

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
OCTOBER 16, 2024**

**ITEM 3**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING FLOW EFFORTS IN THE SCOTT RIVER AND SHASTA RIVER WATERSHEDS.

**DISCUSSION**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) has adopted and implemented drought emergency minimum flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds since 2021 under emergency regulations adopted in 2021, 2022, and 2023. These emergency regulations are limited to one year. In 2023 and 2024 the State Water Board received two separate petitions for rulemaking requesting the Board establish long-term flows for the Scott River and Shasta River, respectively. In responding to these petitions for rulemaking, the Board directed staff to identify the scientific work needed to inform options for evaluating long-term flows and update the Board on that effort.

As part of this item, staff will provide an update and provide information related to the establishment of in-stream flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. The proposed resolution directs staff to develop the scientific basis and assess the economic impacts of baseline minimum flows in these watersheds, as well as to continue modeling efforts and information development in support of evaluating water year-specific minimum instream flows. Additionally, the proposed resolution directs staff to solicit input on whether to readopt the current emergency regulation and solicit proposals for alternatives to readoption of the emergency regulation.

**POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution?

**FISCAL IMPACT**

To be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board adopt the proposed resolution.