
State Water Resources Control Board

Soliciting Technical Comments on Draft Groundwater-Surface Water Model of Shasta River Watershed and Related Draft Model Report

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) staff are releasing, for review and solicitation of technical comments, the Draft Groundwater-Surface Water Model of the Shasta River Watershed (Shasta GW-SW Model), *Draft Model Documentation Report for the Groundwater-Surface Water Model of the Shasta River Watershed* (Shasta GW-SW Model Report), and a schematic of major water resources and diversions in the Shasta River watershed. Each of these items is available on the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds Emergency Regulation [website](#)¹ as further described below.

[Draft Model](#)². The Draft Shasta GW-SW Model is packaged in a zipped electronic folder that includes the model files and simulation results for the “existing conditions” flow scenario and the “unimpaired” flow scenario. It also includes draft technical user manuals (Read Me files).

[Draft Model Report & Schematic](#)³. The Draft Shasta GW-SW Model Report is packaged in a separate zipped electronic folder and contains the report and accessory files, such as appendices. The Draft Model Report package includes the Shasta River Watershed schematic, which shows the major water resources (e.g., rivers, springs, etc.) and diversions. The watershed-wide schematic does not include detailed diversion information for the Little Shasta, Parks Creek, and Big Springs areas.

SOLICITING TECHNICAL COMMENTS

The State Water Board is soliciting technical comments on the Draft Shasta GW-SW Model, Draft Shasta GW-SW Model Report, and Schematic. **Comments are due by Friday, June 12, 2026.** Parties that are interested in meeting outside of the technical workshops described below to discuss questions and comments are encouraged to contact staff via the contact information in the Questions section below.

Email technical comments to:
(with subject line of: Shasta River Model Comments)
ScottShastaFlows@waterboards.ca.gov

¹ URL: https://waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/

² URL: https://waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/data/draft-shasta-model.zip

³ URL: https://waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/data/draft-shasta-model-report.zip

TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

The State Water Board will hold two virtual workshops on the Draft Shasta GW-SW Model to provide information and answer questions. The workshops are not designed to be comment forums; comments should be provided in writing per the instructions in the Soliciting Technical Comments section above. Details on the informational workshops are as follows:

- *First Workshop (General Model Overview for General Public)*: This workshop will be held virtually on **Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 2:00 PM** and will provide a general overview of the Shasta GW-SW Model, Shasta GW-SW Model Report, and Schematic. This workshop is intended for all interested persons. See the information below on how to register for this workshop, which will be held via Zoom.
- *Second Workshop (General Technical Training on Model for Modelers)*: This workshop will be held on **Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 2:00 PM** and will provide technical training for modeling experts on how to use the Draft Shasta GW-SW Model. **If you or your organization would like to have a modeler participate in this technical workshop, please contact State Water Board staff by May 29, 2026, using the contact information in the Questions section below.**

INFORMATION FOR GENERAL MODEL OVERVIEW ZOOM WORKSHOP

Staff will hold a virtual meeting to provide information and answer questions related to the Draft Shasta GW-SW Model, Draft Shasta GW-SW Model Report, and Schematic as follows:

General Model Overview Workshop Zoom Information
Thursday, May 28, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Register for the Zoom meeting using the link below:

<https://waterboards.zoom.us/meeting/register/kJ9M3Sc9QnuNhMakpKhSBA>

****Registration is Required****

This is a staff-level workshop and not a Board meeting. It is possible that one or more State Water Board members may attend the virtual meeting; however, no Board deliberation or action will take place. A quorum of the State Water Board will not be present.

As noted above, the Technical Training workshop on June 3rd is for modelers. Please reach out to State Water Board staff for information on how to participate in that workshop using the contact information referenced in the Questions section below.

Additional Information on Workshop Accessibility

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Requests for interpretation in another language or sign language services should be made promptly by email to: ScottShastaFlows@waterboards.ca.gov, or by phone call to: (916) 327-3113. We will do our best to fulfill requests on short notice.

The State Water Board is committed to accessibility consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.) and to swift resolution of requests for reasonable modifications or accommodations. Persons requiring reasonable modification or accommodation for disabilities should promptly e-mail ScottShastaFlows@waterboards.ca.gov, or call (916) 327-3113 to initiate a request for reasonable modification or accommodation

BACKGROUND

California is experiencing increasingly extreme hydrologic conditions, including severe droughts, declining snowpack, and reduced water availability that are consistent with climate change projections. Hydrologic conditions in the Shasta River watershed reflect these broader trends. Hydrologic data for the Shasta River watershed demonstrate that, prior to the implementation of emergency regulations, summer flows in the Shasta River consistently met or exceeded the minimum flow requirements of the emergency regulation in only two of the prior 20 years.

Recognizing the ongoing declining flow trends and continued impacts on fisheries in these watersheds, baseline minimum instream flows are needed to ensure protection of these fisheries in all water years. On October 16, 2024, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2024-0036](#), directing staff to: (1) develop a scientific basis report for baseline minimum flow requirements for peer review and hold a public meeting on the draft report before it is submitted for peer review; (2) initiate an economic analysis of implementing long-term baseline flows, including impact considerations on fishing and agriculture and associated indirect impacts; and (3) continue modeling and data collection efforts. This notice and related modeling efforts support Item 3 of the Board's direction.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information regarding Shasta River and Scott River flow-related efforts, please visit the State Water Board's Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds Emergency Regulations [website](#)⁴.

HOW TO RECEIVE UPDATES

If you would like to receive email updates related to this modeling and related efforts, please [sign up](#)⁵ under "State Water Resources Control Board" and "Water Rights" for the "Scott-Shasta Drought & Flow Efforts" email subscription list.

QUESTIONS

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

⁴ URL: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/

⁵ URL: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/