



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Northern Region
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



April 11, 2022

Eileen Sobeck
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
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SUBJECT: Re-Adoption of Emergency Minimum Flow Regulations for Mill and Deer Creeks, Tehama County, Due to Continued Drought Conditions

Dear Director Sobeck:

On September 22, 2021, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted emergency regulations for Curtailment of Diversions on Mill and Deer Creeks) due to insufficient flow for specific fisheries (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 876.5–879). The emergency regulations were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and went into effect upon filing with the Secretary of State on October 4, 2021. The emergency regulations will remain in effect for up to one year from the effective date but could be repealed if water supply conditions improve. The State Water Board may readopt the emergency regulations if drought conditions continue.


The purpose of this letter is to request readoption of the emergency regulations for an additional twelve (12) months. Northern California experienced its driest January-February period on record in 2022, and below-normal precipitation is expected for the remainder of the 2022 rainy season. Readoption of the emergency regulations is needed to protect fish species including Spring Run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; state and federally threatened), Central Valley Steelhead (*O. mykiss*; federally threatened), Fall and Late-Fall-Run Chinook Salmon, and native endemic fish in Deer and Mill Creeks.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) continues to support meeting drought emergency minimum flow requirements through voluntary actions. However, attempts to develop voluntary actions with water diversion operators have not been successful on Deer and Mill Creeks. Therefore, the Department supports readoption of the emergency regulations for the protection of aquatic resources on Deer and Mill Creeks.

Eileen Sobeck, Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
April 11, 2022
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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Environmental Program Manager Jason Roberts at jason.roberts@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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