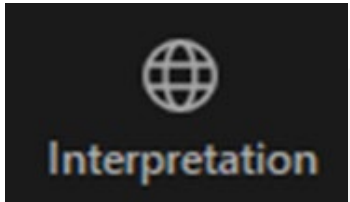


Public Meeting on Potential Readoption of Emergency Regulation for Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds & Alternatives Thereto

November 12, 2024



State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights



Hmong Translation Services

Zoom Instruction for participants

Zoom is **automatically** set to English as the default language.

- If you would like to hear a Hmong (white) translation of today's meeting, please use the Globe icon and select Hmong.

Outline

- Purpose of Today's Meeting
- Overview of Recent Board Direction
- Emergency Regulation Overview + Background
 - LCS summary
- Proposed Changes to Regulation, if readopted
- Solicitation of Alternatives to Readoption
- Next Steps
- Public Comments

Purpose of Meeting

- Get feedback on:
 - Should the Board readopt the emergency regulation
 - If readopted, what changes should be made to regulation
 - Potential alternatives to readoption

Recent Board Direction

- [Resolution No. 2024-0036](#), October 16th – Regarding Flow Efforts in Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds
- **Immediately, solicit input on:**
 - **Readoption of emergency regulation - and if so with what changes**
 - **Alternatives to readoption that are supported by diverse groups, enforceable, implementable at local level, and last longer than one year**
- Long-term, with report back to Board on efforts by November 2025:
 - Develop peer review report setting forth scientific basis for baseline minimum flows (public meeting on draft before submitted for peer review)
 - Initiate economic analysis for long-term flow
 - Continue modeling and data collection efforts

Current Emergency Regulation

- Similar to Emergency Regulation adopted in 2021 and readopted in 2022
- Effective February 1, 2024, and expires January 31, 2025

Emergency Regulation Overview

- Section 875: Flow Requirements + Curtailment Orders + **Local Cooperative Solutions**
- Section 875.1 – 875.3: Exceptions for Non-consumptive Uses, Minimum Human Health and Safety Needs, and Minimum Livestock Watering
- Section 875.4: None
- Section 875.5: Curtailment Priority
- Section 875.6: Curtailment Reporting Requirements
- Section 875.7: Inefficient Livestock Watering Provisions
- Section 875.8: Information Order Authority
- Section 875.9: Penalties

Groundwater Local Cooperative Solutions

- Two additional options for overlying/adjudicated groundwater users: Best Management Practices + Graduated Cessation Schedules
- 48 overlying groundwater proposals (43 applicants) in 2024
- Acres covered by groundwater local cooperative solutions:
 - Total: 15,244 acres (86% of groundwater irrigated acres in Scott Valley)
 - Best Management Practices: 1,814 acres
 - Graduated Cessation Schedule: 6,359 acres
 - Percent Reduction: 7,030 acres

Groundwater Metering under Groundwater Local Cooperative Solutions

- Under Groundwater Local Cooperative Solutions:
 - 58 meters for 2024 irrigation season (covering 5,543 acres)
 - 62 new meters after 2024 irrigation season (covering 5,671 additional acres)
 - Working with Coordinating Entities to obtain compliance and data records
- 2024 Example of Metering Benefit Related to Estimating Water Usage
 - Fields with alfalfa and small grain rotation, and seasonal pasture
 - April – September Totals
 - Estimated Baseline Water Use: 159 in/ac
 - Groundwater LCS Target Use: 109 in/ac (under 30 percent reduction)
 - Actual Metered Water Use: 44 in/ac (~70% reduction from estimated baseline)

Proposed Changes to Regulation

- LCS Metering Requirement
 - Wells and/or point of application (e.g. pivots)
- Clarifications related to LCS implementation
 - Photos and location coordinates for compliance purposes
 - Notice of inspections can be by phone or e-mail

Alternatives to Readoption

- Board is soliciting alternatives to emergency regulation readoption; Such alternatives should be:
 - Supported by diverse interests in the watershed (e.g., letters of support)
 - Enforceable (e.g., a method to ensure adherence to the alternative, and consequences for failure to do so)
 - Implementable at the local-level with local oversight and accountability to ensure implementation & success (as an alternative to state board oversight and implementation)
 - Longer than the one-year term of an emergency regulation

Next Steps

- Comments on Readoption and/or Alternatives Due: **12:00 noon on November 20, 2024**
- Board Item Related to Readoption/Alternatives: December or January (desire for readoption and/or alternatives to be in place before existing emergency regulation expires on February 1, 2025)
- Long-term efforts ongoing: Report out to Board no later than November 2025

Written Comments

- Comments on potential readoption of emergency regulation and/or alternatives thereto due **by 12:00 noon on November 20, 2024**
- **Email (preferred):** ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov
- **Hard copy mail (must be received by comment deadline):**
 - State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights
 - P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812 (mail)
 - 1001 I Street, 14th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand-delivery)

Public Comments

1. Verbal comments (in English):

- Raise your hand (using the raise hand feature in Zoom to be placed in speaker queue).
- When it is your turn, facilitator will invite you to unmute.
- Please introduce yourself with your name and affiliation.

Telephone callers:

- Press *9 to raise hand
- Press *6 to unmute when prompted

2. Verbal Comments in Hmong – please inform the translator of your desire to comment

3. Email comments to:

ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov

Questions? Contact us by email
or by leaving a message at 916-327-3113