



Q&A for the Voluntary Monitoring Program

January 24, 2018

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE VOLUNTARY MONITORING PROGRAM?

To be a local monitoring resource for diversions of water that are not regulated and reported by the Watermaster¹.

To provide an affordable option for the implementation of monitoring requirements established by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights (Division).

HOW WILL THE GOALS BE ACHIEVED?

The Deputy Watermaster² will measure diversion amounts for diversion owners who voluntarily choose to *Opt-In* to the Voluntary Monitoring Program implemented by the Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District (District). Measurement of diversion amount will be conducted by the Deputy Watermaster or a Technician under the direction of the Deputy Watermaster; or, through electronic monitoring devices installed with the diversion owner and approved by the Deputy Watermaster. The data is submitted to the diversion owner, or their agent and is not retained by the Deputy Watermaster nor the District.

WHAT IS THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA COVERED BY THIS PROGRAM?

The boundaries of the District include the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. A map of boundaries and current court-ordered Watermaster Service Areas is available on the District's website.

WHAT DOES THE DIVERSION OWNER DO WITH THE DATA THEY RECIEVE?

According to State Water Resource Control Board requirements, data is to be retained for ten (10) years and is used to support the diversion and use amounts reported to the Division. Data is not to be submitted with reports or Statements of Use unless asked by the Division.

WHY IS DATA NOT SUBMITTED?

Data will be requested by the Division as proof of the diversion amounts reported when the Division is in the process of an audit. Diversion owners must submit a form titled *Measurement Method* to inform the Division of the method(s) they have implemented to comply with Division requirements. This form is submitted online using the Water Right Identification Number assigned by the Division. There are fees associated with some forms (i.e. Initial Statement of Use).

HOW WOULD ONE ACCESS THE ONLINE SYSTEMS?

Here is a link to the eWRIMS Report Management System

<https://rms.waterboards.ca.gov/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=Default.aspx>

WHAT IF THE DIVERSION OWNER CANNOT ACCESS A COMPUTER OR THE INTERNET?

The Division refers you to a public library, a friend or relative, or other source having internet access. In Siskiyou County, diversion owners may contact the District or local consultants for assistance with the computer technologies implemented by the Division. A list of Siskiyou County contractors and consultants with experience in diversion improvement projects is planned for the District's webpage.

¹ The Watermaster is the Scott Valley and Shasta Valley Watermaster District.

² The Deputy Watermaster is hired by the District for the enforcement of court-ordered service.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Costs to become compliant with Division requirements can vary depending on the need. Refer to the chart titled *Comparison of Responsibilities and Cost for Monitoring Water Diversions*.

The Voluntary Monitoring Program (VMP) cost will depend on the diversion that needs compliance. There are three types of cost under the VMP; an initial program cost up to \$250, an annual Administrative Fee of \$99 and the hourly rate charged by the Deputy Watermaster (which may not apply to diversions already measured by the Deputy Watermaster or Technician under court-ordered service). Optional items are available with the initial program cost, these include GIS to map the diversion locations (\$100) and assistance with State Water Resource Control Board forms (\$50 per form).

HOW DO I KNOW IF I NEED TO COMPLY WITH DIVISION REQUIREMENTS?

There are various types of State programs that have various monitoring and reporting requirements, see document *Water Measurement and Reporting Requirements and Deadlines*.

Programs are defined as follows:

<i>Program</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Permit	Permits carefully spell out the amounts, conditions, and construction timetables for the proposed water project. Before the Board issues a permit, it must take into account all prior rights and the availability of water in the basin. The Board considers, too, the flows needed to preserve instream uses such as recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Currently, the water rights permitting process is estimated to require five to seven years for regular priority projects from the time an application is received to the time that a decision is rendered. A party that needs an immediate, short-term permit to appropriate water may consider submitting an application for a temporary permit.
License	When the Board determines after an inspection that a permitted project is completed, the terms of the permit have been met, and the volume of water necessary to the project is put to beneficial use, a license may issued. This license is the final confirmation of the water right and remains effective as long as its conditions are fulfilled and beneficial use continues.
Registration	Since January 1, 1989, water right registrations have been available for expedited acquisition of appropriative water rights for certain small projects. For projects that do not meet the criteria for a registration, an appropriative water right may be established through the traditional Water Rights Applications: Permitting and Licensing Program. Water right registrations are available for three different types of small water right projects: (1) Small Domestic Use, (2) Small Irrigation Use, and (3) Livestock Stockpond.
Certificate	The State Water Board will issue a certificate for a completed registration. The certificate will include the conditions under which water may be diverted and used under the registration.
Statement	The main purpose of the Statement Program is to create a central repository for records of diversions and uses of water. This repository differs from the records of appropriated water rights that are registered, permitted and licensed. A Statement is not a confirmed water right; it is simply a statement made by the person or organization who diverted and used the water. Divisions of Water Rights staff do not analyze the contents of a Statement, or research the legal water right status of the diverter at the time of receipt. The processing of an Initial Statement may take up to 6-8 weeks. At a later time, a Statement may be reviewed for compliance purposes, but they are not systematically audited for accuracy. Diversions of water regulated by the Deputy Watermaster are not required to submit statements under the Statement Program.
Groundwater	The Groundwater Recordation Program began in the 1950s (Water Code, section 4999, et. seq.). Groundwater extractors can now report their annual use through local agencies, or with the State. Currently, the State requires all persons extracting groundwater in amounts greater than 10 acre-feet or more per year to report water use.