

Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 6:37 PM  
To: [Delta Drought Email Subscription List](#)

Subject: August 30 Weekly Update on Curtailment Status of Water Rights and Claims in the Delta Watershed

This email contains important information about the curtailment status of water rights and claims of right within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) watershed pursuant to Initial Orders Imposing Water Right Curtailment and Reporting Requirements in the Delta Watershed ([Order for water rights/claims under 5,000 acre-feet](#) and [Order for water rights/claims over 5,000 acre-feet](#))

The following water rights are curtailed, effective **September 1, 2022**, unless and until the State Water Board advises that this determination has been updated:

1. Water rights and claims on the following Sacramento River tributaries:
  - a. Post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Yuba River subwatershed with a priority date of 1928 or later;
  - b. Post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Bear River subwatershed with a priority date of 1942 or later; and
  - c. Post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Putah Creek subwatershed outside of the Legal Delta with a priority date of 1945 or later.
2. Post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Sacramento River watershed outside of the Legal Delta with a priority date of 1947 or later.
3. Water rights and claims on the following San Joaquin River tributaries:
  - a. Post-1914 appropriative water rights, pre-1914 appropriative water right claims, and riparian water right claims in the Calaveras River subwatershed outside of the Legal Delta;
  - b. Post-1914 appropriative water rights, pre-1914 appropriative water right claims, and riparian water right claims in the Chowchilla River subwatershed; and
  - c. Post-1914 appropriative water rights, pre-1914 appropriative water right claims, and riparian water right claims in the Fresno River subwatershed.
4. All post-1914 appropriative water rights and pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the San Joaquin River watershed outside of the Legal Delta.
5. Post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Legal Delta with a priority date of 1948 or later.

Curtailments are expected to continue through the summer and early fall until significant precipitation occurs. Water supply forecasts will continue to be evaluated regularly to determine if, when, and to what extent the further re-imposition or suspension of curtailments may be appropriate. The next curtailment status update will be provided by email and web posting no later than September 6, 2022. Please check the [Delta Watershed Curtailment Status List](#) for the current curtailment status of each water right and claim in the Delta watershed. The Delta Watershed Curtailment Status List will be updated to reflect the above curtailments by close of business tomorrow, August 31, 2022.

The above curtailments consider the following technical and policy inputs to the [Water Unavailability Methodology for the Delta Watershed](#) (methodology):

1. **Implementation of the revised and renewed emergency regulation adopted on July 20, 2022, including the new provision regarding demands under water rights and claims associated with contractual agreements with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources.**

**(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 876.1, subd. (d)(8).)** Following approval of the revised and renewed emergency regulation, which allows for the protection of water foregone by the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC) and Feather River Contractors (FRC) in accordance with an operations plan for the Central Valley Project (CVP) or State Water Project (SWP) that meets certain criteria, demands for the rights and claims held by the SRSC and FRC reflect 2018 reported water diversion data, and have not been reduced to reflect projected reductions in diversions in accordance with this year's operations plans for the CVP and SWP.

2. **Removed duplicative demands in the Legal Delta.** Following additional quality control of demand data, the methodology's demand dataset has been adjusted to remove duplicative diversions reported under both post-1914 appropriative water rights and riparian water right claims associated with the same place of use within the Legal Delta.
3. **Concurrence of the Delta Watermaster.** After consultation with and the concurrence of the Delta Watermaster, and consistent with the technical assumptions regarding water unavailability in the Legal Delta outlined in methodology documents released on June 27, 2022, curtailments remain in place for certain post-1914 water rights within the Legal Delta.
4. **Quality control of demand data for water rights and claims 1,000 acre-feet or greater.** The methodology's demand dataset has been updated to correct reporting inaccuracies and eliminate duplicative demands under multiple water rights and claims encompassing annual diversions of 1,000 acre-feet or greater.
5. **San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors.** Because Reclamation has resumed deliveries to the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors (SJREC) of previously stored water from the Delta via the Delta-Mendota Canal, curtailments assume zero demands under the SJREC's underlying claims of right from the San Joaquin River.
6. **CVP and SWP (collectively, Projects) rights in the Sacramento River watershed and in the Legal Delta.** Current analyses indicate that water is unavailable to all Project water rights in the Sacramento River watershed and the Legal Delta. Accordingly, those Project rights are curtailed.
7. **Return flows.** The above curtailments factor in estimated agricultural and municipal return flows based on CalSim 3 results for 1976, which have been applied to all headwater and valley floor subwatersheds. Due to drought conditions, there has been a significant reduction in rice production in the Sacramento Valley. As a result, historic return flow factors associated with draining rice fields for harvest in prior years are not appropriate for September 2022. Therefore, the methodology was adjusted to retain return flows estimated for August in the Sacramento River watershed, which are more consistent with current reductions in rice production.
8. **Term 91.** Irrespective of the above curtailments, Term 91 curtailments continue to apply to all rights within and outside the Legal Delta containing Term 91.
9. **Curtailments based on the subwatershed-scale analyses.** Curtailments account for both local water unavailability in headwater subwatersheds and watershed-wide conditions.

Due to the timing of today's curtailment status update, taking place on August 30, 2022, the curtailments above reflect the output of the methodology for the calendar month of September

and will go into effect on Thursday, September 1, 2022. As such, today's update considers water supply forecasts from the California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) that were updated on August 30, 2022. The 50 percent exceedance water supply forecast was selected to determine curtailments at this time. Other than modifications identified above, demand data informing curtailments are based on reported diversions from 2018.

The determination of water unavailability used to inform curtailments is based on the [Water Unavailability Methodology for the Delta Watershed](#). The data used to support curtailments and other relevant information is available on the State Water Board's [FTP site](#). To access the documents posted on the FTP site, please email [Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov) to obtain login credentials.

Water right holders and claimants are responsible for monitoring their curtailment status online on the [Delta Watershed Curtailment Status List](#). The Delta Watershed Curtailment Status List will be updated to reflect the above curtailments by close of business tomorrow, August 31, 2022. Notice of changes to curtailment status will not be mailed. For those with limited internet access, a pre-recorded curtailment summary can be heard on the Delta Curtailment Status phone line at (916) 323-4643.

For more information about drought in the Delta watershed, please visit the [Delta Drought webpage](#). For more information about curtailment compliance and responses to the Initial Orders Imposing Water Right Curtailment and Reporting Requirements in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed, please visit the [Curtailment Compliance and Responses webpage](#). The Curtailment Compliance and Responses tracker is updated regularly and can be filtered to see the latest changes. If you have any questions, you may send an email to [Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov) or call the Delta Drought phone line at (916) 319-0960.