State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND SCIENTIFIC BASIS REPORT(S) FOR BASELINE MINIMUM FLOWS IN THE SCOTT RIVER AND SHASTA RIVER WATERSHEDS

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) Division of Water Rights (Division) is compiling information to support the development of an economic analysis and scientific basis report(s) for baseline minimum flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. As background, on October 16, 2024, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2024-0036, which, among other things, directed staff to develop a report setting forth the scientific basis for baseline minimum flow requirements and initiate analysis of implementing long-term baseline minimum flows. Lists of scientific, technical, and economic references and resources that the Board has compiled to support this effort are attached for review, with separate lists provided for each watershed (Attachment A – Scott River watershed; Attachment B – Shasta River watershed).

The public is invited to review the lists and provide feedback, including identifying any omissions, additional resources, or other scientific, technical, and economic information for the Board's consideration.

HOW TO PROVIDE INPUT

The deadline to submit input on additional information that the Board should consider as staff develop scientific basis report(s) and economic analyses for baseline minimum instream flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds is **Friday, April 25, 2025**.

Email (preferred) to:
(with subject of Information for Scott-Shasta Flows, up to 150 MB)
ScottShastaFlows@waterboards.ca.gov

For files larger than 150 MB, please upload to our FTP site (https://ftp.waterboards.ca.gov):
Username: SSLTF-FTP
Password: scottshasta

or

Hard copy to:
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812 (mail)
1001 I Street, 14th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand-delivery)

BACKGROUND

California is experiencing increasingly extreme hydrologic conditions, including severe droughts, declining snowpack, and reduced water availability, that are consistent with climate change projections. Hydrologic conditions in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds reflect these broader trends. Data from the past 20 years demonstrates that, prior to the implementation of emergency regulations, summer flows consistently met or exceeded drought emergency minimum flow thresholds in only four years in the Scott River and only two years in the Shasta River.

Recognizing the ongoing declining flow trends and continued impacts on fisheries in these watersheds, baseline minimum instream flows are needed to ensure protection of these fisheries in all water years, regardless of whether drought emergency regulation authority is in effect. To address this, on October 16, 2024, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2024-0036, directing staff to develop the scientific basis for establishing long-term baseline minimum instream flow requirements in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds and initiate analysis of the economic impacts of implementing long-term baseline minimum flows, including consideration of impacts on fishing and agriculture and associated indirect impacts.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & HOW TO RECEIVE UPDATES

If you would like to receive email updates please sign up[1] under "State Water Resources Control Board" and "Water Rights" for the "Scott-Shasta Flows" email subscription list.

QUESTIONS

Please email questions regarding this notice and related efforts to: ScottShastaFlows@waterboards.ca.gov or leave a message at our dedicated Scott River and Shasta River phone line at: (916) 327-3113.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Scott River Watershed – List of Scientific, Technical, and Economic Information Related to Development of Economic Analysis and Scientific Basis Report(s) for Baseline Minimum Flows in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

Attachment B: Shasta River Watershed – List of Scientific, Technical, and Economic Information Related to Development of Economic Analysis and Scientific Basis Report(s) for Baseline Minimum Flows in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

[1] URL: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/

Attachment A: Scott River Watershed – List of Scientific, Technical, and Economic Information Related to Development of Economic Analysis and Scientific Basis Report(s) for Baseline Minimum Flows in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

Below are scientific, technical, and economic references and resources that the Board has compiled to support the development of an economic analysis and scientific basis report(s) for the Scott River. The references are generally broken out into two sections: (I.) Scientific Basis Report(s) – related; and (II.) Economic Analysis – related. Please note that reports containing both economic and scientific information may appear only in one list, but that the Board has the reports available for consideration in either context. Please also note that information related to both the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds is duplicated in both attachments. Additionally, this list is intended to be broad, and the Board may not ultimately end up relying on all of the sources below. Refer to Attachment B for references and resources identified for the Shasta River watershed.

I. Information Related to Scientific Basis Report(s)

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Attachment B: Shasta River Watershed – List of Scientific, Technical, and Economic Information Related to Development of Economic Analysis and Scientific Basis Report(s) for Baseline Minimum Flows in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

Below are scientific, technical, and economic references and resources that the Board has compiled to support the development of an economic analysis and scientific basis report(s) for the Shasta River. The references are generally broken out into two sections: (I.) Scientific Basis Report(s) – related; and (II.) Economic Analysis – related. Please note that reports containing both economic and scientific information may appear only in one list, but that the Board has the reports available for consideration in either context. Please also note that information related to both the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds is duplicated in both attachments. Additionally, this list is intended to be broad, and the Board may not ultimately end up relying on all of the sources below. Refer to Attachment A for references and resources identified for the Scott River watershed.

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