in consideration of re-adoption of the drought emergency regulation for the Klamath River, including specifically the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds.** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided a [letter](#) supporting the re-adoption of the regulation on April 20, 2022

State Water Board staff will hold a public meeting to provide information and solicit input from the community on the proposed re-adoption of the drought emergency regulation for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds during the ongoing drought. This meeting will provide an overview of potential updates to the **existing drought emergency regulation** based on lessons learned since the regulation became effective on August 30, 2021. Preliminary updates to the regulation include: (1) updates to the flow requirements (based on CDFW recommendations); (2) modifications to the inefficient livestock watering provision; and (3) modifications and clarifications to the local cooperative solutions (e.g., 400 acres for groundwater local cooperative solution would apply to watershed as a whole rather than individual submittals).

Details of the public meeting are as follows:

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Link:**

**<https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/91283038307?pwd=MzI1NE1RRHFIZy9uelczb0trR0dEQT09>**

You may also join the Zoom meeting by calling in: (669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 912 8303 8307

Passcode: 759967

It is possible that one or more members of the State Water Board will attend the meeting. A quorum of the State Water Board may be present at the meeting. However, no State Water Board action will be taken.

**BACKGROUND**

Water year 2022 is the third drought year in a row, following on dry water years 2020 and 2021. Precipitation levels are between 40-60 percent of normal across much of the Klamath Basin. The Scott River and Shasta River watersheds are experiencing one of the most severe droughts on record. As of April 2022, the Scott River is experiencing one of the eight driest years on record, with flows in the lowest 10 percent of the historical record and the Shasta River is experiencing one of the nine driest years on record, with flows in the lowest 10 percent of the historical record.

Since there was insufficient water to support all water rights in Fall 2021, water right holders in both watersheds were ordered to limit or stop their water diversions, in order of their water right priority. The State Water Board sent curtailment orders on September 9 and September 10, 2021, to all water right holders in the Scott River watershed and to the most junior water right holders in the Shasta River watershed. Since then, the State Water Board has monitored the hydrologic status of the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds to ensure flows are managed to best meet instream flow requirements while providing for diversion when conditions permit. The State Water Board conditionally suspended the original curtailment orders during time spans when the hydrologic status of the watersheds permitted diversions while meeting the drought minimum instream flow requirements for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. Table 1 and Table 2 below show the flow requirements in the existing regulation and proposed updates to the flow requirements recommended by CDFW, as noted in **red and bold text**.

**Table 1. Scott River Watershed Instream Flow Requirements** (in cubic feet per second, as measured at Fort Jones Gage)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
200	200	200	150	150	125 <b>(125-90)*</b>	50	30	33	40	60	150

\* Minimum flow from June 1-23 is 125 cfs and from June 24-30 is 90 cfs.

**Table 2. Shasta River Watershed Emergency Instream Flow Requirements** (in cubic feet per second, as measured at Yreka Gage)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
135 <b>(125)</b>	135 <b>(125)</b>	135-105* <b>(125-105)**</b>	70	50	50	50	50	50 <b>(50-75)***</b>	125 <b>(105)</b>	150 <b>(125)</b>	150 <b>(125)</b>

\* Minimum flow from March 1-24 is 135 cfs and from March 25-31 is 105 cfs.

\*\* Minimum flow from March 1-24 is 125 cfs and from March 25-31 is 105 cfs

\*\*\* Minimum flow from September 1-15 is 50 cfs and from September 16-30 is 75 cfs.

For additional information on drought-related activities in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds, please visit the State Water Board's [Drought webpage](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought) ([www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought)). This website will be updated with related materials and information as available.

### **HOW TO RECEIVE UPDATES**

If you would like to receive email updates about the Shasta River and Scott River watersheds drought effort, 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/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/)

### **QUESTIONS**

Please email questions regarding this notice and related efforts to:

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