

- Outlook

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**Update to Scott River Surface Water Curtailments for Farmer's Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District**

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**From** California Water Boards <public@info.waterboards.ca.gov>

**Date** Tue 10/15/2024 1:24 PM

**To** Zwahlen, Zachary@Waterboards <Zachary.Zwahlen@Waterboards.ca.gov>

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To: Scott River Water Right Holders (sent to water right holders for which the Board has email addresses and to the Scott-Shasta Drought E-mail List)

**This addendum expires at 11:59 pm on Thursday, October 31, 2024, unless amended or superseded prior to that date.**

Farmer's Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District are the only surface water right holders that submitted information and requested to divert following the State Water Board's previous addenda to [Order WR 2024-0024-DWR](#).

Based on consideration of the current flow and increasing trend since October 7, 2024 at the [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\) Fort Jones gage](#), requested diversion amounts, and forecasts of precipitation, temperature, and flows this Addendum provides for Farmer's Ditch Company to immediately undertake diversions under the conditions listed below and sets forth the conditions for possible diversion by Scott Valley Irrigation District after additional written approval from the State Water Board. Diversion under this addendum is subject to the conditions below:

**Farmer's Ditch Company** shall comply with the following conditions:

- Limit diversions to the lesser of:
- Up to 7 cubic feet per second (cfs) (the amount identified in its request);  
or
- The amount of excess water in the Scott River watershed, which is defined as the instantaneous flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage that exceeds the minimum flow requirement of 40 cfs for October.
- Cease diversions when the instantaneous flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage approaches the minimum flow requirement (40 cfs for October) to ensure the diversion is not contributing to non-attainment of the flow requirement.
- Cease diversions immediately if directed to do so by the State Water Board.

**Scott Valley Irrigation District** shall comply with the following conditions:

- Coordinate with and receive approval from the State Water Board before initiating diversion.
- Limit diversions to the lesser of:
- Up to 7.5 cfs under its right described in Schedule D3 in the Scott River Adjudication (the amount identified in its request).
- The amount of excess water in the Scott River watershed, which is defined as the instantaneous flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage that exceeds the minimum flow requirement of 40 cfs for October.
- Cease diversions when the instantaneous flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage approaches the minimum flow requirement (40 cfs for October) to

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- Cease diversions immediately if directed to do so by the State Water Board.

The State Water Board encourages Farmer's Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District to manage their diversions in a way that supports connectivity of the mainstem Scott River.

Surface water diverters that have not submitted the requested information identified in Addendums 2 and 3 (issued September 6, 2024, and September 17, 2024, respectively) and received approval from the Board to divert under this addendum remain curtailed.

If you want to divert surface water under a potential further suspension of surface water diversions, you must submit the following information to the State Water Board via email to: [scottshastadrought@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:scottshastadrought@waterboards.ca.gov) and provide the following information:

- Certification that the diverted water will not be used for inefficient livestock watering until the requirements of Section 875.7 of the [Emergency Regulation](#) are met;
- An estimate of amount of water that the diverter would like to divert (e.g., 0.5 cfs) for the weeks of October 14-20, October 21-17, and October 28-31); and
- The water right(s) associated with the desired surface water diversion.

The Board will consider the total demand of all submittals and water right priority in determining whether to issue a further suspension of the curtailment order.

As a reminder, this addendum does not modify any local cooperative solutions. The Curtailment Orders do not apply to participants with approved local cooperative solutions or those listed as received on the State Water Board's [2024 Local Cooperative Solutions website](#). All surface water rights with a local cooperative solution, including 'approved' or 'received', must continue to follow their proposals.

### **Background:**

This is Addendum 5 to [Order WR 2024-0024-DWR](#) curtailing surface water rights in the Scott River watershed under the [Emergency Regulation](#). Flows at the [USGS Fort Jones gage](#) have been increasing since October 7, 2024 and have been at or above the minimum flow requirement since October 11, 2024 (October flow requirement 40 cfs). As of 8:30 am on October 15, 2024, flows are 44.8 cfs, which is not sufficiently above the flow requirement to provide for the requested 14.5 cfs of demand of both Farmers Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District at this time. However, flows are anticipated to continue increasing, particularly in light of cold weather anticipated in the watershed that

is expected to decrease evapotranspiration. Based on the current flow at the USGS Fort Jones gage and other available information (i.e., flow response to recent precipitation, flow and precipitation forecasts, and water demand requests), the State Water Board is conditionally suspending curtailment for the requested portion of Farmer Ditch Company and Scott Valley Irrigation District's irrigation rights under the Scott River Decree, with provisions that allow for the immediate initiation of diversions by Farmers Ditch Company and the potential for diversion by Scott Valley Irrigation District after coordination and approval with the State Water Board. All surface water right holders who want to start diverting must submit the requested information above for the Board to consider in determining whether to issue any further suspensions.

In order to allow the State Water Board to evaluate updated watershed conditions in light of the increased November flow requirement, Addendum 5 will expire at 11:59 pm on Thursday, October 31, 2024 unless otherwise amended or suspended prior to this date.

The State Water Board will continue to monitor flows, precipitation, and temperature forecasts, desired demand, and watershed conditions regularly to determine if further adjustments to curtailments are appropriate and if the suspension can be extended.

### **Questions and How to Stay Informed**

Please monitor your email and our website [Scott River and Shasta River Emergency Regulation Response website \(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott\\_shasta\\_rivers/\)](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/) for future updates. If an email notice is issued on the weekend or after business hours, the website will not be updated until the following workday due to service limitations.

If you have questions regarding this email, please contact staff by email at:

[ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ScottShastaDrought@waterboards.ca.gov) or leave a message at our dedicated Scott River and Shasta River Drought phone line at: (916) 327-3113.

If you received this notice in a forwarded message and would like to receive future emails related to this and similar efforts, please sign up for the State Water Board's "Scott-Shasta Drought" [email subscription list](#) under "Water Rights" at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe)

Erik Ekdahl  
Deputy Director  
Division of Water Rights

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