

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-0025**

TO AMEND AND READOPT AN EMERGENCY REGULATION THAT PROVIDES CURTAILMENT AUTHORITY IN THE KLAMATH RIVER WATERSHED, AND ESTABLISHES MINIMUM INSTREAM FLOW REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION ORDER AUTHORITY IN THE SCOTT RIVER AND SHASTA RIVER WATERSHEDS

WHEREAS:

1. California and most of the western United States continue to face a significant drought in the wake of one of the driest periods on record, driven by climate change and unprecedented hydrologic conditions. Water supply in many parts of California, including the Klamath River watershed, is insufficient to meet demands and requires urgent and continued action to ensure the protection of health, safety, and the environment.
2. On April 21, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a [Proclamation of a State of Emergency for Mendocino and Sonoma counties](#), in response to drought conditions in the Russian River watershed. On May 10, 2021, Governor Newsom issued an expanded Proclamation of a State of Emergency for 41 counties, including those in the Klamath River watershed ([May 2021 Proclamation](#)), in response to drought conditions. The May 2021 Proclamation finds that it is necessary to act expeditiously to mitigate the effects of drought conditions in the Klamath River watershed, both to ensure the protection of health, safety, and the environment and to prepare for potential sustained drought conditions. On July 8, 2021, the Governor [expanded the emergency declaration](#) to nine additional counties and called upon Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent.
3. The May 2021 Proclamation directs the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) to consider adopting an emergency regulation to curtail water diversions when water is not available at water right holders' priority of right in the Klamath River watershed. For purposes of approving an emergency regulation pursuant to this directive, the May 2021 Proclamation also suspends the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division.
4. The May 2021 Proclamation further directs the Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to evaluate minimum instream flows and other actions to protect salmon, steelhead, and other native fishes in critical systems in the state and work with water users and other parties on voluntary measures to implement those actions. To the extent voluntary actions are not sufficient, the State Water Board, in coordination with CDFW, is to consider emergency regulations to establish minimum drought instream flows.

5. In past years, the State Water Board, CDFW, diverters, and other stakeholders have undertaken efforts to protect the fish in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds, short of curtailments for minimum instream flows. These efforts include: sending notices of water unavailability in the Scott River watershed; distributing educational materials to promote voluntary conservation efforts; providing information on funding availability at public meetings; making planting decisions for a dry year; contracting to cease diversions earlier in the year; coordination of diversions to protect redds and juvenile salmon; dedication of water to instream use; and groundwater substitutions to improve water temperatures. Such efforts have improved the availability of water, including for instream uses, but have not resulted in meeting levels necessary to adequately protect fish in this extreme drought situation. Without the ability to protect instream flows or to provide greater incentives for voluntary action and cooperation, these voluntary efforts have not yet been sufficient to adequately support important fisheries in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds.
6. The Scott River and Shasta River watersheds, which are tributaries to the Klamath River, have had three consecutive years of below-average precipitation. The current water year (2021-2022) represents one of the severest droughts on record for both watersheds. Streams that provide habitat and migration corridors for fall-run Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead will not maintain the minimum flows for these species unless water diverters substantially reduce or curtail water use. There is a continued urgent need to address severe water shortages in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds to protect minimum flows for critical fish species, as well as to meet human health and safety needs, and preserve minimum water supplies for livestock watering.
7. The Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon is listed as a threatened species under both the federal and state Endangered Species Acts (ESAs) and are identified as being at high and moderate risk of extinction in the Shasta River and Scott River, respectively. The species spawns, hatches, and rears in tributaries to the Klamath River, including the Scott River and Shasta River, and is divided into three run-years or “cohorts.” The Scott River and Shasta River coho salmon are both “core, functionally independent” populations of the SONCC Evolutionarily Significant Unit under the federal ESA, indicating that the Scott River and Shasta River have a critical role in the continuation and recovery of SONCC coho.
8. The Scott River and Shasta River are key streams in the Klamath Basin for the culturally and commercially significant fall-run Chinook salmon. The fall-run Chinook is a fish species of high commercial importance, as the major salmon stocks targeted by ocean fisheries south of Cape Falcon are Sacramento River fall-run Chinook and Klamath River fall-run Chinook salmon. For most of the past three decades, Klamath River fall-run Chinook has been more constraining on the troll fishery than the Sacramento River fall-run Chinook, and low returns of Klamath fall-run Chinook have resulted in a complete closure of hundreds of miles of the coast to commercial fishing multiple times in the past 15 years.

Coastal ocean fishing-dependent communities have suffered severe economic impacts due to decreases in fish numbers and related harvest limitations. The species also supports commercial and tribal river fishing. The river fisheries have also been closed multiple times in the past decade when the numbers of returning fall-run Chinook are low.

9. Steelhead in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds are part of the federally-designated Klamath Mountains Province (KMP) Distinct Population Segment (DPS). Listing of this DSP under the federal ESA was determined not to be warranted by the National Marine Fisheries Service on April 4, 2001. KMP steelhead are a United States Forest Service Sensitive species, and Summer-run steelhead in this DPS are a CDFW recognized species of special concern.
10. The coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Klamath River watershed are of particular cultural and spiritual significance to many Klamath Basin tribes, including but not limited to the Karuk Tribe, the Yurok Tribe, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, the Shasta Nation, and the Shasta Indian Nation, which have all raised concerns regarding these species in with the State Water Board in recent years. The Quartz Valley Indian Reservation's land base is on the Scott River. Traditionally used fish resources of the Scott River include Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey. The Quartz Valley Indian Reservation relies on these fish for sustenance and their spiritual well-being.
11. Because of the fragile nature of the coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds, continued regulatory action to protect this public trust resource is warranted. Drought conditions present particular risks to steelhead and the SONCC coho and the fall-run Chinook, which require sufficient cold water to provide migration passage, adequate spawning areas, egg incubation, rearing, juvenile redistribution, and juvenile outmigration. During the 2014-2016 drought, localized efforts to manage the coho salmon fishery were insufficient to address the impacts of low flows and high temperatures associated with ongoing diversions and extreme dry conditions. The prior drought resulted in a significant population drop in the strongest coho cohort, from which the cohort has still not recovered. In fall and winter of 2020, coho and Chinook salmon both faced significant migration barriers from reduced flows. It is not yet clear the degree of impact this delay had on the species. Repeated stress events, such as drought conditions affecting multiple cohorts or affecting the same cohort in short succession, can reduce the resilience of a species.
12. On June 15, 2021, in response to emergency drought conditions persisting throughout the Shasta River and Scott River watersheds, and insufficient water supply to meet the needs of all water uses, CDFW requested that the State Water Board consider adoption of a drought emergency regulation to protect coho and Chinook salmon and provided drought minimum instream flows for the

two watersheds, and emphasized the importance of providing flows for coho and Chinook salmon during this drought emergency.

13. On August 17, 2021, the State Water Board adopted a drought emergency regulation that went into effect on August 30, 2021, when it was approved by the Office of Administrative Law and filed with the Secretary of State (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 875–875.9, “August 2021 Drought Emergency Regulation”). The August 2021 Drought Emergency Regulation provides the State Water Board with curtailment authority to protect minimum instream flows, establishes minimum health and safety and livestock watering exceptions, and limits inefficient diversions for livestock during the September through January timeframe. On September 9 and 10, 2021, the State Water Board issued curtailment orders in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds to protect minimum instream flows. Since that time, curtailment of water rights has been managed adaptively to maintain minimum instream flows while maximizing water right diversions.
14. Monitoring of salmonid populations is ongoing to understand how implementation of the minimum flow requirements and associated curtailments have affected salmonid populations, but it is clear that adult migration was successful in both the Scott and Shasta watersheds and that sufficient water for successful juvenile rearing and outmigration was achieved. Since adoption, the August 2021 Drought Emergency Regulation has resulted in multiple benefits including significant groundwater conservation that is anticipated to improve fall flows in the Scott River in 2022, increased community engagement on water conservation and drought actions, improved understanding of area water use, improved water data, and better gaging.
15. The August 2021 Drought Emergency Regulation includes provisions for individual, tributary, or watershed local cooperative solutions in lieu of curtailments, and was crafted to build on, support, and allow for expansion of voluntary efforts. A pathway for groundwater local cooperative solutions was built into the August 2021 Drought Emergency Regulation to both encourage early reductions in groundwater use and also allow for greater economic certainty to the agricultural community around water availability during curtailments. To date, 57 percent of the acres identified as being irrigated with groundwater in the Scott River watershed are operating under an approved 30 percent water use reduction plan, with an additional 32 percent of the total groundwater-irrigated acreage in the Scott River watershed under review or pending approval. Opportunities exist in the Shasta River watershed for similar groundwater local cooperative solutions to be formed. The amended regulation supports continued development and implementation of a range of local cooperative solutions among water right holders and claimants in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. When approved, such agreements are expected to achieve the overall objectives that would otherwise be served by curtailment. Landowners may enter into local cooperative solutions to conserve water and perform “equal or better” actions in lieu of potential curtailment. Local cooperative solutions are

required to demonstrate “equal or better” protections or include verifiable water conservation actions. Common water conservation actions include dedication of water to instream use, planting crops that require less water, reducing irrigation, improving efficiency of irrigation technology, and fallowing.

16. In light of the vital importance of water for all uses during an extreme drought, the August 2021 Drought Emergency Regulation includes a provision for CDFW, after coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service, to notify the Deputy Director if lower alternative flows at the compliance gage provide equal or better protection for the pertinent species’ relevant life stages. Based on new analyses performed after the adoption of the August 2021 Drought Emergency Regulation, CDFW provided the Deputy Director with lower flows in letters dated December 17, 2021 (reduced Shasta River flows from 150 cfs to 135 cfs for the remainder of December), March 15, 2022 (reduced Shasta River flows from 135 cfs to 105 cfs for the last seven days of March), and June 3, 2022 (reduced Scott River flow from 125 cfs to 90 cfs for last seven days of June).
17. On April 20, 2022, in response to continued emergency drought conditions persisting throughout the Shasta River and Scott River watersheds (tributaries to the Klamath River) and insufficient water supply to meet the needs of all water uses, [CDFW requested](#) that the State Water Board consider readoption of the August 2021 Drought Emergency Regulation to protect coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead, and provided recommended updates. In its letter, CDFW provided updated drought emergency minimum flows that reflect minimum flows during this drought emergency, based on the best available science, including new analyses undertaken since August 2021. CDFW also notes in its letter that in providing updated flows to the Deputy Director during the past year, CDFW and the Board staff have applied the Board’s direction in Item No. 6 of State Water Board [Resolution No. 2021-0029](#), which states:

The State Water Board directs staff to continue to work with CDFW to evaluate and refine the drought minimum instream flows adopted in this regulation if new scientifically-defensible information becomes available, and to continue to engage with affected stakeholders and other experts in on-going and longer term efforts to establish instream flows, including consideration of what is achievable in the watersheds, for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds beyond this drought emergency.

The CDFW letter notes that “Since adoption, the SWB [State Water Board] and CDFW have implemented Resolution 6 from the regulation as a good faith effort to evaluate and refine the drought emergency minimum flows. CDFW is grateful to have been able to exercise this resolution. It is critical that Resolution 6 continue to be available.”

18. Governor Newsom signed an [executive order](#) acknowledging the continued drought conditions throughout the state on March 28, 2022, extending the authorities and directives of the 2021 proclamations, and calling for increased conservation efforts. The August 2021 Drought Emergency Regulation expires in

August 2022. The State Water Board is amending and readopting the emergency regulation due to severe emergency drought conditions and the need for continued action.

19. There continues to be a need to ensure that continued minimum human health and safety needs are met, notwithstanding the water shortage conditions. The California Water Code declares water supplies for consumption, sanitation, and cooking as a human right (Wat. Code, § 106.3); identifies domestic use as the highest water use (Wat. Code, § 106); and provides water suppliers with authority to declare a water shortage emergency to allow sufficient water for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection (Wat. Code, § 350). In light of the dry conditions and the need to curtail other uses of water in order to ensure drought emergency minimum flows to support fish in the Shasta River and Scott River watersheds, additional efforts are needed in the Klamath River watershed this year to ensure that water right holders and claimants without other means to access water for basic human health and safety, and fire prevention and recovery efforts are able to continue to access water for these uses under critical drought conditions.
20. Further, there is a need to ensure that water remains available for minimum livestock watering purposes, notwithstanding the drought conditions. Cattle ranching is a primary economic activity in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds, with pasture and growing of alfalfa comprising the predominant manner of land cultivation. California law recognizes the obligation to provide sufficient water for livestock (see Penal Code, section 597, subdivision (b)), and the State Water Board regulation provides for reasonable amounts of water for livestock watering. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, section 697, subdivision (c).) In light of the dry conditions and the need to curtail other uses of water in order to ensure drought emergency minimum flows to support fish in the critical Shasta River and Scott River watersheds, additional efforts continue to be needed in the Klamath watershed this year to ensure that minimum livestock watering needs continue to be met under these critical drought conditions.
21. A number of diversions in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds involve surface diversions of water through long, unlined ditches in order to provide for relatively small amounts of water for livestock. This can result in removing orders of magnitude greater amounts water from the stream than is actually used for livestock at the time when the water is required throughout the watershed to enable adult salmon migration, as well as rearing, incubation, and juvenile migration. Water is needed in the adult salmon migration periods as pulses of water provide cues to the salmon that it is time to migrate upstream, as well as ensure there are adequate flows for fish to move upstream and access tributaries where the salmon will rear. Water is needed during and after the adult salmon migration period to ensure redds are not dewatered and tributaries remain connected so juvenile salmon can move within the system. Additionally, in extreme drought years such as this one, inefficient livestock diversions have the

potential to interfere with seasonal storage needed to support human health and safety needs and the environment.

22. Alternatives exist to provide water for livestock more efficiently and many people in both watersheds have developed other methods for livestock water delivery in the recent decades. While it can be costly over the long term, it is possible for those who do not currently have such an alternatives system to divert water to trucks for delivery to livestock on a short-term basis. Ranchers may also implement long-term water conservation solutions for post-irrigation-season livestock watering, such as developing groundwater wells, purchasing heated troughs, lining ditches, or switching to piped diversions. There are financial resources available to assist ranchers in finding alternative water during the drought emergency.
23. While large diversions of water through inefficient ditches may in some circumstances provide for some amount of recharge of groundwater for later beneficial use, such recharge is uncertain, context-specific, and has not been quantified. Some landowners in the Scott River watershed have obtained temporary groundwater recharge permits from the Board and are working with researchers to better understand the potential for managed groundwater recharge in the basin. Such projects and the associated data obtained from such efforts will provide information that can be used to understand the potential for such projects in the watershed and to tailor groundwater recharge efforts in the most effective manner possible.
24. In light of the severe drought, the fisheries need, the importance of assuring at least minimum amounts of storage, and the alternatives available, it is generally not reasonable to divert more than 10 times the amount of water livestock require for drinking, as described in the reasonable water quantities for water rights applications, during the September through March period.
25. Building on the local cooperative solutions in the August 2021 Drought Emergency Regulation, proposed amendments to the existing regulation provide a new local cooperative solution option for livestock diversions during the prohibition period. This local cooperative solution provides for continued diversions for livestock via inefficient methods (i.e., greater than the 10 times livestock require) where such diversions will not impact the attainment of the drought emergency regulation's minimum instream flow requirements or unreasonably harm salmon. Specifically, this local cooperative solution option allows for diversions for livestock during the prohibition when diverters on a tributary can demonstrate that such diversion will not: (1) require curtailment; (2) unreasonably inhibit adult or juvenile salmonid migration, incubation, or rearing, or (3) unreasonably impact competing uses.
26. The updates to the regulation also include several minor updates to improve the administration of the regulation, including (a) a provision to ensure existing curtailment orders, local cooperative solutions, and petitions remain in effect and

orders do not need to be reissued with re adoption of the regulation; (b) identification of de minimis groundwater users not subject to curtailment; (c) updating minimum human health and safety definition; and (d) clarifications to the groundwater local cooperative solution.

27. Division of Water Rights staff are currently working with University of California at Davis to update the Scott Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (SVIHM) which was initiated by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and built on by Siskiyou County's groundwater sustainability agency as part of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act with input and data from local landowners and other contributors. Division of Water Rights staff plan to run additional drought and curtailment scenarios, and develop tools to inform water management and drought planning in the Scott River watershed. As part of this modeling effort, staff will be evaluating the effectiveness of local cooperative solutions (e.g., 30 percent reduction in groundwater use) and other non-curtailment strategies (e.g., groundwater recharge projects) to improve instream flow.
28. Division of Water Rights staff are currently working on a hydrology modeling effort in the Shasta River watershed to help inform long-term instream flow and water management planning. As part of this effort, Division of Water Rights implemented a memorandum of understanding with Siskiyou County to coordinate on the development and refinement of hydrology models for the Shasta Valley. These Shasta Valley hydrology models will help inform instream flow and other water management strategies in the watershed.
29. During the dire drought conditions currently being experienced in the Klamath River watershed, it is imperative that water right holders and claimants who do not have water available at their priority of right and do not have a need or obligation to provide water for minimum human health and safety or minimal livestock watering uses cease diversions of water that is needed for the minimal protection of fisheries resources and more senior water rights.
30. Water Code section 1058.5 provides the State Water Board the authority to adopt emergency regulations in certain drought years or when the Governor proclaims a drought state of emergency in order to prevent unreasonable use, require curtailment of diversions when water is not available under the diverter's priority of right, and require reporting of diversion or use or the preparation of monitoring reports.
31. Article X, section 2 of the California Constitution declares that the water resources of the state must be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent possible and the unreasonable use of water be prevented. Relevant to the current drought conditions, the California Supreme Court has clarified that "[w]hat may be a reasonable beneficial use, where water is present in excess of all needs, would not be a reasonable beneficial use in an area of great scarcity and great need. What is a beneficial use at one time may, because of changed conditions, become a waste of water at a later time." (*Tulare Irr. Dist. v. Lindsay-Strathmore*

Irr. Dist. (1935) 3 Cal.2d 489, 567.) The reasonable use doctrine applies to the diversion and use of both surface water and groundwater, and it applies irrespective of the type of water right held by the diverter or user. (*Peabody v. City of Vallejo* (1935) 2 Cal.2d 351, 367.) Further, the reasonable use doctrine extends to the adoption of drought emergency minimum instream flows under Water Code, section 1058.5 to protect specific species in critical watersheds, and to implementation of these through curtailment of diversions based on water rights priority. (*Stanford Vina Ranch Irrigation Co. v. State of California* (2020) 50 Cal.App.5th 976.) This regulation is in furtherance of article X, section 2 during this drought emergency.

32. Both the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds have groundwater that is closely interconnected with surface flows. Because of this, it is necessary to address both groundwater and surface-water in a curtailment regulation. Where groundwater and surface waters are interconnected, the “common source” doctrine applies, integrating the water rights and applying priorities without regard to whether the diversion is from surface water or groundwater. (*Hudson v. Dailey* (1909) 156 Cal. 617, 627–628.).
33. Adoption of an emergency regulation is necessary to address ongoing dire water shortages in the Klamath River watershed. The amended emergency regulation will enable the State Water Board to continue to act in a timely manner to protect vital flows for fisheries, and to enforce the water right priority system with respect to all water right holders and claimants, including groundwater diversions, while assuring water remains available for minimum health and safety and livestock watering needs.
34. Emergency regulations adopted under Water Code, section 1058.5 may remain in effect for up to one year.
35. Pursuant to Water Code, section 7, the State Water Board is authorized to delegate authority to staff.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The State Water Board readopts California Code of Regulations, title 23, Division 3, Chapter 2, Article 23.5, Sections 875, 875.1, 875.2, 875.3, 875.4, 875.5, 875.6, 875.7, 875.8, and 875.9, with amendments, as appended to this resolution as an emergency regulation;
2. State Water Board staff will submit the regulation to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for final approval;
3. If, during the approval process, State Water Board staff, the State Water Board, or OAL determines that minor corrections to the language of the regulation or supporting documentation are needed for clarity or consistency, the State Water Board Executive Director, the Deputy Director for the Division of Water Rights, or their designee, may make such changes;

4. This regulation shall remain in effect for one year after filing with the Secretary of State unless: (i) the State Water Board determines that it is no longer necessary due to changed conditions; (ii) the conditions specified in Water Code section 1058.5 subdivision (a)(2) are no longer in effect, in which case this regulation is deemed repealed; or (iii) the State Water Board renews the regulation due to continued drought conditions as described in Water Code section 1058.5;
5. The State Water Board directs staff to process as expeditiously as possible any proposals for local cooperative solutions which may be offered as alternatives to curtailments;
6. The State Water Board directs staff to continue to work with CDFW to evaluate and refine the drought minimum instream flows adopted in this regulation if new scientifically-defensible information becomes available, and to continue to engage with affected stakeholders and other experts in on-going and longer term efforts to establish instream flows, including consideration of what is achievable in the watersheds, for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds beyond this drought emergency;
7. The State Water Board directs staff to continue work with stakeholders this year and in future years on voluntary efforts to meet instream flow needs and avoid curtailments;
8. The State Water Board directs staff to continue to develop and use hydrologic modeling tools in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds to better understand and support the planning and implementation of groundwater recharge projects, curtailments, local cooperative solutions, and other water management strategies; and

9. Except for purposes of enforcement of a curtailment order issued pursuant to this regulation, this regulation and any curtailment order issued hereunder shall not be cited as authority for, or evidence of, the validity or priority of any water right or claim affected or protected by this regulation. Given this, it would be inappropriate to consider compliance with the regulation to be an admission or waiver of any rights or claims of affected parties.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on June 21, 2022.

AYE: Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel
Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo
Board Member Sean Maguire
Board Member Laurel Firestone
Board Member Nichole Morgan

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board

**Establishment of Minimum Instream Flow Requirements, Curtailment Authority,
and Information Order Authority in the Klamath Watershed**

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In Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 2, re-adopt Sections 875.4, 875.8, and 875.9 and amend Article 23.5, Sections 875, 875.1, 875.2, 875.3, 875.5, 875.6, and 875.7 to read:

Article 23.5. Klamath River Watershed Drought Emergency Requirements

§ 875 Emergency Curtailment Where Insufficient Flows are Available to Protect Fish in Certain Watersheds

- (a) To prevent the diversion of water that would unreasonably interfere with an emergency minimum level of protection for commercially and culturally significant fall-run Chinook salmon, ~~and~~ threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon, and culturally significant steelhead, surface water and groundwater shall not be diverted from the watersheds listed below at a diversion point or for the benefit of a place of use that is subject to a curtailment order, during the effective period of the curtailment order under this article, except as provided under sections 875.1, 875.2, or 875.3.
- (b) The Deputy Director for the Division of Water Rights (Deputy Director) may issue a curtailment order upon a determination that without curtailment of diversions, flows are likely to be reduced below the drought emergency minimum flows specified in subdivision (c), within the constraints detailed in this article. Curtailment orders shall be effective the day after issuance. Where flows are sufficient to support some but not all diversions, curtailment orders shall be issued, suspended, reinstated, and rescinded in order of water right priority provided in section 875.5. In determining which diversions should be subject to curtailment, the Deputy Director shall consider the need to provide reasonable assurance that the drought emergency minimum flows will be met. If maintaining the flows described in subdivision (c) would require curtailment of uses described in section 875.2 or 875.3, then the Executive Director may determine whether or not those diversions should be allowed to continue based on the most current information available regarding fish populations, human health and safety needs, livestock needs, and the alternatives available to protect ~~both~~ human public health and safety, livestock, and fish populations.
- (c) Drought Emergency Minimum Flows are as specified below.
- (1) Scott River. The Scott River enters the Klamath River at United States Geological Survey River Mile 145.1.

(A) As measured in cubic feet per second at United States Geological Survey gage 11519500 located downstream of the city of Fort Jones at the northern end of Scott Valley (Scott River Mile 21):

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June <u>1-23</u>	<u>June</u> <u>24-30</u>	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
200	200	200	150	150	125	<u>90</u>	50	30	33	40	60	150

(B) The California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the National Marine Fisheries Service may notify the Deputy Director that the pertinent life stage(s) of the pertinent species the flows are crafted to protect is not yet, or is no longer present at the time anticipated, or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, after coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service, may notify the Deputy Director that lower, alternative flows at the Fort Jones gage, or alternative flows at a different point or points in the watershed, provide equal or better protection for the pertinent species' relevant life stages. Using this information, as well as other information that could affect the need for curtailments to meet minimum flow needs for fisheries purposes, including weather forecasting, the need for flows to ramp up or down, the contributions of voluntary flow measures, and future flow needs, the Deputy Director may determine not to issue curtailment orders, to issue curtailment orders to a smaller priority grouping described in section 875.5, or to suspend curtailment orders already issued in order of priority as described in section 875.5, as applicable.

(2) Shasta River. The Shasta River enters the Klamath River at United States Geological Survey River Mile 179.5, at the junction of State Routes 263 and 96.

(A) As measured in cubic feet per second at United States Geological Survey gage 11517500 located near Yreka:

Jan	Feb	Mar <u>1-24</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>25-</u> <u>31</u>	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept <u>1-15</u>	<u>Sept</u> <u>16-30</u>	Oct	Nov	Dec
<u>435</u> <u>125</u>	<u>435</u> <u>125</u>	<u>435</u> <u>125</u>	<u>105</u>	70	50	50	50	50	50	<u>75</u>	425 105	450 <u>125</u>	450 <u>125</u>

(B) The California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the National Marine Fisheries Service may notify the Deputy Director that the pertinent life stage(s) of the pertinent species the flows are crafted to protect is not yet, or is no longer present at the time anticipated, or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, after coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service, may notify the Deputy Director that lower alternative flows at the Yreka gage, or alternative flows at a different point or points in the watershed, provide equal or better protection for the pertinent species' relevant life stages. Using this information, as well as other information that could affect the need for curtailments to meet minimum flow needs for fisheries purposes, including weather forecasting, the need for flows to ramp up or down, the contributions of voluntary flow measures, and future flow needs, the Deputy Director may determine not to issue curtailment orders, to issue curtailment orders to a smaller priority grouping described in section 875.5, or to suspend curtailment orders already issued in order of priority as described in section 875.5, as applicable.

(3) Compliance with the drought emergency minimum flows will be determined by the Deputy Director.

(d) Notice

(1) Initial curtailment orders will be sent to each water right holder, agent of record on file with the Division of Water Rights, or landowner, as applicable. The water right holder, agent of record on file with the Division of Water Rights, or landowner is responsible for immediately providing notice of the curtailment order(s) to all diverters exercising the water right(s) covered by the curtailment order(s).

(2) The State Water Board has established the "Scott-Shasta Drought" email subscription and distribution list that water right holders, landowners, and other parties may join to receive drought-related notices and updates regarding curtailments in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. Notice provided by email or by posting on the State Water Board's drought web-page shall be sufficient for all purposes related to drought notices and updates regarding curtailment orders. The State Water Board's drought web-page is:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/

(3) Curtailment orders and subsequent addenda issued under any prior version of this article shall not require reissuance or further action to remain effective under this amended regulation. Upon the effective date of this regulation, any curtailment orders that reference drought emergency minimum flows are hereby amended for purposes of any

future implementation to include the drought emergency minimum flows currently included in subdivision (c). Likewise, any petitions, certifications, or approvals of exceptions to curtailment under sections 875.1, 875.2, 875.3, or Article 24, section 878.1 shall not require further action under this amended regulation to remain effective.

(e) Suspension, reinstatement, or rescission of curtailment orders shall be announced using the email subscription and distribution list and web-page described in subdivision (d)(2).

(f) Local Cooperative Solutions

(1) Local cooperative solutions by individuals or groups may be proposed by petition to the Deputy Director as an alternative means of reducing water use to meet or preserve drought emergency minimum flows, or to provide other fishery benefits (such as cold-water refugia, localized fish passage, or redd protection), in lieu of curtailment as described in this section.

(A) Petitions to implement local cooperative solutions that coordinate diversions, share water, strategically manage groundwater and/or surface water for fisheries benefits, reduce annual water use, or engage in similar activities may be submitted to the Deputy Director at any time.

(B) The Division of Water Rights and the Executive Director may coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, the Scott River and Shasta River Watermaster District, the developers of any model or other information used as part of the petition, and others in evaluating local cooperative solutions.

(C) After or as part of approval of a petition, the Deputy Director shall not issue curtailment orders or shall suspend, rescind, or modify, as applicable, such orders already issued, affecting those rights relevant to the proposed cooperative solution so long as the Deputy Director finds that any continued diversions under the local cooperative solution are reasonable and do not result in unreasonable harm to other legal users of water.

(D) Deputy Director approval of a petition for a local cooperative solution may be subject to appropriate conditions, including monitoring and reporting requirements, to assure that no unreasonable injury to users of water will occur and that the terms and purpose of the petition or the associated underlying binding agreement will be met.

(E) The Deputy Director may rescind approval of a local cooperative solution and issue or reinstate curtailment orders for the relevant water rights in the order described in section 875.5, notwithstanding approval of the local cooperative solution, if monitoring or other reliable information indicates that parties are not meeting their obligations under the local cooperative solution or the agreement is not providing the benefits to anadromous fish outlined in the local cooperative solution, or based on an objection filed under (f)(2).

(2) Diversions covered by a local cooperative solution ~~an agreement~~ approved by the Deputy Director pursuant to this section are subject to this article and violations of such an approved local cooperative solution ~~agreement~~ shall be subject to enforcement as a violation of this article. Notice of petitions and decisions under this section will be posted as soon as practicable on the State Water Board's drought webpage described in subdivision (d)(2). The Deputy Director may issue a decision under this article prior to providing such notice. Any interested person may file an objection to the petition or decision. The objection shall indicate the manner of service upon the petitioner. The State Water Board will consider any objection, and may hold a hearing thereon, after notice to all interested persons.

(3) The Division of Water Rights, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, ~~or National Marine Fisheries Service, Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District, or North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board~~ may install and maintain additional gages in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. The gages, and may be used to evaluate compliance with the flow requirements defined in subdivisions (c)(1) and (c)(2) on a watershed or tributary scale ~~using these gages~~, as needed. Diverters or other entities may also request to install and maintain a gage to support new flow requirement compliance points by submitting a written request with supporting data and information to the Deputy Director for approval.

(4) The Deputy Director may approve a petition to implement local cooperative solutions under this article as follows:

(A) For watershed-wide cooperative solutions: The Executive Director determines that a watershed-wide local cooperative solution will provide sufficient assurance that the flows in subdivision (c)(1) or (c)(2) are achieved for a specific time period, considering the amount of flow anticipated and the level of assurance that flows made available by agreements will be protected.

(B) For tributary-wide local cooperative solutions: ~~Regardless of whether the flows identified in subdivision (c)(1) and (c)(2) are being met, †~~The Deputy Director may approve the petition submitted under this article by a diverter or group of diverters that provides for tributary-wide benefits if either:

(i) Sufficient information allows the Deputy Director to identify the appropriate contribution of the tributary to the flows identified in subdivision (c)(1) or (c)(2), and the Executive Director makes a finding that a local cooperative solution is sufficient to provide the pro-rata flow for that tributary. The Deputy Director may approve this solution regardless of whether the flows identified in subdivisions (c)(1) and (c)(2) are being met; or

(ii) The California Department of Fish and Wildlife finds that the in-tributary or downstream benefits for anadromous fish are equal to or greater than the anticipated contribution to protections provided by the flows in subdivision (c)(1) or (c)(2). The Deputy Director may approve this solution regardless of whether the flows identified in subdivisions (c)(1) and (c)(2) are being met; or

(iii) For livestock diversions that would otherwise be prohibited under Section 875.7, and are included on their own or as part of a proposal under (i) or (ii):

1. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife finds that the proposal will adequately protect fishery resources, including consideration of whether the proposal allows sufficient water to provide for a natural hydrologic flow regime in the watershed, including pulse flows; whether redds are dewatered; whether the resulting flows support juvenile and adult salmon migration, incubation, and rearing; and whether the proposal results in a material decrease in available tributary or mainstem habitat; and

2. The Deputy Director finds there is sufficient water available under the proposal for competing uses, including consideration of storage for human health and safety and environmental needs; the risk that the proposal would result in additional curtailments; and the potential impact on the flows in subdivision (c)(1) or (c)(2) being met.

3. To the extent appropriate to the above findings, the local cooperative solution must include monitoring for and protection of redds and verification of flows.

This type of local cooperative solution can result in benefits that make the less efficient diversion reasonable, such as providing for more economic livestock watering, reducing ditch-drying and associated repair needs, and potentially allowing for difficult-to-quantify or otherwise uncertain groundwater recharge with associated support for other beneficial uses during high flow events with assurances that such diversion will not result in curtailments or unreasonably inhibit adult or juvenile salmonid migration, incubation, or rearing.

This type of local cooperative solution can also be developed for a particular mainstem reach, in addition to a tributary-wide basis.

(C) For individual local cooperative solutions: In the absence of watershed-wide or tributary-specific local cooperative solutions, the Deputy Director may approve a petition submitted under this article:

- (i) Where the watershed-wide flows in subdivision (c)(1) or and (c)(2) and tributary-specific pro-rata flows established by the Deputy Director cannot be guaranteed, and there is a binding agreement under which water users have agreed to cease diversions in a specific timeframe. Such binding agreement may be made with a coordinating entity with the expertise and the ability to evaluate and require performance of the agreement, for example with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District, a non-profit organization with expertise and experience in water-saving transactions, or similar qualified public entity. Where the diverter or coordinating entity submits a petition under this subdivision that includes a certification that diversion under a specified right has ceased for a certain time period, the Deputy Director shall approve the petition unless there is evidence that the diversion is nonetheless occurring.
- (ii) Where an individual diverter or sub-tributary group of diverters has entered into a binding agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the National

Marine Fisheries Service to perform actions for the benefit of anadromous salmonids, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife makes a recommendation for an exemption to curtailment based on an assessment that the benefits of the actions to anadromous fish in a specific time period are equal to or greater than the protections provided by their contribution to flow described in section 875, subdivision (c)(1) ~~or and~~ (c)(2) for that time period.

(D) For overlying or adjudicated groundwater diversions for irrigated agriculture described under in section 875.5, subdivision (a)(1)(A)(ix) [Scott River] or section 875.5, subdivision (b)(1)(C) [Shasta River] the Deputy Director may approve a groundwater-basin-wide, groundwater-sub-basin-wide, or any number of individual local cooperative solutions ~~totaling at least 400 irrigated acres~~ where:

(i) The proposal is based on a binding agreement. Such binding agreement may be made with a coordinating entity with the expertise and the ability to evaluate and require performance of the agreement, for example with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District, the Siskiyou or Shasta Valley Resources Conservation District, a non-profit organization with expertise and experience in water-saving transactions, or similar qualified public entity.

(ii) For the Scott River: The proposal provides at least:

1. A net reduction of water use of 30 percent throughout the irrigation season (April 1 – October 31), ~~as compared to the prior irrigation season~~; and
2. A monthly reduction of 30 percent in the July-4 through October 31 time period, ~~as compared to the prior year or to 2020~~.

(iii) For the Shasta River: The proposal provides at least:

1. A net reduction of water use of 15 percent throughout the irrigation season (March 1 – November 1), ~~as compared to the prior irrigation season~~; and
2. A monthly reduction of 15 percent in the June-1 through September-30 time period, ~~as compared to the prior year or to 2020~~.

(iv) Such ~~The relevant water use reduction shall be based on a comparison to the 2020, 2021, or 2022 irrigation season, and may be demonstrated by evidence that provides a reasonable assurance that the change in farming practice or other action results in at least the relevant proportionate reduction in water use.~~ Such evidence may include but is not limited to: pumping reports; actions that will be taken to reduce water use; estimation of water saved from conservation measures or changes in irrigation or planting decisions; and electric bills.

(v) In implementing a local cooperative solution approved under this subdivision (D), a diverter or water user may adjust the timing of the actions planned to meet the requirements of subdivision (f)(4)(D)(ii)(2) or (f)(4)(D)(iii)(3), by up to one week as an adaptive response to precipitation or cool weather, if the shift in timing does not reduce the total irrigation season water savings. For example, a diverter may postpone a planned irrigation rotation for one week if rain or cool weather allows for greater time between rotations than initially planned, even if the shift would trigger a failure to meet the monthly reductions described in subdivision (f)(4)(D)(ii)(2) or (f)(4)(D)(iii)(3).

1. The diverter or user must provide the Coordinating Entity and the Deputy Director as much notice as possible of the intent to shift actions, including the reason for the shift and a demonstration that it will continue to meet the approved irrigation season water savings. Such notice must be at least three business days prior to implementation.
2. The diverter or user may implement the change unless the Deputy Director disapproves the shift based a failure to meet the requirements of this subdivision. Signed binding agreements do not need revision to incorporate this subdivision (v) or actions thereunder.

(vi) Approval of local cooperative solutions under this subdivision (D) shall not become effective until proposals covering a total of 400 acres in the applicable watershed have been approved.

(E) Where a diverter receives a curtailment order for fewer water rights than are used on his or her property, the Deputy Director may approve a petition for a comparable reduction in use of a more

senior right in favor of continuing diversion under the more junior right otherwise subject to curtailment under the following circumstances:

- (i) The change does not injure other legal users of water, including by reducing the contribution to flows described in subdivision (c) that other users would rely on;
- (ii) The change does not result in an increased consumptive use of water; and
- (iii) The change does not result in elevation of water temperatures above that which would occur from curtailing the original source.

The petition must provide reliable evidence sufficient to support these findings.

(5) Local cooperative solutions approved under any prior version of this section shall remain in effect for the period for which they were approved without the need for further action by any party.

Authority: Sections 1058, 1058.5, Water Code

Reference: Cal. Const., Art X, Sec. 2; Sections 100, 104, 105, 109, 186, 275, 1011, 1011.5, 1051.1, 1058.5, 5106, Water Code; *Environmental Defense Fund v. East Bay Muni. Util. Dist.* (1980) 26 Cal.3d 183; *Light v. State Water Resources Control Board* (2014) 226 Cal.App.4th 1463; *City of Barstow v. Mojave Water Agency* (2000) 23 Cal.4th 1224; *Stanford Vina Ranch Irrigation. Co v. State of California* (2020) 50 Cal.App.5th 976.

§ 875.1 Non-Consumptive Uses

- (a) Diversion and use described in this section under any valid basis of right may continue after issuance of a curtailment order under this article without further approval from the Deputy Director, subject to the conditions set forth in this section. Diversions described in this section may not be required to curtail in response to a curtailment order under this article if their diversion and use of water does not decrease downstream flows. Any diverter wishing to continue diversion under this subdivision must submit to the Deputy Director a certification, under penalty of perjury, which describes the non-consumptive use and explains, with supporting evidence, how the diversion and use do not decrease downstream flows in the applicable watershed. The Deputy Director may request additional information or disapprove any certification if the information provided is insufficient to support the statement or if more convincing evidence contradicts the claims. If a certification submitted pursuant to this section is disapproved, the diversions are subject to any curtailment order issued for that basis of right. This section applies to:

- (1) Direct surface diversions solely for hydropower if discharges are returned to the stream from which they are withdrawn, and water is not held in storage.
- (2) Direct surface water or groundwater diversions from the Scott River or Shasta River watersheds and groundwater basins dedicated to instream uses for the benefit of fish and wildlife pursuant to Water Code section 1707, including those diversions that divert water to a different location for subsequent release. This subdivision ~~subsection~~ only applies where the location of release is hydraulically connected to the Scott River watershed or Shasta River watershed from which it was withdrawn.
- (3) Direct surface water or groundwater diversions where the Deputy Director, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Executive Officer of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board have approved a substitution of releases of either stored water or groundwater into the Scott River or Shasta River or a tributary thereof for the benefit of fish and wildlife such that there is not anticipated to be a measurable net decrease in stream flow as a result of the diversion at the confluence of the tributary with the mainstem of the Scott River or Shasta River, or the next downstream United States Geological Survey gage, as applicable. The release of water does not have to be conducted by the owner of the water right proposed for the continued diversions, provided an agreement between the water right holder and the entity releasing the water is included in the proposal. The party proposing the substitution of releases shall provide documentation supporting no measurable decrease in stream flow is anticipated as a result of the release of water. The Deputy Director may require reporting and monitoring as part of any approval.
- (4) Other direct diversions solely for non-consumptive uses, if those diverters file with the Deputy Director a certification under penalty of perjury demonstrating that the diversion and use are non-consumptive and do not decrease downstream flows in the Scott River or Shasta River watersheds.

Authority: Sections 1058, 1058.5, Water Code

Reference: Cal. Const., Art. X, § 2; Sections 100, 187, 275, 348, Water Code

§ 875.2 Minimum Human Health and Safety Needs

- (a) Definition: For the purposes of this article, “minimum human health and safety needs” refer to the amount of water necessary ~~for prevention of~~ to prevent adverse impacts to human health and safety, for which there is no feasible alternate supply. “Minimum human health and safety needs” include:

- (1) ~~Indoor~~ Minimum domestic water uses, including water for human consumption, cooking, or sanitation purposes. ~~For the purposes of this article, water provided outdoors for human consumption, cooking, or sanitation purposes, including but not limited to facilities for unhoused persons or campgrounds, shall be regarded as indoor domestic water use.~~ Further, minimum domestic water uses include incidental uses necessary for sustenance, such as non-commercial vegetable gardens, and domestic animals. As necessary to provide for ~~indoor~~ minimum domestic water use, water diverted for minimum human health and safety needs may include water hauling and bulk water deliveries, so long as the diverter maintains records of such deliveries and complies with the reporting requirements of section 875.6, and so long as such ~~provision~~ diversion and use is consistent with a valid water right.
- (2) For Urban Water Suppliers, as defined in Water Code section 10617, water uses allowed under and in accordance with the strictest stage of that supplier's adopted Water Shortage Contingency Plan as part of its Urban Water Management Plan.
- (3) ~~(2)~~ Water supplies necessary for energy sources that are critical to basic grid reliability, as identified by the California Independent System Operator, California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission, or a similar energy grid reliability authority.
- (4) ~~(3)~~ Water supplies necessary to prevent tree die-off that would contribute to fire risk to residences, and for maintenance of ponds or other water sources for fire fighting, in addition to water supplies identified by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or another appropriate authority as regionally necessary for fire preparedness or post-fire recovery and reforestation efforts.
- (5) ~~(4)~~ Water supplies identified by the California Air Resources Board, a local air quality management district, or other appropriate public agency with air quality expertise, as necessary to address critical air quality impacts to protect public health.
- (6) ~~(5)~~ Water supplies necessary to address immediate public health or safety threats, as determined by a public agency with health or safety expertise.
- (7) ~~(6)~~ Other water uses necessary for human health and safety which a state, local, tribal, or federal health, environmental, or safety agency has determined are critical to public health and safety or to the basic infrastructure of the state. Diverters wishing to continue diversions for these uses must identify the human health and safety need, include approval or similar relevant documentation from the appropriate public agency, describe why the amount requested is critical for the need and

cannot be met through alternate supplies, state how long the diversion is expected to continue, certify that the supply will be used only for the stated need, and describe steps taken and planned to obtain alternative supplies.

- (b) Diversions for human health and safety may be authorized to continue after receipt of a curtailment order as described in Article 24, section 878.1.

Authority: Sections 1058, 1058.5, Water Code

Reference: Cal. Const., Art. X, § 2; Sections 100, 100.5, 104, 105, 106.3, 275, 1058.5, Water Code; Environmental Defense Fund v. East Bay Muni. Util. Dist. (1980) 26 Cal.3d 183; Light v. State Water Resources Control Board (2014) 226 Cal.App.4th 1463; Stanford Vina Ranch Irrigation Co. v. State of California (2020) 50 Cal.App.5th 976.

§ 875.3 Minimum Diversions for Livestock Watering

- (a) Limited diversions for minimal livestock watering, through means that do not result in seepage losses, may be authorized to continue after receipt of a curtailment order as specified in this section. Such diversions may include, but are not limited to, pipes, wells, or lined ditches.
- (b) Limited livestock watering diversions may be authorized to continue after receipt of a curtailment order upon submission of self-certification to the Deputy Director, under penalty of perjury, that the diversion: (1) is necessary to provide adequate water to livestock, (2) is conveyed without seepage through a means specified in the certification, and (3) either, shall not, on average, exceed the reasonable livestock watering quantities set forth in Article 5, section 697 for livestock addressed in that section, or, for livestock not addressed in Article 5, section 697, shall not, on average, exceed the closest analogous livestock in Article 5, section 697 or a minimum water amount set forth in the certification with reference to supporting evidence regarding the particular livestock needs. The self-certification shall also include the number of livestock being provided with water, diversion location, water source information, the anticipated daily amount diverted to provide water for livestock, and whether the water source is an alternate source used to comply with the emergency regulation. The Deputy Director may request additional information or disapprove any self-certification if the information provided is insufficient to support the statement or if more convincing evidence contradicts the claim(s). If a self-certification submitted pursuant to this section is disapproved, the diversions are subject to any applicable curtailment order issued for that basis of right.
- (c) Limited diversions may be temporarily increased to up to twice the amount in Article 5, section 697 to support minimum livestock water needs when the daily high temperatures meet or exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit during an excessive heat warning at the location where the livestock are watered as declared by the National Weather Service. ~~If minimum livestock water needs are temporarily~~

~~increased beyond the quantities set forth in Article 5, section 697 due to an excessive heat warning, the affected livestock diverter shall submit a self-certification to the Deputy Director, under penalty of perjury, no later than five days from the onset of the excessive heat warning that the diversion: (1) is necessary to provide adequate water to livestock, (2) is conveyed without seepage through a means specified in the certification, and (3) shall not, on average, exceed up to twice the reasonable livestock watering quantities set forth in Article 5, section 697 or other amount in the prior submitted certification under (b)(3) for the duration of the excessive heat warning. The self-certification shall also include the number of livestock being provided with water, diversion location, water source information, the anticipated daily amount diverted to provide water for livestock during the excessive heat warning, and whether the water source is an alternate source used to comply with the emergency regulation. The Deputy Director may request additional information or disapprove any self-certification if the information provided is insufficient to support the statement or if more convincing evidence contradicts the claim(s). If a self-certification submitted pursuant to this section is disapproved, the diversions are subject to any applicable curtailment order issued for that basis of right.~~

- (d) To the extent that a diversion for minimum livestock water needs requires more than the reasonable livestock watering quantities set forth in Article 5, section 697, or that it relies on conveyances with minimal amounts of seepage, the continued diversion of water after issuance of a curtailment order for the diversion requires submission of a petition demonstrating compliance with the requirements of subdivisions (d)(1)-(5), below, and approval by the Deputy Director. The Deputy Director may condition approval of the petition on implementation of additional conservation measures, monitoring, or reporting requirements. Any petition to continue diversion to meet minimum livestock watering needs greater than the reasonable livestock watering quantities set forth in Article 5, section 697 must:
- (1) Describe the specific circumstances that make the requested diversion amount necessary to meet minimum livestock watering needs, if a larger amount is sought.
 - (2) Estimate the total amount of water needed.
 - (3) Certify that the supply will be used only for the stated need.
 - (4) Describe any other additional steps taken to reduce diversions and consumption.
 - (5) Provide the timeframe in which the petitioner expects to reduce usage to no more than the reasonable livestock watering quantities specified in Article 5, section 697, or why minimum livestock needs will continue to require more water.

Authority: 1058, 1058.5, Water Code

Reference: Cal. Const., Art. X, § 2; Sections 100, 100.5, 104, 105, 275, 1058.5, Water Code; Environmental Defense Fund v. East Bay Muni. Util. Dist. (1980) 26 Cal.3d 183; Light v. State Water Resources Control Board (2014) 226 Cal.App.4th 1463; Stanford Vina Ranch Irrigation Co. v. State of California (2020) 50 Cal.App.5th 976.

§ 875.4 Emergency Curtailments Due to Lack of Water Availability in the Klamath River Watershed

- (a) This section applies to water diversions in the California portions of the Klamath River watershed.
- (b) After the effective date of this regulation, when flows in the Klamath River watershed as a whole or in the individual tributaries to the Klamath River are insufficient to support all water rights, the Deputy Director may issue curtailment orders to water right holders, requiring the curtailment of water diversion and use, under the same procedures as set forth in section 875, subdivisions (d) and (e).
- (c) In determining the extent to which water is available under a diverter's priority of right, as set forth in section 875.5, for the purposes of issuing, suspending, reinstating, or rescinding curtailment orders, the Deputy Director shall consider:
 - (1) Monthly water right demand projections based on reliable relevant information, including but not limited to: reports of water diversion and use for permits and licenses; statements of water diversion and use; judicial determinations concerning water rights; State Water Board decisions and orders; and other information regarding water needs and use contained in the Division of Water Rights files;
 - (2) Water availability projections, based on best available information, including but not limited to, one or more of the following:
 - (A) Forecast estimates of precipitation and streamflow;
 - (B) Historical periods of comparable conditions with respect to daily temperatures, precipitation, or surface flows;
 - (C) Stream gage data, where available; or
 - (D) Information in Division of Water Rights files on the extent to which flows are protected under Water Code section 1707.
 - (3) The Deputy Director may also consider additional pertinent and reliable information when determining water right priorities, water availability, and demand projections, including hydrologic models (as applicable and available), water allocation models, available information on crop needs, well logs and related information, and demand projections provided in response to information orders or other sources.

- (4) Evaluation of available supplies against demands may be performed at a watershed-wide level, or at a smaller sub-watershed scale.

Authority: Sections 1058, 1058.5, Water Code

Reference: Cal. Const., Art. X, § 2; Sections 100, 100.5, 104, 105, 275, 1058.5, Water Code; National Audubon Society v. Superior Court (1983) 33 Cal.3d 419; Stanford Vina Ranch Irrigation Company v. California (2020) 50 Cal.App.5th 976.

§ 875.5 Priority for Curtailments in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds

(a) Scott River

- (1) Regarding curtailment orders in the Scott River watershed:

- (A) Curtailment orders in the Scott River watershed to meet drought emergency minimum fisheries flows in the Scott River shall be issued taking into account water right priority, in groupings from lowest to highest priority, as follows:
- (i) All post-Scott River Adjudication appropriative water rights.
 - (ii) Surplus Class Rights in all schedules of the Scott River Adjudication.
 - (iii) All Post-1914 Appropriative water rights in the Scott River Adjudication, Shackelford Adjudication, and French Creek Adjudication, collectively.
 - (iv) Diversions in Schedule D4 of the Scott River Adjudication.
 - (v) Diversions in Schedule D3 of the Scott River Adjudication.
 - (vi) Diversions in Schedule D2 of the Scott River Adjudication.
 - (vii) Diversions in Schedule D1 of the Scott River Adjudication.
 - (viii) Diversions in French Creek Adjudication, the Shackelford Adjudication, and Schedule B of the Scott River Adjudication, collectively.
 - (ix) Diversions in Schedule C of the Scott River Adjudication, and overlying groundwater diversions not described in the Scott River Adjudication.
- (B) Surface diversions from the Scott River, Big Slough, Etna Creek, or Kidder Creek and described in Scott River Adjudication Schedules D2, D3, D4, B18, B23, and B26 that have moved from surface water to groundwater diversions as permitted under Scott River Adjudication, Paragraph 44, will be curtailed in priority grouping (a)(1)(A)(ix), rather than under (a)(1)(A)(iv), (a)(1)(A)(v), (a)(1)(A)(vi), or (a)(1)(A)(viii).
- (C) Domestic and Livestock Water Uses during the non-irrigation season by diverters in Scott River Adjudication Schedules A, B,

C, and D, under paragraph 36 shall follow the priority groups under (a)(1)(A)(iv) through (a)(1)(A)(viii), as applicable.

- (D) To the extent that curtailment of fewer than all diversions in the groupings listed in (a)(1)(A)(i) and (a)(1)(A)(iii) through (a)(1)(A)(viii) would reliably result in sufficient flow to meet drought emergency minimum fisheries flows, the Deputy Director shall maintain the authority to issue, suspend, reinstate, or rescind curtailment orders for partial groupings based on the priorities in the applicable adjudication or through the appropriate right priority date, as applicable. Any partial curtailment of groups (a)(1)(A)(ii) and (a)(1)(A)(ix) shall be correlative, except that the Deputy Director may issue curtailments to groundwater diverters in (a)(1)(A)(ix) first to diversions closest to surface waterbodies, or use other reliable information to determine which diversions have the highest potential impact on surface flows.
- (E) Diversions under Paragraph 39 of the Scott River Adjudication shall be curtailed with the group defined in (a)(1)(A) that corresponds to the schedule in which the diversion would be placed if the right were defined in the adjudication. If partial curtailment of the group is issued, suspended, reinstated, or rescinded under (a)(1)(D), these rights will be subordinated to the other rights in that schedule.
- (F) Diversions under paragraph 41 of the Scott River Adjudication shall be curtailed with the group defined in (a)(1)(A) that corresponds to the schedule in which the diversion would be placed if the right were defined in the adjudication. If partial curtailment of the group is issued, suspended, reinstated, or rescinded under (a)(1)(D), these rights shall be treated as subordinate to first priority rights in the schedule, and senior to second priority rights in that schedule.
- (G) Diversions under paragraph 42 of the Scott River Adjudication shall be curtailed with the group defined in (a)(1)(A) that corresponds to the schedule in which the diversion would be placed if the right were defined in the adjudication. If partial curtailment of the group is issued, suspended, reinstated, or rescinded under (a)(1)(D), these rights shall be treated as first priority rights compared to downstream rights in that schedule, and subordinate to all upstream rights in that schedule.

- (H) Diversions under paragraph 43 of the Scott River Adjudication shall be curtailed with the group defined in (a)(1)(A) that corresponds to the schedule in which the diversion would be placed if the right were defined in the adjudication. If an order for partial curtailment of the group is issued, suspended, reinstated, or rescinded under (a)(1)(D), these rights shall be treated as first priority rights in that schedule.
 - (I) Diversions under paragraphs 49 and 61 of the Scott River Adjudication shall be curtailed with the group defined in (a)(1)(A)(viii). If an order for partial curtailment of the group is issued, suspended, reinstated, or rescinded under (a)(1)(D), these rights will be treated as first priority rights in the schedule for the appropriate tributary.
- (2) Curtailment orders in the Scott River watershed for lack of water availability at a diverter's priority of right shall be issued:
- (A) First to appropriative rights that were initiated after the relevant adjudication, in the Shackleford Creek watershed, the French Creek watershed, and the Scott River Stream System as defined in paragraph 2 of the Scott River Adjudication,
 - (B) Then in accordance with the priorities set forth in the Scott River, Shackleford Creek, and French Creek Adjudications, as applicable, and
 - (C) Then correlatively to unadjudicated overlying groundwater diversions.

(b) Shasta River

- (1) Curtailment orders in the Shasta River Watershed to meet drought emergency minimum fisheries flows shall be issued taking into account water right priority, in groupings from lowest to highest water right priority, as follows:
- (A) Appropriative diversions initiated after the Shasta Adjudication. Appropriative surface water diversions obtained after the Shasta Adjudication in priority of the issuance date specified in the permit or license by the State Water Board. Groundwater appropriations have a priority date from when the well was constructed and water first used. For the purposes of this article, an appropriative groundwater right is distinguished from an overlying groundwater right when the diverter: 1) does not own land overlying the basin, 2) owns overlying land but uses the water on non-overlying land, or 3) sells or distributes the water to another party.

(B) Post-1914 and pre-1914 water rights under the priorities and quantities set forth in the Shasta Adjudication. Groundwater appropriations initiated prior to the Shasta Adjudication in priority of when the well was constructed and water first used.

(C) Riparian diversions and overlying groundwater diversions. The Deputy Director may limit overlying groundwater curtailment orders to larger diversions or diversions with the highest potential impact on surface flows.

(i) If there is insufficient natural flow to furnish all rights of equal priority, then the available natural flow in excess of the minimum instream flow established in section 875, subdivision (c)(2) shall be distributed proportionally among the rights of the priority in question.

(ii) Water released from storage or bypassed pursuant to a Water Code section 1707 Order is not available to downstream users.

(c) There are numerous small groundwater diversions in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds, that are primarily used for domestic uses, firefighting ponds, and other uses closely related to human health and safety and minimum livestock watering needs. The Deputy Director may determine not to curtail such diversions of less than two acre-feet per annum in light of their de minimis impact on flows and the considerable effort required on the part of diverters and of the State Water Board's staff to issue and respond to curtailment orders, and to file, review, and act on appropriate minimum use petitions.

(d) ~~(e)~~ Definitions: For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Scott River Adjudication" shall refer to the Decree entered on January 30, 1980 in Siskiyou County Superior Court Case No. 30662, In the Matter of Determination of the Rights of the Various Claimants to the Waters of Scott River Stream System, Except Rights to Water of Shackleford Creek, French Creek, and all Streams Tributary to Scott River Downstream from the U.S. Geological Survey Gaging Station, in Siskiyou County, California, and all supplements thereto.

(2) "Shackleford Adjudication" shall refer to the Decree entered on April 3, 1950 in Siskiyou County Superior Court Case No. 13775, In the Matter of the Determination of the Rights of the Various Claimants to the Waters of Shackleford Creek and its Tributaries in Siskiyou County, California, and all supplements thereto.

- (3) “French Creek Adjudication” shall refer to the Judgement entered on July 1, 1959 in Siskiyou County Superior Court Case No. 14478, Mason v. Bemrod, and all supplements thereto.
- (4) “Shasta Adjudication” shall refer to the Judgement and Decree entered on December 29, 1932 in Siskiyou County Superior Court Case No. 7035, In the Matter of the Determination of the Relative Rights, Based Upon Prior Appropriation, of the Various Claimants to the Waters of Shasta River and its Tributaries in Siskiyou County, California, and all supplements thereto.

Authority: Sections 101, 103,174, 186, Water Code

Reference: Sections 1058, 1058.5, Water Code; Cal. Const., Art. X, § 5; Hudson v. Dailey (1909) 156 Cal. 617; Shasta River Adjudication; Shackelford Adjudication; French Creek Adjudication; Scott River Adjudication; Stanford Vina Ranch Irrigation. Co v. State of California (2020) 50 Cal.App.5th 976.

§ 875.6 Curtailment Order Reporting

- (a) All water users or water right holders issued a curtailment order under this article are required, within the timeframe specified by the Deputy Director, but not less than seven (7) days, to submit under penalty of perjury a certification of one or more of the actions enumerated below, taken in response to the curtailment order. The Deputy Director may grant additional time for the submission of information regarding diversion and use of water upon a showing of good cause. The water user or water right holder shall certify, as applicable, that:
 - (1) Diversion under the identified water right(s) has ceased;
 - (2) Any continued use is under other water rights not subject to curtailment, specifically identifying those other rights, including the basis of right and quantity of diversion;
 - (3) Diversions under the identified water right(s) continue only to the extent that they are non-consumptive, for which a certification for continued diversion has been submitted as specified in section 875.1;
 - (4) Diversions under the identified water right(s) continue only to the extent that they are necessary to provide for minimum human health and safety needs as identified in section 875.2, a certification has been filed as authorized under Article 24, section 878.1, subdivision (b)(1), and the subject water right authorizes the diversion in the absence of a curtailment order;
 - (5) Diversions under the identified water right(s) continue only to the extent that they are necessary to provide for minimum livestock watering needs

and a certification has been filed as identified in section 875.3, and the subject water right authorizes the diversion in the absence of a curtailment order.

(6) Diversions under the water right(s) continue only to the extent that they are consistent with a petition filed under Article 24, section 878.1, subdivision (b)(2) or under section 875.3, subdivision (d) and diversion and use will comply with the conditions for approval of the petition; or

(7) The only continued water use is for instream purposes.

(b) All persons who are issued a curtailment order and continue to divert during a period of suspension or conditional suspension of such order, or to continue to divert out of order of the priority established in section 875.5, as authorized under sections 875.1, 875.2, or 875.3, or Article 24, section 878.2, are may be required to submit, under penalty of perjury, information identified on a schedule established by the Deputy Director as a condition of continued suspension or conditional suspension, or of certification or petition approval. The required information may include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) The water right identification number(s), well information, or, if not applicable, other manner of identifying the water right under which diversions continue. For wells, this includes the location (GPS coordinates) and depth to groundwater.

(2) The public water system identification number for any public water system served by the diversion.

(3) ~~(2)~~ How the diverter complies with any conditions of continued diversion, including the conditions of certification under section 875.3 or Article 24, section 878.1, subdivision (b)(1).

(4) ~~(3)~~ Any failures to comply with conditions, including the conditions of certification under section 875.3 or Article 24, section 878.1, subdivision (b)(1), and steps taken to prevent further violations.

(5) ~~(4)~~ Conservation and efficiency efforts planned, in the process of implementation, and implemented, as well as any information on the effectiveness of implementation.

(6) ~~(5)~~ Efforts to obtain alternate water sources.

(7) ~~(6)~~ If the diversion is authorized under an approved petition filed pursuant to section 875.3, subdivision (d) or Article 24, section 878.1, subdivision (b)(2), progress toward implementing the measures imposed as conditions of petition approval.

(8) ~~(7)~~ If the diversion is authorized under section 875.3, or cannot be quantified on the basis of amount per person per day under Article 24, section 878.1, subdivision (b)(2):

- (A) The rate of diversion if it is still ongoing;
- (B) Whether the water has been used for any other purpose; and
- (C) The date diversion ceased, if applicable.

(9) ~~(8)~~ The total water diverted ~~ed~~ diversion for the reporting period and the total population served for minimum human health and safety needs. The total population must include actual or best available estimates of external populations not otherwise reported as being served by a diversion, such as individuals receiving bulk or hauled water deliveries for ~~in~~ minimum domestic water use.

(10) ~~(9)~~ The total water diverted ~~ed~~ diversion for the reporting period and the total population of livestock watered to meet minimum livestock watering needs identified in section 875.3.

(11) ~~(10)~~ Diversion amounts for each day in acre-feet per day, maximum diversion rate in cubic feet per second, pumping rate in gallons per minute, and anticipated future daily diversion amounts and diversion rates.

(c) The Deputy Director, or delegee, may issue an order under this article requiring any person to provide additional information reasonably necessary to assess their compliance with this article. Any person receiving an order under this subdivision shall provide the requested information within the time specified by the Deputy Director, but not less than five (5) days.

Authority: Sections 1058, 1058.5, Water Code

Reference: Sections 100, 187, 275, 348, 1051, 1058.5, 1841, Water Code

§ 875.7 Inefficient Livestock Watering

(a) ~~During the fall migration season for fall-run Chinook and coho salmon, from~~ September through ~~January~~ March 31, inefficient surface water diversions in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds for livestock watering, which result in excessive water diversion for a small amount of water delivered for beneficial use, are not reasonable in light of the alternatives available and competing uses needs of the fishery.

(b) For the purposes of this regulation, inefficient surface water diversions for livestock watering are those that divert, as measured at the point of diversion, more than ten times the amount of water needed to support the number of livestock and reasonable water quantities set forth in Article 5,

section 697 (or, for livestock not addressed in Article 5, section 697, the closest analogous livestock to those listed in Article 5, section 697).

- (c) ~~(b)~~ When there are no active curtailment orders in the relevant watershed, the Deputy Director shall suspend operation of **subdivision (a)** upon a finding that suspending the provision will not result in a decrease in flows that would: **(1) require curtailment; (2) unreasonably inhibit adult or juvenile salmonid migration, incubation, or rearing; or (3) unreasonably impact competing uses.** Such a finding will include consideration of information that could affect the need for curtailments to meet minimum flow needs for fisheries purposes, including weather forecasting, the need for flows to ramp up or down, the contributions of voluntary flow measures, and future flow needs. **Such suspension shall be conditioned on the flow requirements in section 875 subdivision (c)(1) and (c)(2), as applicable, being met without imposition of curtailments.**
- (d) **The Deputy Director may suspend operation of this provision as to the participants of an approved tributary-wide local cooperative solution based on the findings required for approval in Section 875, subdivision (f)(4)(B)(iii).**
- (e) **The Deputy Director may suspend operation of this provision as to a particular diverter for a limited period of time upon a demonstration that the diverter's existing alternative watering system has failed.**
- (f) **After the end of the fall-run Chinook or coho salmon adult migration period, the Deputy Director may suspend application of subdivision (a) as to a particular tributary or a particular mainstem reach, for any period up to the end of March 31, upon:**
- i. **A determination that lifting the prohibition will not cause or substantially contribute to tributary or mainstem disconnection;**
 - ii. **Notification from California Department of Fish and Wildlife or National Marine Fisheries Service that the flow reduction is not likely to result in redd dewatering or unreasonably interfere with juvenile migration or rearing. Such notification may be based on a report submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife or National Marine Fisheries Service by a qualified biologist; and**
 - iii. **A determination that the flow requirements in section 875, subdivisions (c)(1) and (c)(2), as applicable, will be met without imposition of curtailments.**

Authority: Sections 1058, 1058.5, Water Code

Reference: Cal. Const., Art. X, § 2; Sections 100, 100.5, 104, 105, 275, 1058.5, Water Code; Environmental Defense Fund v. East Bay Muni. Util. Dist. (1980) 26 Cal.3d 183; Light v. State Water Resources Control Board (2014) 226 Cal.App.4th 1463; Stanford Vina Ranch Irrigation Co. v. State of California (2020) 50 Cal.App.5th 976.

§ 875.8 Information Orders

- (a) The Deputy Director may issue information orders to some or all landowners, diverters, or other water right holders in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds, requiring them to provide additional information related to water use as relevant to implementing this article. The Deputy Director will prioritize information orders for larger diverters and landowners or water right holders with the highest potential to impact surface flows. The Deputy Director, in determining whether and the extent to which to impose information orders under this subdivision, will consider the need for the information and the burden of producing it, and will take reasonable efforts to avoid requiring duplicative reporting of information that is already in the State Water Board's possession. Information orders shall follow the same procedures set forth in section 875, subdivision (d).

Information required in an order may include, but is not limited to:

(1) For wells:

- (A) Location of the well;
- (B) Age of well, including date of installation and first use;
- (C) Maximum pump rate and volume pumped per month;
- (D) Place of use and purpose of use (beneficial uses of water);
- (E) Projected estimate of pumping volumes at a frequency of no more than weekly; and
- (F) Estimates of past use.

(2) For surface water diversions:

- (A) Place of use and purpose of use (beneficial uses of water);
- (B) Type of water right;
- (C) Source of water;
- (D) Volume of storage;
- (E) Diversion rate; and
- (F) Projected estimate of diversion at a frequency of no more than weekly.

The orders may additionally request other information relevant to forecasting use, impacts to the surface streams in the current drought year, assessing compliance with this article, or in contingency planning for continuation of the existing drought emergency.

- (b) Any party receiving an order under this subdivision shall provide the requested information within the time specified by the Deputy Director, but not less than five (5) days. The Deputy Director may grant additional time for the submission of information regarding diversion and use of water upon a showing of good cause. Each landowner is responsible for immediately providing notice of any information order(s) to all water users associated with the parcel of land related to the information order.
- (c) New Diversions. For purposes of this subdivision, a new diversion means a diversion initiated after issuance of a general information order to landowners in the watershed in which the new diversion is located. The owner of any new diversion must submit to the Deputy Director any information required by a general information order issued under section 875.8 prior to commencement of the new diversion, unless the Deputy Director approves commencement of the diversion based on substantial compliance with the general information order or one of the exemptions outlined in sections 875.2 or 875.3.

Authority: Sections 1058, 1058.5, Water Code

Reference: Article X, Section 2, California Constitution; Sections 100, 102, 104, 105, 109, 174, 275, 1051, 1052, 1058.5, Water Code; Light v. State Water Resources Control Board (2014) 226 Cal.App.4th 1463.

§ 875.9 Penalties

- (a) A diverter must comply with a curtailment order issued under this article, any conditions of certification or approval of a petition under this article, and any water right condition under this article, notwithstanding receipt of more than one curtailment order. To the extent of any conflict between applicable requirements, the diverter must comply with the requirements that are the most stringent.
- (b) Failure to meet the requirements of this article or of any order issued thereunder constitutes:
 - (1) a violation subject to civil liability pursuant to Water Code section 1846, and
 - (2) an infraction pursuant to Water Code section 1058.5, subdivision (d). Each of these can carry a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for each day in which the violation occurs.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the enforceability of or penalties available under any other provision of law.

Authority: Sections 1058, 1058.5, Water Code

Reference: Cal. Const., Art. X, § 2; Sections 275, 1052, 1055, 1058.5, 1825, 1831, Water Code; National Audubon Society v. Superior Court (1983) 33 Cal.3d 419.