
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF LISTENING SESSIONS ON REGULATION OF FLOWS IN SCOTT RIVER AND SHASTA RIVER WATERSHEDS AND OVERVIEWS OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff will host two in-person listening sessions on regulation of flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds that can be used to inform ongoing and future efforts the State Water Board may take regarding regulation of flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. Prior to the commencement of the listening sessions, staff from several governmental and nongovernmental entities have been invited to provide brief overviews of funding opportunities available to the community related to supporting instream flows. Representatives from these entities will also be available during the listening sessions to answer funding questions about individual projects that attendees may be interested in pursuing.

LISTENING SESSION DETAILS

The purpose of these in-person only listening sessions, which will be broken into **two identical sessions**, is to give the public the opportunity to provide feedback and for comments from tribes, local diverters, residents, and others on their experiences and thoughts regarding prior efforts in the watershed, including the emergency regulation, with a focus on what has worked well, what has worked poorly, and recommendations for changes in approach moving forward over the long term. The presentations by funding entities will be at the beginning of each listening session. While a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, no State Water Board action will be taken.

The listening sessions will take place:

Monday, October 30, 2023
Montague Community Center - Auditorium
216 S. 11th Street
Montague, CA 96064

In-person participation only.

Listening Session No. 1: starts at 2:00 pm
Listening Session No. 2: starts at 5:30 pm

BACKGROUND

The Scott River and Shasta River are important tributaries to the Klamath River, the second largest river in California. These rivers are crucial sources of water for Siskiyou County and have immense economic, ecological, and cultural importance. The Scott River and Shasta River watersheds provide water for agriculture, domestic users, the environment, fire protection, municipalities, Tribal Nations, and recreation.

In 2021 and 2022, the State Water Board adopted an emergency regulation establishing minimum flows for the protection of the state- and federally-listed threatened coho salmon, fall-run Chinook salmon, and steelhead. The emergency regulation included other provisions, including exceptions for diversions for minimum human health and safety and livestock needs, and information order authority. The emergency [regulation](#) expired on August 1, 2023.

On August 15, 2023, the Board held a [hearing](#) in response to a [petition](#) received from the Karuk Tribe of California, Environmental Law Foundation, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, and Institute for Fisheries Resources seeking a permanent regulation establishing minimum flows for the Scott River. At the conclusion of the hearing, which the Board expanded to include the Shasta River watershed, the State Water Board directed staff to initiate a process to again adopt an emergency regulation establishing minimum flows and similar provisions for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds; and begin developing the information needed for long-term flow protection.

HOW TO RECEIVE UPDATES

If you would like to receive email updates about the Shasta River and Scott River watersheds moving forward, please [sign up](#)¹ for the State Water Board’s “Scott-Shasta Drought” email subscription list under “Water Rights”.

QUESTIONS

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

October 19, 2023
Date



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board

¹ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/