

State Water Resources Control Board

August 19, 2026

Matthew Chester
[REDACTED]

DELIVERY MAIL NO: [REDACTED]

Mr. Chester:

NOTICE OF VIOLATION - FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CURTAILMENT ORDERS

On December 19, 2023, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted an emergency regulation establishing emergency minimum flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds (Scott River and Shasta River Emergency Regulation). (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 875-875.9.). The regulation went into effect on February 1, 2024.

On July 23, 2024, the Deputy Director for the State Water Board Division of Water Rights (Division) issued the Order Imposing Water Right Curtailment and Requiring Reporting for Surface Water Rights in the Scott River Watershed, Order WR 2024-0024-DWR (Surface Water Order).

On January 7, 2025, the State Water Board readopted the Scott River and Shasta River Emergency Regulation. The Office of Administrative Law approved the emergency regulation on January 27, 2025. Effective January 1, 2026, Assembly Bill (AB) 263 extended the adopted Scott River and Shasta River Emergency Regulation until January 1, 2031, or until permanent rules establishing and implementing long-term instream flow requirements are adopted for those watersheds, whichever occurs first. (Wat. Code, § 1058.5, subd. (c)(2).

On June 10, 2026, the Deputy Director issued Order Imposing Water Right Curtailment and Requiring Reporting for Groundwater Pumping Under Schedule C of the Scott River Adjudication and Overlying Groundwater Diversions (Group 9) In the Scott River Watershed Associated With Parcels Listed in Attachment A (Order WR 2026-0008-DWR) (Groundwater Order). Division record shows that you received the Groundwater Order on June 18, 2026.

Pursuant to section 875, subdivision (c) of the Scott River and Shasta River Emergency Regulation, the minimum instream flow for the Scott River for the month of May is 150 cubic feet per second (cfs) and from June 1 to June 23 is 125 cfs. On

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

May 21, 2026, due to flows dropping below 150 cfs, the State Water Board issued Addendum 9 to the Curtailment Order, requiring all surface water users to cease diversions. On May 25, 2026, curtailments were lifted for surface water users with the most senior rights (Addendum 10). On Wednesday, May 27, 2026, in responses to precipitation in the region and increasing flows in the Scott River, the State Water Board issued Addendum 11 to the Curtailment Order (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/docs/scott-addendum11-attachmenta.pdf). Addendum 11 suspended curtailment subject to conditions specific to the diverter's water right priority group. On Wednesday, June 3, 2026, flows fell below the minimum instream flow requirement and therefore, the State Water Board sent a reminder via GovDelivery that all surface water was curtailed consistent with Addendum 11. On June 9, 2026, the State Water Board issued Addendum 12 to the Curtailment Order requiring immediate cessation of all surface water diversions (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/docs/2026/scott-addendum12-attachmenta.pdf).

On July 15, 2026, Division staff took photographs from public roads of irrigation at your place of use (APN [REDACTED]) in Siskiyou County (see Appendix A). Division staff could find no evidence of a pending or approved Local Cooperative Solution (LCS) proposal, or of any other applicable curtailment exemption. Therefore, the use of water for irrigation is not authorized. If you believe that this notice does not apply to you, please contact the Division to clarify the source of water used for irrigation on APN [REDACTED]. Failure to cease diversion is a violation of State Water Board regulations and may subject you to formal enforcement and potential monetary penalties (Water Code section 1846).

The Division may issue an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint (ACL Complaint), Cease and Desist Order, or both at its discretion with a potential fine of up to \$10,000 for each day the violation occurs and for each water right, plus an additional \$3,000 per acre-foot diverted. (Wat. Code, § 1846.). If you have questions or concerns, please leave a message with Erinne Yoo at (760)-776-8939 or email at Erinne.Yoo@Waterboards.ca.gov.

If you are no longer the legal owner of the water right(s) listed, immediately provide proof to the Division at the contact information provided above.

Because this diversion is curtailed, you must immediately cease diversions unless the diversion falls under an exception as written in the emergency regulations.

Sincerely,



Sahil Pathak
Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor

Division of Water Rights, Enforcement Section

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