

Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams

Monitoring Requirements

Policy Summary

- Adopted in May 2010
- Contains:
 - Principles and guidelines for assessing impacts of water diversions on fishery resources for purposes of water right administration
 - Monitoring and Reporting Provisions for Diverters
- Applicable Water Right Actions:
 - New water right permits, petitions, new small domestic use and livestock stockpond registrations

Types of Water Diversion Data That Should Be Monitored

- Season over which diversion occurs
- Rate at which water is diverted
- Amount of water diverted
- Bypass flow at diversion point

Continuous Monitoring of Diversion Data

Policy Section 10.1:

- Requires continuous monitoring to demonstrate compliance with season of diversion, rate of diversion and bypass flow (where applicable).
- Continuous monitoring = data recording at time intervals of one hour or less.
- Requires reporting of data with Progress Report by Permittee or Report of Licensee, or whenever requested by the State Water Board.

Direct Diversions and Diversions to Offstream Storage

Policy Section 10.1.1:

- Requires monitoring and reporting of timing and quantity of water actually diverted from the stream.
- Suggests: electronic inline flow meter capable of recording the amount diverted and instantaneous rate of diversion.

Diversions to Onstream Reservoirs

Policy Section 10.1.1:

- Requires monitoring of reservoir levels, releases from the reservoir to the stream channel, and withdrawals from the reservoir.
- Suggests: pressure transducers for monitoring reservoir levels, and inline flow meters for releases and withdrawals from the reservoir as applicable.

Bypass Flow Systems

Policy Section 5.0

- Requires all diversions shall operate using passive bypass systems
 - Exception: upon State Water Board approval, if physical site conditions prevent the construction of a passive bypass system, an alternative bypass system may be designed, installed, and operated.

Appendix E

- Provides details on the bypass system design requirements.
 - Shall be designed so that bypass requirements are met through facility design rather than through frequent human interaction.

Bypass Flow Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

- Bypass Flow monitoring at the POD is not necessary for passive bypass systems.
- Alternate bypass systems require demonstration of compliance by continuous recording using automated flow measuring device(s) on an hourly (or more frequent basis) so that it is retrievable and viewable using commonly available computer software.
- Section 5.2 outlines specific requirements for formatting and presentation of reporting data. Hourly data shall be submitted with Permittee Progress Reports, Reports of Licensee, or whenever requested by the State Water Board.

Additional Information

- Policy text and related information available on Division of Water Rights website:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/