
State Water Resources Control Board

July 9, 2024

Mr. Richard Anstead
Anstead Land and Livestock



CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF GROUNDWATER LOCAL COOPERATIVE SOLUTION FOR ANSTEAD LAND AND LIVESTOCK

Dear Mr. Anstead:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted an emergency regulation that went into effect on February 1, 2024, that establishes emergency minimum flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 875-875.9) (Regulation). Under the Regulation, local cooperative solutions by individuals or groups may be proposed by petition to the Deputy Director of the Division of Water Rights (Deputy Director) as an alternative means of reducing water use to meet or preserve the emergency minimum flows, or to provide other fishery benefits, in lieu of curtailment. Section 875, subdivision (f)(4)(D) describes three types of local cooperative solutions that are specifically available for overlying or adjudicated groundwater diversions for irrigated agriculture: Best Management Practices, Graduated Cessation Schedule, and Percent Reduction. The Deputy Director may approve a proposal submitted by an individual or group, provided that it meets the specific requirements of the applicable groundwater local cooperative solution type and satisfies the metering and inspection requirements.

Summary of Proposal

The State Water Board received a proposal from Richard Anstead (petitioner) for a percent reduction groundwater local cooperative solution that proposes to reduce water use by 39 percent compared to water use in the 2023 irrigation season. The proposal covers 144.5 acres of land irrigated by two groundwater wells. The petitioner proposes to achieve the water use reduction with the following water conservation actions:

- Replacement of the nozzles on four wheel lines with a smaller size nozzle to decrease the amount of water applied during each irrigation set at one well; and
- Reduced set times for the pivot and large irrigation sprinklers for shorter durations than used in the 2023 baseline year at the other well.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Per the Regulation, if evidence from the 2020, 2021, 2022, or 2023 irrigation seasons indicates that the base rate of applied water is higher than 33 inches per year for alfalfa, 14 inches per year for grain, or 30 inches per year for pasture, then the base rate of applied water shall be adjusted to these specified values, or the petitioner may request a higher base rate for approval by the State Water Board. The petitioner must provide supporting information as part of any such request, such as multi-year practices, soil type, and irrigation methods. The petitioner has requested to use a higher base rate of applied water for pasture and proposes to use 36 inches per year as the baseline amount for 40 acres of pasture. The petitioner provided justification and soil maps indicating that the soil on this acreage is classified as Atter very sandy loam by the Natural Resources Conservation District and requires more water to maintain soil moisture. The petitioner applied the Regulation baselines for other acreage covered by the proposal.

The proposal was posted to the State Water Board's webpage for local cooperative solutions associated with the Regulation on May 7, 2024. A further description of the site and water reduction measures is provided in the application submitted for this proposal. The application identifies Scott River Water Trust as the Coordinating Entity and includes a Binding Agreement that grants property access to verify compliance with the proposal, with 24-hour notice.

Groundwater Metering

A groundwater local cooperative solution must include a description of metering in place for groundwater well extractions and a proposal to meter, record, and report such extractions to the Deputy Director or the Coordinating Entity, as applicable. If a meter has not been installed prior to the start of the irrigation season, the petitioner may submit a time schedule as part of the proposal that describes and substantiates the efforts, actions, and timelines for meter installation. The Deputy Director may waive the metering requirement for groundwater wells irrigating less than 30 acres or upon a determination that metering in a particular instance is not feasible.

The petitioner has provided a timeline and committed to install meters on the two groundwater wells in the Fall or Winter of 2024, and has agreed to collect and report the meter data to the State Water Board from the time of installation until the end of the 2025 irrigation season.

The proposal includes an alternative plan to monitor water usage prior to the installation of meters on the groundwater wells. The petitioner agrees to record the date and run times for each irrigation system. For the wheel lines, sprinklers, and guns, the flow rate for each irrigation set will be calculated based on nozzle size and pump pressure. Additionally, for the pivot, a table provided by the manufacturer will be used to determine the flow rate based on the amount of water applied per acre. The water usage data will be submitted to the Coordinating Entity each month throughout the irrigation season to help ensure implementation of the groundwater local cooperative solution.

Approval

The Division of Water Rights has reviewed the groundwater local cooperative solution proposal and finds that it meets the requirements of Regulation section 875, subdivision (f)(4)(D), and is approved with the following condition:

- The petitioner shall collect and maintain a log of the water usage data from the two groundwater meters from the time of installation (anticipated in fall and winter of 2024) through the end of one full irrigation season (anticipated 2025 irrigation season). The metering data shall be submitted to the State Water Board by the 10th of each month for the preceding month.

The groundwater local cooperative solution proposal is hereby approved, as conditioned. Any failure to implement the proposal or violation of the conditions of this approval are subject to enforcement as a violation of the Regulation. Additionally, violations of other provisions of the Regulation (e.g., surface water curtailment) may result in termination of this approval.

If you have questions regarding this approval, please contact Division of Water Rights staff via email to: ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov or by leaving a message on our dedicated phone line at: (916) 327-3113.

Sincerely,



Erik Ekdahl
Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights

ec: Scott River Water Trust
scottwatertrust@gmail.com