



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

1312 Fairlane Rd, Suite 1
Yreka, California 96097
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

(530) 842-8005
FAX (530) 842-8013
Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

September 25, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: AB 263 (Rogers), Extending Drought Regulations in Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds –
REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Newsom,

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that you veto AB 263 (Rogers). This bill would extend emergency regulations established by the State Water Resources Control Board for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds until January 1, 2031 or until permanent instream flow requirements are adopted, whichever occurs first. These emergency regulations were first issued in 2021 under your drought proclamation and have been renewed annually, even though drought conditions ended in both watersheds two years ago. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the Scott and Shasta River watersheds are currently in the "None" drought category.

While AB 263 is presented as a measure to protect salmon populations and local ecosystems, an established process already exists to achieve these goals. Rather than supporting that process, AB 263 removes local control, overrides the authority granted to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and supplants judicially adjudicated water law in these systems. The 1980 Scott River Adjudication already establishes minimum flows for ESA-listed fish species as a beneficial water use.

GSAs work with local stakeholders to ensure water management reflects regional conditions, protects aquifer function, and incorporates tribal and public participation. By locking emergency regulations into place until 2031 or until permanent rules are adopted, AB 263 circumvents SGMA and excludes the communities most affected in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds from meaningful participation. It subjects both watersheds to curtailments no longer tied to current drought conditions and nullifies four years of collaborative work supporting the State-approved SGMA Watershed Plans.

Emergency regulations are intended to be temporary, applied in response to urgent circumstances such as drought, and subject to renewal only when justified by current conditions. AB 263 could set a concerning precedent by allowing other interests in different watersheds to extend emergency regulations through legislation, bypassing the established process for renewal at the State Water Resources Control Board. This undermines the short-term nature of emergency regulations, which are designed to be revisited annually. Permanently embedding an emergency regulation in state law contradicts its original purpose.

Jess Harris
District 1

Ed Valenzuela
District 2

Michael N. Kobseff
District 3

Nancy Ogren
District 4

Ray Haupt
District 5



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

1312 Fairlane Rd, Suite 1
Yreka, California 96097
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

(530) 842-8005
FAX (530) 842-8013
Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your veto of AB 263 to preserve local authority, uphold public participation, and ensure that water management decisions remain accountable to the people most directly affected.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

852DA1B9F1C44B4...
Nancy Ogren
Chair, Board of Supervisors

CC: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick
Senator Megan Dahle
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties
Siskiyou County Farm Bureau

Jess Harris
District 1

Ed Valenzuela
District 2

Michael N. Kobseff
District 3

Nancy Ogren
District 4

Ray Haupt
District 5