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## State Water Resources Control Board

September 4, 2024

Kelsey Lofdahl

[REDACTED]

### APPROVAL OF GROUNDWATER LOCAL COOPERATIVE SOLUTION FOR KELSEY LOFDAHL

Dear Mr. Lofdahl:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted an emergency regulation that went into effect on February 1, 2024, 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, 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) describes three types of local cooperative solutions that are specifically available 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 and satisfies the metering and inspection requirements.

#### Summary of Proposal

The State Water Board received a proposal from Kelsey Lofdahl (petitioner) for a percent reduction groundwater local cooperative solution that proposes to reduce water use by 32 percent compared to water use in the 2022 irrigation season. The proposal covers 11 acres of land irrigated by one groundwater well. The petitioner proposes to achieve the water use reduction with the following water conservation actions:

- Reduced set times for shorter durations compared to the 2022 baseline year; and
- Fallowing four acres that were irrigated during the 2022 baseline year.

The proposal was posted to the State Water Board's webpage for local cooperative solutions associated with the Regulation on July 22, 2024. A further description of the site and water reduction measures is provided in the application submitted for this proposal. The petitioner has selected to not work with a Coordinating Entity and agrees to grant property access to State Water Board staff to verify compliance with the proposal, with 24-hour notice.

*Applied Water Baseline*

Per the Regulation, if evidence from the 2020, 2021, 2022, or 2023 irrigation seasons indicates that the base rate of applied water is higher than 33 inches per year for alfalfa, 14 inches per year for grain, or 30 inches per year for pasture, then the base rate of applied water shall be adjusted to these specified values, or the petitioner may request a higher base rate for approval by the State Water Board. The 2022 applied water baseline associated with the proposal is equal to or less than the baselines established in the Regulation.

**Groundwater Metering**

A groundwater local cooperative solution must include a description of metering in place for groundwater well extractions and a proposal to meter, record, and report such extractions to the Deputy Director or the Coordinating Entity, as applicable. If a meter has not been 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 petitioner requests a waiver of the metering requirement because the groundwater well that is part of this groundwater local cooperative solution irrigates less than 30 acres. The proposal includes a plan to record and maintain a log of daily water usage and to submit monthly reports to the State Water Board.

**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). Further, the Division of Water Rights grants the petitioner's request for a waiver of the metering requirement given the groundwater well irrigates less than 30 acres. The groundwater local cooperative solution proposal is hereby approved.

Any failure to implement the proposal 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 email to: [ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov) or by leaving a message on our dedicated phone line at: (916) 327-3113.

Sincerely,



Erik Ekdahl  
Deputy Director  
Division of Water Rights