

Addendum 3: Update to Scott River Surface Water Curtailments for Farmer's Ditch Company

California Water Boards <public@info.waterboards.ca.gov>

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Addendum 3: Update to Scott River Surface Water Curtailments for Farmer's Ditch Company

To: Scott River Water Right Holders (sent to water right holders for which the Board has email addresses and to the Scott-Shasta Drought E-mail List)

On September 6, 2024, the State Water Board issued Addendum 2 for the Scott River watershed providing the immediate suspension of curtailments for overlying and adjudicated water rights in the Scott River watershed and requiring information from diverters for any surface water diversion(s) that desired to turn on for irrigation in September, if the suspension of curtailment was expanded. Farmer's Ditch Company was the only surface water right holder that submitted information.

Based on consideration of the generally increasing flow trend above the minimum flow requirement at the [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\) Fort Jones gage](#), precipitation, temperature, and flow forecasts, and requested diversion amounts resulting from Addendum 2 of 7 cfs at Farmer's Ditch, this Addendum 3 provides for the limited, conditional suspension of curtailment for Farmer's Ditch Company, under the conditions noted below. **This addendum applies only to Farmer's Ditch Company, as that was the only surface water diverter that submitted a request to the State Water Board under the provisions of Addendum 2. If you did not submit a request under Addendum 2 (issued September 6, 2024) your surface water right(s) remains curtailed (unless you have a local cooperative solution or meet an exception to curtailment like human health and safety or minimum livestock watering).**

Farmer's Ditch Company shall comply with the following conditions:

- Limit diversions to the lesser of: (1) 7 cfs (the amount identified in its request); or (2) excess water in the Scott River watershed, which is defined as the instantaneous flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage that exceeds the minimum flow requirement of 33 cfs for September.
- Cease diversions when the instantaneous flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage approaches the September flow requirement of 33 cfs to ensure the diversion is not contributing to non-attainment of the flow requirement.
- Cease diversions immediately if directed to do so by the State Water Board.

The State Water Board notes that connectivity is improving in the tailings reach of the Scott River. The State Water Board encourages Farmer's Ditch Company to manage its diversion in a way that supports connectivity.

This addendum expires at 11:59 pm on September 30, 2024, unless amended or superseded prior to that date.

Again, surface water diverters that have not submitted the requested information identified in Addendum 2 (issued September 6, 2024) and received approval from the Board to divert under this addendum remain curtailed.

If you want to divert surface water under a potential further suspension of surface water diversions, you must submit the following information to the State Water Board by midnight on Sunday, September 22, 2024 via email to: scottshastadrought@waterboards.ca.gov and provide the following information:

- Certification that the diverted water will not be used for inefficient livestock watering until the requirements of Section 875.7 of the [Emergency Regulation](#) are met;
- An estimate of amount of water that the diverter would like to divert (e.g., 0.5 cfs) for the week of September 23-30; and
- The water right(s) associated with the desired surface water diversion.

The Board will consider the total demand of all submittals and water right priority in determining whether to issue a further suspension of the curtailment order.

As a reminder, this addendum does not modify any local cooperative solutions. The Curtailment Orders do not apply to participants with approved local cooperative solutions or those listed as received on the State Water Board's [2024 Local Cooperative Solutions website](#). All surface water rights with a local cooperative solution, including 'approved' or 'received', must continue to follow their proposals.

Background:

This is Addendum 3 to [Order WR 2024-0024-DWR](#) curtailing surface water rights in the Scott River watershed under the [Emergency Regulation](#). Flows at the [USGS Fort Jones gage](#) have been at or above the September flow requirement (33 cfs) and mildly increasing since September 3, 2024. Based on the current flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage and other available information (i.e., flow response to recent precipitation, flow and precipitation forecasts, and potential water demand), the State Water Board is expanding the suspension of curtailment to include a portion of Farmer's Ditch Company's surface water right. All surface water right holders who want to start diverting must submit the requested information above for the Board to consider in determining whether to issue any further suspensions.

The State Water Board will continue to monitor flows, flow, precipitation, and temperature forecasts, desired demand, and watershed conditions regularly to determine if further adjustments to curtailments are appropriate and if the suspension can be extended.

Questions and How to Stay Informed

Please monitor your email and our website [Scott River and Shasta River Emergency Regulation website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/) for future updates. If an email notice is issued on the weekend or after business hours, the website will not be updated until the following workday due to service limitations.

If you have questions regarding this email, please contact staff by email at:

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

If you received this notice in a forwarded message and would like to receive future emails related to this and similar efforts, 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/swrcb_subscribe

Erik Ekdahl
Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights

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