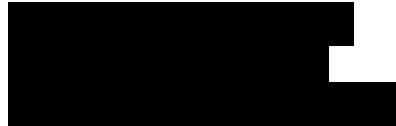


State Water Resources Control Board

October 16, 2026

4T Ranch LLC



CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF 2026 GROUNDWATER LOCAL COOPERATIVE SOLUTION FOR 4T RANCH LLC

Dear John Burrone (on behalf of 4T Ranch LLC):

Assembly Bill (AB) 263, signed into law on September 26, 2025, extends the effective period of the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) Scott River and Shasta River Emergency Regulation (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 875-875.9) (Regulation) until January 1, 2031, or until permanent rules establishing and implementing long-term instream flow requirements are adopted for those watersheds, whichever occurs first. Under the Regulation¹, 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) of the Regulation describes three types of local cooperative solution proposals 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, satisfies the metering and inspection requirements, is founded on a binding agreement with a coordinating entity if the petitioner chooses that option, and is to be implemented throughout the entirety of the irrigation season. The Deputy Director's approval of a proposal for a groundwater local cooperative solution may be subject to appropriate conditions, including metering, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

¹ *Establishment of Minimum Instream Flow Requirements, Curtailment Authority, and Information Order Authority in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds*, available online at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/docs/2025/2025-scott-shasta-emergency-reg-adopted-searchable.pdf.

Summary of Proposal

The State Water Board received a proposal² from 4T Ranch LLC (petitioner) for a Graduated Cessation Schedule groundwater local cooperative solution for the 2026 season that proposes to reduce water use from six groundwater wells on 564 acres of the petitioner's irrigated land. The petitioner proposes to use Option 2 of the Graduated Cessation Schedule groundwater local cooperative solution for the 564 acres. Option 2 schedule involves ceasing irrigation on:

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

To meet the conditions of this graduated cessation schedule, the petitioner proposes to cease irrigation of 111 acres on July 20, 2026, which accounts for 20% of the total 564 acres. On August 20, 2026, irrigation will cease on an additional 177 acres, bringing the total irrigated acres with irrigation ceased for the season to 51%. Finally, on September 5, 2026, irrigation will cease on an additional 276 acres (totaling 564 acres), and 20 acres of land (or 4 percent of the total 564 acres) that was previously fallowed in August will be brought back under limited irrigation. The petitioner will track the operation of the wheel line including irrigation duration and flow rate on the 20 acres and calculate the cumulative volume of water applied to the field to ensure that no more than 10 acre-feet of water is applied (6 inches x 20 acres = ~10 acre-feet).

A further description of the site and water reduction measures is provided in the proposal. The proposal has not identified a coordinating entity; therefore, the State Water Board Division of Water Rights will serve as the default coordinating entity. The proposal was posted to the State Water Board's webpage³ for local cooperative solutions associated with the Regulation on April 16, 2026. No comments were received on the proposal.

Groundwater Metering

A groundwater local cooperative solution must include a description of any existing groundwater metering, and a proposal to meter and record such extractions or applications on a weekly basis, and to report this information monthly to the Deputy Director (or the coordinating entity, if so agreed), with limited exceptions. If a meter may not be 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 installation of a meter. The Deputy Director may waive the

² The term "proposal" includes, as applicable, elements of the petitioner's Application Form for 2026 Local Cooperative Solution, communications with Division of Water Rights staff, and content from one or more of the petitioner's previous local cooperative solutions. Generally, any applicable content is restated in this letter as part of the current proposal.

³ http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/lcs2026.html

metering requirement for groundwater wells irrigating less than 30 acres or upon a determination that metering in a particular instance is not feasible. The Deputy Director may also approve a time schedule for the installation of a meter if not currently installed at the start of the irrigation season.

The petitioner is implementing the following monitoring protocols for the 2026 irrigation season: (1) AgSense monitoring systems⁴ on three pivots, and (2) calculated estimates of water use based on irrigation system configuration, irrigation set times, and number of irrigation passes.

Division of Water Rights staff estimate that the three pivots monitored by AgSense cover roughly 233 acres, enabling monitoring of approximately 41% of the irrigated acres covered by the proposal. The proposal includes a plan to record and maintain a log of the AgSense water use data, set times, and passes on a weekly basis and provide monthly reports to the State Water Board for the entire irrigation season. For the approximate 331 acres not monitored by AgSense, the petitioner has requested a meter waiver because the petitioner has an executed contract for meter funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and those funds are currently paused. The proposal states that installation of meters without funding is infeasible, and that the NRCS funding is infeasible for 2026. For these 331 acres, the petitioner plans to calculate water use through documented irrigation sets, run times, and standard application rates.

Approval

The Deputy Director has delegated the authority to approve groundwater local cooperative solutions to the Assistant Deputy Director of the Water Quality Certification, Flow, Data, and Administrative Branch in the Division of Water Rights. The Assistant Deputy Director has reviewed the groundwater local cooperative solution proposal and finds that it meets the requirements of Regulation section 875, subdivision (f)(4)(D), with the following conditions:

- The petitioner shall monitor and estimate water use using existing technology and field-based methods, as described in the groundwater local cooperative solution proposal. The petitioner will use AgSense on three pivot systems (233 acres) to monitor flow and track water applications. For the remaining acreage (331 acres), the petitioner will follow the proposal, which includes calculating water use in volumes through documented irrigation sets, run times, and standard application rates.
- The monitoring and estimated water use data must be submitted to the State Water Board by the 10th of each month, reflecting records from the previous month.

⁴ AgSense monitoring systems record hours and minutes of flow, minimum, maximum and average flow rates in gallons per minute, and total gallons pumped for each metered pivot. These monitoring systems provide information equivalent to that provided by a traditional meter.

The Division of Water Rights grants the petitioner's request to waive the metering requirement for roughly 331 irrigated acres for the 2026 irrigation season only given the pause on NRCS funding. Conditional approval of this proposal does not ensure approval under the same conditions in the future. The metering requirement has been in place since 2024. The petitioner is encouraged to pursue other funding options in light of the extended nature of the pause on NRCS funds. Metering may be required next year for all acres within the groundwater local cooperative solution proposal regardless of whether NRCS funds are released.

The petitioner's groundwater local cooperative solution proposal is hereby approved, as described in this letter. Any failure to implement any commitments of the proposal and any conditions of this approval (collectively, the approved groundwater local cooperative solution) 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 an email to: ScottShastaFlows@waterboards.ca.gov or by leaving a message on our dedicated phone line at (916) 327-3113.

Sincerely,



Erin Ragazzi
Assistant Deputy Director
Water Quality Certification, Flow, Data, and Administrative Branch
Division of Water Rights