



Application Form for 2024 Local Cooperative Solution for Overlying or Adjudicated Groundwater Rights in Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

Please complete this form if you plan to implement a groundwater local cooperative solution (LCS) for the 2024 irrigation season under the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds [emergency regulation](#). A separate application should be submitted for each type of groundwater LCS proposal. **The form and attachments are due by April 15, 2024.**

How to Submit: To submit your application and associated required materials (see Section 2) you can:

- Use the online form
- Email: DWR-ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov
- Mail:
 - State Water Resources Control Board
 - Division of Water Rights - Instream Flows Unit 1
 - 1001 I Street - 14th Floor
 - Sacramento, CA 95814

Section 1: Applicant Information

Name	Jim Harris
Name of Farm, Ranch, or Business	California Heritage Farms
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]

By typing or signing your name below and submitting this form to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) you hereby certify that the submitted information is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

Name: Jim Harris Date: 4/15/24

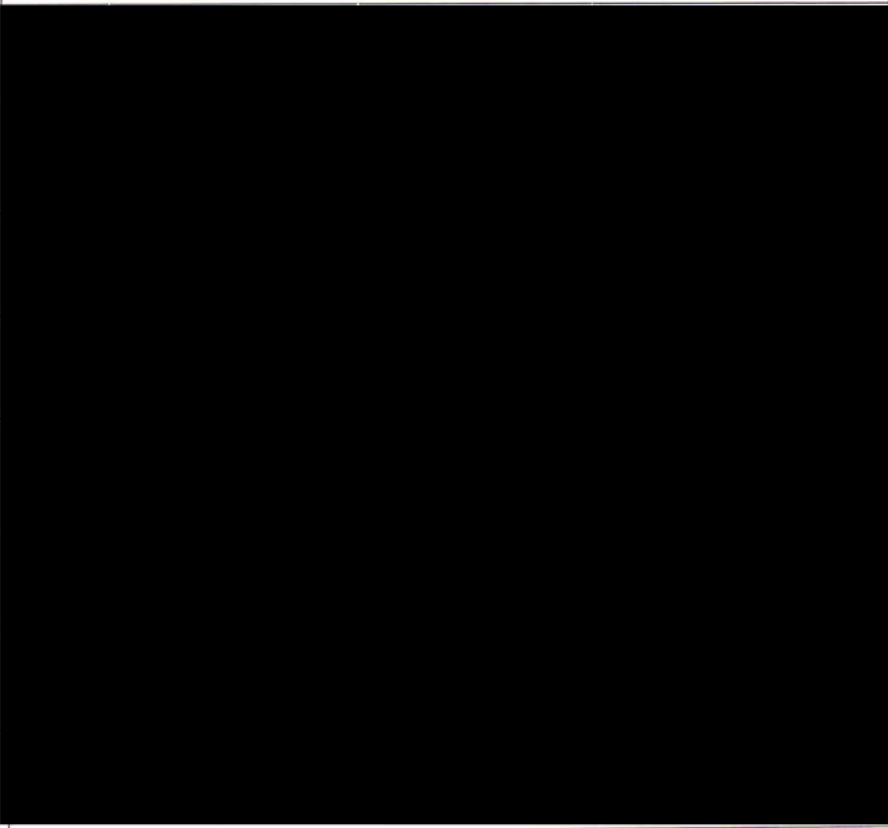
Section 4: Coordinating Entity

Select only one (1) box below. Please note that a Coordinating Entity is not required. If a Coordinating Entity is not selected, parties will work directly with the State Water Board to provide metering data and ensure performance of the groundwater local cooperative solution. For more information on Coordinating Entity provisions, refer to Section 875(f)(1)(G) in the [emergency regulation](#).

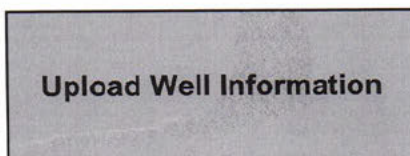
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Contact: Crystal Robinson
(530) 340-0767
crystal.robinson@wildlife.ca.gov | <input type="checkbox"/> Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
Contact: Rod Dowse
(530) 598-1253
rdowse@svrccd.org |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Siskiyou Resource Conservation District
Contact: Evan Senf
(530) 643-1585
evan@siskiyourcd.com | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott River Water Trust
Contact: Chris Voigt
(916) 396-0131
chrisb.voigt@gmail.com |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I select not to work with a coordinating entity. | |

Section 5: Groundwater Well Information

Complete the table below or upload an attachment for groundwater wells that are part of the proposed groundwater LCS.

Well Name	Well Coordinates ¹
Whipple's Big well	
Whipple's Pivot well	
Whipple's Diesel well	
McFadden's well 1	
McFadden's well 2	
McFadden's well 3	
Berry Patch well 1	
Berry Patch well 2	

For assistance in finding well coordinates, you can use Google Maps (www.google.com/maps).



Section 6: Metering Information

Please describe the metering for all groundwater wells covered by this groundwater LCS. Fill in the box below, upload an attachment, or email a document or spreadsheet with this information.

- a. Describe how you will record daily extractions and report monthly pumping volumes.

Include a description of all water uses associated with each groundwater well that is part of this groundwater LCS.

For example, "the ranch manager will log meter readings at Well 1 and Well 2 and take a picture of the meters each week. They will note what the water is being used for - Well 1 will irrigate 50 acres of grain on fields A and B, 100 acres of pasture on fields E, G, and Z, and Well 2 will irrigate 75 acres of alfalfa on field Y. The manager will send the logs and photos to the Water Board around the first of each month."

- b. For groundwater wells that are NOT currently metered, please describe the time schedule and plan to install meters and efforts to obtain a meter before the initiation of groundwater diversions covered by this groundwater LCS. If you want to file for a waiver to the metering requirement please use the box below and include information on why metering of your well(s) should be waived. Be sure to include total irrigated acres, distance of the well(s) from surface water, description of why metering is infeasible, if applicable, and any additional information that supports your waiver request.

[Upload Attachment](#)

Select the type of groundwater LCS you are applying for and complete the corresponding sections of the application.

- Best Management Practices Groundwater LCS - Complete sections 7 and 10
- Graduated Groundwater Cessation Schedule LCS - Complete sections 8 and 10
- Percent Reduction Groundwater LCS - Complete sections 9 and 10

Section 8: Graduated Groundwater Cessation Schedule LCS

A Graduated Groundwater Cessation Schedule LCS may be approved if the applicant provides evidence that irrigated acreage is reduced compared to standard practice on the property (e.g., practice in a similar unregulated year). If applicable, please take crop rotation and number of alfalfa cuttings into account. Under this groundwater LCS type, the applicant must select one of two potential irrigation schedules, listed below. See section 875(f)(4)(D)(vi) of the [emergency regulation](#).

1. Provide the total amount of irrigated acreage (with units) under your proposal for a Graduated Groundwater Cessation Schedule LCS:
2. Select the irrigation schedule you certify to implement.

Option 1: By the dates below, pumping to irrigate the following percentages of irrigated acres shall cease:

- 15% by July 15,
- 50% by August 15, and
- 90% by August 31, with a maximum of 8 inches of water to be applied to the remaining 10% of irrigated acres during the remainder of the irrigation season. This 10% can be on land previously fallowed.

Option 2: By the dates below, pumping to irrigate the following percentages of irrigated acres shall cease:

- 20% by July 20,
- 50% by August 20, and
- 95% by September 5, with a maximum of 6 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.

4. Please upload an attachment, write in the box, or email a description that demonstrates that the proposal reduces irrigation as compared to standard practices on the property (e.g., practice in a similar unregulated year). If applicable, please take crop rotation and number of alfalfa cuttings into account.

Upload Attachment

5. Please upload or email a map(s) that identifies which well(s) and field(s) are associated with each cessation date covered by this groundwater LCS.

Upload Map(s)

California Heritage Farms

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

April 15, 2024

State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I St.

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Local Cooperative Solution- California Heritage Farms, LLC

To Deputy Director:

As authorized by 23 CCR §§ 875(f)(4)(D), California Heritage Farms LLC is providing this letter to further describe its proposed local cooperative solution (LCS) for the 2024 irrigation season.

Introduction

California Heritage Farms (CHF) leases approximately 931 acres of irrigated land (alfalfa and permanent pasture) in the Scott River water shed. CHF raises high quality feed store hay, pasture-based hogs, and grass-fed cattle and uses rotational grazing, planting of cover crops to improve soil health, and water holding capacities. Siskiyou County spray maps of land leased by California Heritage Farms are attached. The 931 irrigated acres are irrigated by wheel lines and pivots using ground water wells. Water rights consist of overlying and adjudicated rights. No surface water will be substituted for the groundwater reductions listed out in this plan.

Conservation Efforts and Improvements

1. **LEPA System Installation:** In the spring of 2020 we retrofitted an 8-span pivot to the Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) system. The LEPA system utilizes very low pressure “bubbling” nozzles (as opposed to high pressure rotating nozzles that

disperse water over a larger area) that result in far less wind loss and more precise and effective water application. LEPA manufacturer's estimate that total water savings of up to 18% is achievable based on reduced wind drift and less frequent irrigation. Soil moisture sensors installed in 2021 document this response. The introduction of the LEPA system and soil moisture sensors have created further opportunities for us to conserve water.

2. **Riverbank Stabilization Project:** In the fall of 2020 and spring 2021 working with the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (RCD), we finished a bank stabilization project along the Scott River. The final phase was planting willow and poplar trees along the project site and adding an irrigation system to ensure the growth and survival of the trees. We will hold out roughly ½ to 1 acre out of the Siskiyou Agriculture's Emergency Drought Voluntary Action Plan to irrigate the trees along the bank to ensure their survivability. Irrigation will occur twice a month for 24 hours applying about 4 to 5 inches total for the month. This water usages are not included in the proposed water savings plan. The landowner Scarface Cattle Company has applied for a Human Health and Safety Curtailment Exemption for tree health.
3. **Fall 2021 Forbearance Measure Taken:** Voluntary Action Plan, we **ceased full irrigation by September 15, 2021**. In addition, **815 acres was shut off by September 1, 2021**. Another **360 acres was shut off since August 10th, 2021**. Ceasing to irrigate 360 acres of 4th cutting alfalfa will conservatively cost us **\$100,800** in lost revenue. We estimate that approximately **1,500-acre feet** of water will be left in the aquifer by shutting off on August 10, 2021. Ceasing to irrigate 200 acres of pasture after September 15th will have an undisclosed cost base on the fact that our grass finished cattle will be forced on a feed value of lesser quality.

2024 Water Plan

- a. For 2024 California Heritage Farms will use the graduated groundwater cessation schedule option 2. This practice will reduce irrigation compared to standard year by the following. In 2017, we started planting cover crops after our grain crops were harvested. This was done for numerous reasons; reduces soil erosion, helps with water hold capacity by building soil organic matter, and building soil health by having multiple plant varieties in the soil. For 2024 we will be forgoing planting 171 acres to cover crops after we have harvested our grain crops which will lead to soil erosion, dead soil from not having a living plant in it and the use of more synthetic fertilizers.
- b. Shutting off water on 34ac of pasture on 8/20/24. On a standard year irrigation would continue until late September. It is to note that this will more

than likely lead to pasture loss. Pasture needs a baseline water usage of around 40 inches of water. Lastly, we will only take 3 cuttings of hay and forgo a 4th cutting. Customarily we take a 4th cutting.

- c. We will be following 34.5 acres (30.5 ac of wheel line and 4 ac of Pivot) of land that was previously irrigated by wheel line and pivot in 2020.
- d. The Coordinating Entity to ensure implementation of the LCS will be a contractor with the Scott River Water Trust.

4. 2024 Proposed Metering Actions:

McFadden Ranch has a total of 3 wells. All 3 wells feed a pivot that covers 170.5 or 91% of the irrigated ground out of a total of 188ac. It is not cost effective to meter all 3 wells. This pivot is having a new meter installed and will be used to report pumping volumes monthly. The meter will have a reading taken on the 1st of each month and reported by Jim Harris to the Scott River Water Trust monthly.

- 5. Whipple's: All three wells are recorded and reported to the State Water Board annually. Of the 3 wells the big well is metered and recorded monthly by Jim Harris. For the Pivot well we will be applying for assistance from the SWB to install a meter. The diesel well cannot be meter as a major overhaul would need to take place. But the usage will still be reported. All recordings will be taken monthly by Jim Harris and reported to the Scott River Water Trust.
- 6. **Non metered wells:** Acreage not being metered is 197. At the Berry Patch Ranch for meters to be placed on these two wells there will have to be a major overhaul of the pumping system and it is not financially feasible. In the fall of 2024, we will be installing a new pivot that will cover 50ac that will have a meter installed on it. Also, at that time a meter will be installed on the existing pivot. These two pivots will cover 110ac out of the 197 total acers.
- 7. Please note that this plan is offered in good faith in connection with the 2024 irrigation season only. All rights, claims, and defenses with regard to the matters described herein are hereby expressly reserved. Moreover, and as this plan is offered voluntarily (without any current legal obligation to undertake the matters described herein), should any governmental or NGO funds later become available for any forbearance or improvement efforts to which the California Heritage Farms, LLC would otherwise be entitled, nothing herein shall be construed to limit the availability of such funds to the California Heritage Farms, LLC provided that we materially perform the 2024 undertakings described herein. Water saved under this proposal will not be transferred to parcels not included under the LCS and we will

not knowingly or intentionally otherwise take actions outside of the LCS that diminish, in any material way, the overall thirty percent reduction established by this proposal.

It is important to note that these proposed water conservation measures will greatly impact our overall crop production, decrease in our operations income, and limit our ability to implement additional healthy soil practices as well as impacted the overall economy of Scott Valley.

Please timely advise as to your decision on the acceptability of this plan in lieu of regulatory curtailment as contemplated by Title 23, Article 23.5, Section 875 and thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

California Heritage Farms

Site	Wells	Acreage	Crop	Method	July Shut off of 20%	August shut off 50%	September Shut off 95%	Leased/ Owned	APN #/DWR #	Type of water right
Whipple's										
Field W1-03		103	Alfalfa	Wheel line	0	0	0	103 Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Field W1-04,05		54	Alfalfa Grass	Wheel line	0	33	0	21 Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Field W1-06,07		60	Alfalfa	Wheel line	0	0	0	60 Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Field W1-09		76	Alfalfa	Pivot	0	76	0	Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Field W1-09Corner		4	Alfalfa	Wheel line	0	4	0	Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Field W1-11 Guns		4	Aflalfa	Guns	0	4	0	Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Field W1-11 Fert		20	Aflalfa	Wheel line	0	20	0	0 Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Field W1-11 Pivot		74	Alfalfa	Pivot	0	0	0	74 Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Field W1-12		22	Grain	Wheelline	22	0	0	Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Field W1-13		75	Grain	Wheel line	75	0	0	Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Field W1-14		54	Alfalfa	Wheel line	0	0	0	54 Leased	S000332	Adjudicated
Berry Patch										
Field 5-01,02,03		47	Alfalfa Grass	Wheel line	0	47	0	Owned	024-190-480	Overlying
Field 5-04		18	Alfalfa	Wheel line	0	0	0	18 Leased		Overlying
Field 5-05		12	Alfalfa	Wheel line	0	0	0	12 Owned	024-190-310	Overlying
Field 5-06		38	Alfalfa	Pivot	0	0	0	38 Owned	024-190-310	Overlying
Field 5-06 Cornes		2	Alfalfa	Wheel line	0	0	0	2 Owned	024-190-310	Overlying
Field 5-07		14	Fallow	Wheel line	14	0	0	Owned	024-190-310	Overlying
Field 5-08A		23	Alfalfa	Pivot	0	0	0	23 Owned	024-190-300	Overlying
Field 5-08,09		43	Alfalfa	Wheel line	0	43	0	Owned	024-190-300	Overlying
McFadden's										
Field 3-01,02		4	Fallow	Pivot	0	4	0	Leased	024-170-350	Overlying
Field 3-01,02		50	Alfalfa	Pivot	0	0	0	50 Leased	024-170-350	Overlying
Field 3-01,02 Wheeline		10	Alfalfa	Wheel line	0	0	0	10 Leased	024-170-350	Overlying
Field 3-03 Corner		7.5	Grain	Wheel line	7.5	0	0	Leased	024-200-240	Overlying
Field 3-03 Corner 2		4.5	Fallow	Wheel line	2	2.5	0	Leased	024-200-240	Overlying
Field 3-03		66	Grain	Pivot	66	0	0	Leased	024-200-240	Overlying
Field 3-04		12	Fallow	Wheel line	0	12	0	Leased	024-200-240	Overlying
Field 3-05		34	Pasture	Pivot	0	34	0	Leased	024-200-240	Overlying
Total		931			186.5	279.5	465			
					20.03222342	466	931			
						50.05370569	100			