

Instructions for Using Water Boards

Online Cannabis Compliance Gage Mapping Tool

Background

The [Cannabis Policy](#) establishes principles and guidelines (requirements) for cannabis cultivation activities to protect water quality and instream flows. The purpose of the Cannabis Policy is to ensure that the diversion of water and discharge of waste associated with cannabis cultivation does not have a negative impact on water quality, aquatic habitat, riparian habitat, wetlands, and springs.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has developed a website to provide cannabis cultivators that divert from surface water with a tool to check whether they may divert for cannabis cultivation on a given day. This document provides detailed, step-by-step instructions on how to use the Cannabis Compliance Gage Mapping Tool (online mapping tool). The online mapping tool is available online at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cannabis/water_gauge_reference_tool.html

Instructions

Please note, the compliance gage assignments in the mapping tool may change at any time as new gages are added. If you are diverting surface water for cannabis cultivation, you are required to check the website for the compliance gage assignment at least daily and prior to diverting water to ensure water is available to divert at that gage (i.e., the prior day's average flow is greater than the Numeric Flow Requirement at the assigned compliance gage).

1. Upon opening the Cannabis Compliance Gage Mapping Tool, you will be greeted with a screen in the center of the page with the following message "NOTE: To view the map pop-up of gage information, zoom in to at least street level and click on the point of diversion." Underneath this message will be an empty box with the message "Do not show this splash screen again." If the box is checked, the splash screen will no longer appear. If the box is not checked, the splash screen will continue to appear each time you visit the online mapping tool. Click the "OK" box to continue.
2. After clicking out of the splash screen, you will see a map of the State of California overlaid with red, green, yellow, and/or grey colors. These colors provide a general indication of the current water conditions throughout the State and are not to be used to determine whether diversions are authorized at your point of diversion. Areas shaded red indicate that diversion of surface water is not currently authorized. Areas shaded green indicate flows are greater than the minimum instream flow requirement; as such, surface water diversions are authorized. Areas shaded yellow indicate the diversion is subject to an existing flow requirement and this tool may be unable to determine whether diversion is authorized for the date specified. Areas shaded grey indicate either that the assigned compliance gage is currently non-functioning or otherwise unavailable. The red, green, yellow, and grey layers only appear on the map when zoomed out to a State-wide view, and will disappear when zooming in.
3. To determine which compliance gage you have been assigned and whether diversion is authorized under the Cannabis Policy, you will need to navigate to your point of diversion (e.g.,

pump inlet), zoom in to at least street level, and click on the map. If diverting from a surface water body such as a river or stream, be sure to click on the waterbody itself in the map. In most cases, a Gage Pop-Up Box will appear with pertinent information regarding your assigned compliance gage and minimum instream flow requirements, but occasionally there will be an intermediate window (see number 5 below).

4. There are three ways you can navigate to your point of diversion:
 - a. In the top left corner of the map is a search bar titled “Enter Address”; enter in the physical street address, city, and zip code of your cultivation site and click on the magnifier glass icon or press Enter to zoom to the area of your cultivation site. If you have visited the online mapping tool before, the address may also prefill on the list below the search bar while typing, and you can select your address from the drop down to initiate the search.
 - b. You can use the [+] and [-] icons or mouse wheel to zoom in and out. On a mobile device, you can use your fingers to pinch and zoom in and out.
 - c. You can click on the Reticle icon (looks like this ) to zoom to your “current location” based on your device’s (e.g., mobile device, computer) location services or Internet Service Provider, if your computer or device allows.
5. Once you locate your exact point of diversion you can click the mouse or tap the screen on your device at that location to view the Gage Pop-Up Box. The Gage Pop-Up Box will indicate whether you can or cannot divert with the language “DIVERSION NOT AUTHORIZED” in red, or “DIVERSION AUTHORIZED” in green, respectively. In some cases when the browser window is too small or if using a mobile device, a small box that states “1 of 1” may appear as an intermediate window and you will need to click the arrow button (looks like this ) to continue to the gage information.
6. Some areas may have “More Information Needed” in red displayed at the top of the Gage Pop-Up Box. This means that your surface water diversion is subject to an existing instream flow Requirement that may be more restrictive than the instream flow requirements of the Cannabis Policy (see Cannabis Policy, Attachment A, Section 4). To assist those cannabis cultivators in areas of California with existing flow Requirements, State Water Board staff has developed an attachment (click on “Click Here For Attachment”) that outlines existing flow requirements and Cannabis Policy flow requirements (see Cannabis Policy, Attachment A, Section 4). It is the cannabis cultivator’s responsibility to determine whether they are following all applicable instream flow requirements prior to diverting. (Please note that the “Previous Day’s Average Flow” field and the “Minimum Instream Flow Requirement” field may not be populated with flow data in these instances.)
7. Some cannabis cultivators may have “Contact SWRCB at CannabisWR@Waterboards.ca.gov” displayed in red at the top of the Gage Pop-Up Box. This indicates either that the assigned compliance gage is currently non-functioning or otherwise unavailable. You may not divert water unless you contact the State Water Board and are provided written confirmation from the State Water Board (e.g., an email) that you are authorized to divert on that day.

Additional Features:

1. If you would like to easily return to a specific map view in the future, you can use the Bookmark tool. To use the Bookmark tool, click or tap on the Bookmark icon (looks like this ), click "Add", and type in a descriptive name for the location. You may create multiple Bookmarks if desired.
2. In the top left of the map, click the "Basemap Gallery" icon (looks like this ) to select different overlays (views) for the map, including topographic, terrain, and street maps. These map overlays may be used to provide imagery that can assist you in finding your exact point of diversion (e.g., pump).