



## Tailwater Project Evaluation

Why fill this out?

This is a watershed-wide planning document, however it must be noted that each ranch/neighborhood's operations are unique and it is recommended that the following evaluation be completed when evaluating tailwater reduction strategies. Tailwater impacts can be reduced or eliminated by implementation of a physical project to increase efficiency (i.e. reduce tailwater creation) or by capturing, treating, or re-using the tailwater. However, the most practical and least expensive strategy to reduce tailwater can be to alter management practices. Prior to the implementation of any tailwater reduction project, management of irrigation should be considered.

The main purpose of this evaluation is to determine if whatever strategy or project is being considered will most efficiently meet the purpose of this plan, which is to improve river water quality. It can ensure that all factors of how your land is managed are evaluated and encourage some changes to happen in a shorter time frame. This evaluation process may not answer all the questions or reduce the potential impacts that may be possible from a specific project.

**Please fill out the following information and thank you.**

Date:	Click here to enter text.
Your Name:	Click here to enter text.
Type of Project:	Click here to enter text.
<b>Brief Description of Project:</b>	
Click here to enter text.	

**When evaluating a ranch for tailwater reduction improvements, the following questions can be considered:**

1.) How many acres are irrigated?	Click here to enter text.
2.) How are those acres irrigated?	Click here to enter text.
3.) How much water is used to irrigate those acres (what is the water right vs how much is delivered to the point of use)?	
Click here to enter text.	
4.) What is the crop type?	Click here to enter text.
5.) What is the water consumption (ETA) rate of that crop?	Click here to enter text.
6.) How long are the sets and what is the length of the average run?	
Click here to enter text.	
7.) How long is the rotation? (Time between irrigations.)	Click here to enter text.
8.) Does tailwater from a neighbor contribute to your available irrigation water/system?	
Click here to enter text.	
9.) What irrigation efficiency practices are already implemented that assists in water management?	

10.) Is the ground currently being irrigated with cold spring water?

Click here to enter text.

**After evaluating and potentially improving irrigation management, then the efficiency of the irrigation system can be evaluated. The following questions can be considered when evaluating efficiency:**

1.) Will increasing efficiency increase consumptive use of water? (Crop water use)

Click here to enter text.

2.) Will improving the diversion or delivery system allow for more water to be delivered to the point of use? (what is the water right vs how much is delivered to the point of use)

Click here to enter text.

3.) Will increased efficiency reduce the diversion quantity? How will that affect river temperatures?

Click here to enter text.

4.) Could increasing efficiency reduce groundwater recharge or the contribution of base flow to the river?

Click here to enter text.

I \_\_\_\_\_, authorized the Shasta Valley RCD to share this information with other agencies and funders.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

To be filled out by RCD staff/consultant

Tailwater Neighborhood Number	Click here to enter text.
Tailwater Score	Click here to enter text.

**After management and efficiency are addressed, then the tailwater return can be reevaluated to determine if it has been sufficiently reduced or if the impacts due to tailwater have been minimized. If there is still a significant quantity of tailwater returning from a neighborhood and/or the impact is still relevant to river water quality, then conceptualizing what could be done to reduce the impact of that return would be the next step. When conceptualizing a project, the following questions can be considered.**

1. What is the receiving water's current condition? <input type="checkbox"/> Flow <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Dissolved oxygen <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrients
2.) In this evaluation area, what is the most important threshold that must be met for water quality? <input type="checkbox"/> Flow and temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature only <input type="checkbox"/> Flow only <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient loading <input type="checkbox"/> Dissolved oxygen
3. Could a project increase consumption? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Click here to enter text.
4. Could a project reduce the diversion quantity? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Click here to enter text.
5. Could a project result in more cold water returned to the river? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Click here to enter text.
6. Comments and recommendations:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date