

## State Water Resources Control Board

July 21, 2025

Judd Hanna  
Hanna Bros. Ranch



### **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF 2025 GROUNDWATER LOCAL COOPERATIVE SOLUTION FOR HANNA BROS. RANCH**

Dear Mr. Hanna:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) readopted an emergency regulation that went into effect on January 27, 2025, that establishes emergency minimum flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 875-875.9) (Regulation). Under the Regulation, local cooperative solutions by individuals or groups may be proposed by petition to the Deputy Director of the Division of Water Rights (Deputy Director) as an alternative means of reducing water use to meet or preserve the emergency minimum flows, or to provide other fishery benefits, in lieu of curtailment. Section 875, subdivision (f)(4)(D) of the Regulation describes three types of local cooperative solutions that are specifically available for overlying or adjudicated groundwater diversions for irrigated agriculture: Best Management Practices, Graduated Cessation Schedule, and Percent Reduction. The Deputy Director may approve a proposal submitted by an individual or group, provided that it meets the specific requirements of the applicable groundwater local cooperative solution type, satisfies the metering and inspection requirements, is founded on a binding agreement made with the State Water Board or a Coordinating Entity, and is to be implemented throughout the entirety of the irrigation season.

#### **Summary of Proposal**

The State Water Board received a proposal<sup>1</sup> from Judd Hanna (petitioner) for a percent reduction groundwater local cooperative solution for the 2025 irrigation season that proposes to reduce water use by 38% percent compared to water use in the 2020 irrigation season. The proposal covers 1,158 acres of land irrigated by 12 groundwater wells. The petitioner proposes to achieve the water use reduction with the following water conservation actions:

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<sup>1</sup> The term "proposal" includes, as applicable, elements of the petitioners' Application Form for 2025 Local Cooperative Solution, communications with Division of Water Rights staff, and content from the petitioners' approved 2024 local cooperative solution. Generally, any applicable content is restated in this letter as part of the current proposal.

- Reduced amount of water applied by pivots compared to the amount used during the 2020 baseline year;
- Reduced set times for the wheel lines to shorter durations than used in the 2020 baseline year; and
- Installation of six new pivots with the low-energy precision application (LEPA) system since the 2020 baseline year.

The proposal was posted to the State Water Board's webpage for local cooperative solutions associated with the Regulation on April 28, 2025. A further description of the site and water reduction measures is provided in the application submitted for this proposal. The application identifies Scott River Water Trust as the Coordinating Entity and includes a "Binding Agreement" that grants property access to verify compliance with the proposal.

### **Groundwater Metering**

A groundwater local cooperative solution must include a description of any existing groundwater metering, and a proposal to meter and record such extractions or applications on a weekly basis, and to report monthly to the Deputy Director (or the Coordinating Entity, if so agreed), with limited exceptions. If a meter has not been installed prior to the start of the irrigation season, the petitioner may submit a time schedule as part of the proposal that describes and substantiates the efforts, actions, and timelines for meter installation. The Deputy Director may waive the metering requirement for groundwater wells irrigating less than 30 acres or upon a determination that metering in a particular instance is not feasible. The Deputy Director may also approve a time schedule for the installation of a meter if not currently installed at the start of the irrigation season.

The petitioner has installed meters on eight pivots that irrigate 509 acres and one groundwater well that irrigates 129 acres. The proposal includes a plan to record and maintain a log of the meter data of the eight pivots and one well on a weekly basis and provide monthly reports to the Coordinating Entity. The petitioner has an active application with the State Water Board to install meters on five wells that would irrigate an additional 439 acres. The petitioner agrees to record and maintain a log of the State Water Board- funded meter data from the time of installation through five full irrigation seasons and submit the data to the State Water Board. Additionally, the proposal includes a request to waive the metering requirement for one well because it irrigates less than 30 acres.

### **Approval**

The Division of Water Rights has reviewed the groundwater local cooperative solution proposal and finds that it meets the requirements of Regulation section 875, subdivision (f)(4)(D), with the following condition:

- Throughout the 2025 irrigation season, the petitioner shall meter, record, and maintain a log of the water pumping and usage data from the existing groundwater meters on the eight pivots and one groundwater well on a weekly basis, consistent with the Regulation. The petitioner shall meter, record, and maintain a log of the water pumping data for the meters to be installed on five

groundwater wells on a weekly basis from the time of installation through the end of five full irrigation seasons (anticipated through the 2030 irrigation season). The metering data shall be submitted to the State Water Board by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month for the preceding month. The Division of Water Rights recognizes that implementation may require operational adjustments, and will allow reasonable time to achieve full compliance, provided there is demonstrable progress towards meeting the weekly requirement.

The Division of Water Rights waives a portion of the metering requirement for the one groundwater well irrigation less than 30 acres and a time schedule for installation of the five groundwater wells to be metered with State Water Board funding this year. The groundwater local cooperative solution proposal is hereby approved, as conditioned. Any failure to implement any commitments of the proposal and any conditions of this approval (collectively, the approved Local Cooperative Solution) is subject to enforcement as a violation of the Regulation. Additionally, violations of other provisions of the Regulation (e.g., surface water curtailment) may result in termination of this approval.

The petitioner's groundwater local cooperative solution proposal is hereby approved. Any failure to implement any commitments of the proposal and any conditions of this approval (collectively, the approved local cooperative solution) is subject to enforcement as a violation of the Regulation. Additionally, violations of other provisions of the Regulation (e.g., surface water curtailment) may result in termination of this approval.

If you have questions regarding this approval, please contact Division of Water Rights staff via email to: [ScottShastaFlows@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ScottShastaFlows@waterboards.ca.gov) or by leaving a message on our dedicated phone line at (916) 327-3113.

Sincerely,



Erin Ragazzi  
Assistant Deputy Director  
Acting Deputy Director for Scott-Shasta  
Division of Water Rights

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