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## WAIVER PARTICIPATION FOR RANCHERS

### Assessing Participation in the Shasta River TMDL Conditional Waiver Program

The Regional Water Board's approach for confirming waiver participation and compliance relies on property-by-property assessments of water quality protection. Regional Water Board staff will be approaching land owners to discuss their participation in the program, to make arrangements for water quality protection assessments, and to confirm compliance with the Shasta River TMDL Conditional Waiver.

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## SHASTA RIVER TMDL BACKGROUND

The Regional Water Board is the state agency responsible for implementation of California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the federal Clean Water Act. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires the Regional Water Board to develop or certify regulatory programs to control discharges of pollutants, such as sediment, to streams, rivers, and wetlands. The Regional Water Board has developed the *Shasta River Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements* (Shasta River TMDL Conditional Waiver) to improve temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions in the Shasta River and its

# SHASTA RIVER TMDL

## REQUIREMENTS FOR RANCHERS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2012-2016



*Restoring the  
Shasta River Watershed*

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## Frequently Asked Questions

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**Q:** How will the Regional Water Board decide where to conduct water quality protection assessments?

**A:** Regional Water Board staff will focus efforts to work with landowners on implementation of the waiver conditions based on the following categories: Properties in areas of high restoration opportunity; water quality issues identified through complaints; areas with unique opportunities to improve water quality, and voluntary group efforts.

**Q:** Where are the areas of high restoration opportunity ?

**A:** Staff will first focus on cold water refugia and coho habitat areas downstream of Dwinell Dam, in Big Springs Creek and in Parks Creek. These areas have been identified as high priorities for support of beneficial uses. Focus will move downstream over time.

**Q:** How will the Regional Water Board staff engage with landowners ?

**A:** Staff of the Regional Water Board will contact the landowner (usually by phone) and arrange a mutually agreeable time.

Field visits will include a discussion of the contents of the Conditional Waiver as well as existing management practices and water quality protection measures, verify waiver compliance, or identify steps to attain compliance, on a case by case basis.

**Q:** If a landowner is requested to develop a Water Quality Ranch Plan, what would that involve?

**A:** The content of plans may range from simple to complex, depending on the site-specific situation:

An example of a simple plan would be a description of practices implemented with photo documentation captured and kept by the landowner to document the effectiveness of practices over time.

An example of a comprehensive plan might be an inventory of existing sources of elevated water temperatures, a map of sites, a timeline for addressing the identified sources, identification of management practices employed to control the sources, and a monitoring and reporting program.

**Q:** What other kinds of information might landowners be asked to provide?

**A:** The Regional Water Board's Executive Officer may request information be periodically provided to document that the water quality protection practices are effective. The kind of information that may be needed ranges from photo documentation to collection of tailwater samples to characterize the quality of water discharged to streams. Regional Water Board staff anticipate that photo documentation would be sufficient in most cases where monitoring would be requested.

Staff may recommend the Regional Water Board Executive Officer request a plan and /or documentation if the corrective actions are complex, requiring special expertise; the level of effort necessary to control a discharge is great, or when a solution can't be worked out at the time of inspection.

**Q:** How will the Regional Water Board assess compliance with the Conditional Waiver?

**A:** Staff will review compliance with the conditional waiver and evaluate the need for plans and monitoring on a case-by-case basis, using a consistent assessment approach. Assessments will focus on factors that can impact water temperatures such as land owner management in riparian areas, and potential for tailwater discharges.

**Q:** Do I have to comply with the Regional Board requests under this program?

**A:** Yes, if you want to be included in the Waiver process. Resources may be available from local agencies to assist with complex situations. If you are excluded from the Waiver process because Regional Water Board staff cannot perform assessments within a reasonable time, for the purposes of assessing water quality protection needs; you may need to obtain an individual permit for regulatory compliance which has a cost associated with it. The Waiver program is cost neutral at this time.



Tailwater Discharge at Breceda Lane

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