



# State Water Resources Control Board



## Division of Water Rights

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Karen Niiya *KYN*  
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

**FROM:** Aaron Miller *ASM*  
Water Resource Control Engineer

### DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

**DATE:** December 20, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams (policy) – Water Availability Analysis Assumptions for Estimating Partial Face Value of Senior Diverters

Appendix 1 of the policy contains guidelines on preparing a water availability analysis. The water availability analysis methodology is comprised of (1) a water supply analysis used to calculate unappropriated water and (2) an instream flow analysis used to determine if unappropriated water is available for appropriation after accounting for water needed to remain instream. The water demand volume of senior water right holders within the watershed is needed for both the water supply analysis and the daily flow study portion of the instream flow analysis. This water demand volume shall be determined using the face value or maximum annual use limitation of each water right in units of acre-feet; however there are situations in which a partial face value demand would be appropriate to use.

Section A.2.1.4 of the policy describes the procedures and assumptions for using the partial face value of a water right to calculate demand for the purposes of water availability analysis. This Memorandum describes the rationale for these assumptions and the text in bold corresponds to text from section A.2.1.4.

- 1. Because the season of diversion specified in the policy is October 1 to March 31, and irrigation of crops in the policy area typically does not begin before March 31, senior water rights authorizing direct diversion for irrigation before March 31 do not need to be considered part of the seasonal demand. However, since a post-harvest irrigation may occur between October 1 and October 31, the October demand of senior water rights with an authorized season extending into this period should be included.**

*California Environmental Protection Agency*