

March 2026

## **COMPONENT 5: STORMWATER DIVERSIONS MONITORING PLAN**

### **SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) IMPLEMENTATION GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 4600015877**

PREPARED FOR

TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**TEHAMA COUNTY**  
FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PREPARED BY



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### LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| Acronym | Meaning                                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| GSP     | Groundwater Sustainability Plan                             |
| PMA     | Projects and Management Actions                             |
| SGMA    | Sustainable Groundwater Management Act                      |
| SWRCB   | State Water Resources Control Board                         |
| TCFCWCD | Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District |
| TM      | Technical Memorandum                                        |

## 1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF STORMWATER DIVERSIONS

According to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and subsequent annual reports prepared for the Red Bluff Subbasin, the Subbasin is currently in a state of groundwater overdraft (TCFCWCD 2024). In order to address this overdraft, the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TCFCWCD), acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Tehama County portion of the Subbasin has developed Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) to decrease groundwater use and increase groundwater recharge.

One project identified by the TCFCWCD to address groundwater recharge is the diversion of flood flows from waterways within the subbasin for recharge purposes. The enactment of Water Code §1242.1 in 2023 provided an avenue to divert stormwater for recharge without obtaining appropriative water rights. Stormwater provides a cost-effective water source to be utilized for recharge. Stormwater diversions have the added benefit of reducing flooding from excess flows. A technical memorandum (TM) documenting watershed analyses conducted on creeks within the Red Bluff Subbasin was prepared as a part of this effort. The TM aims to establish stormflow thresholds to be utilized by the County to determine diversion windows during storm events. In addition to determining flood flow threshold, the TM also identified locations impacted by flooding that would benefit from stormwater diversions.

## 2. SITE LOCATION AND DETAILS

The sites investigated in this project include the Elder Creek and Thomes Creek watersheds within the Red Bluff Subbasin. A map of both watersheds is shown in **Figure 1**.

### 2.1. Elder Creek

Elder Creek is a 27-mile-long seasonal stream in western Tehama County, California. It originates in the Mendocino National Forest within the California Coast Ranges at the confluence of its North, Middle, and South forks, and flows east into the Sacramento River approximately 1 mile east of Gerber and 2 miles north of the town of Tehama. Elder Creek is a highly seasonal stream, flowing primarily during the winter and spring rainfall periods and often drying up completely by July.

### 2.2. Thomes Creek

Thomes Creek is a 62-mile-long seasonal waterway in western Tehama County, California and a significant tributary of the Sacramento River. It originates in the Mendocino National Forest, flows east through a deep valley before entering the Sacramento Valley floor near the town of Paskenta. The river joins the Sacramento River approximately 7 miles northeast of Corning and near the town of Tehama.

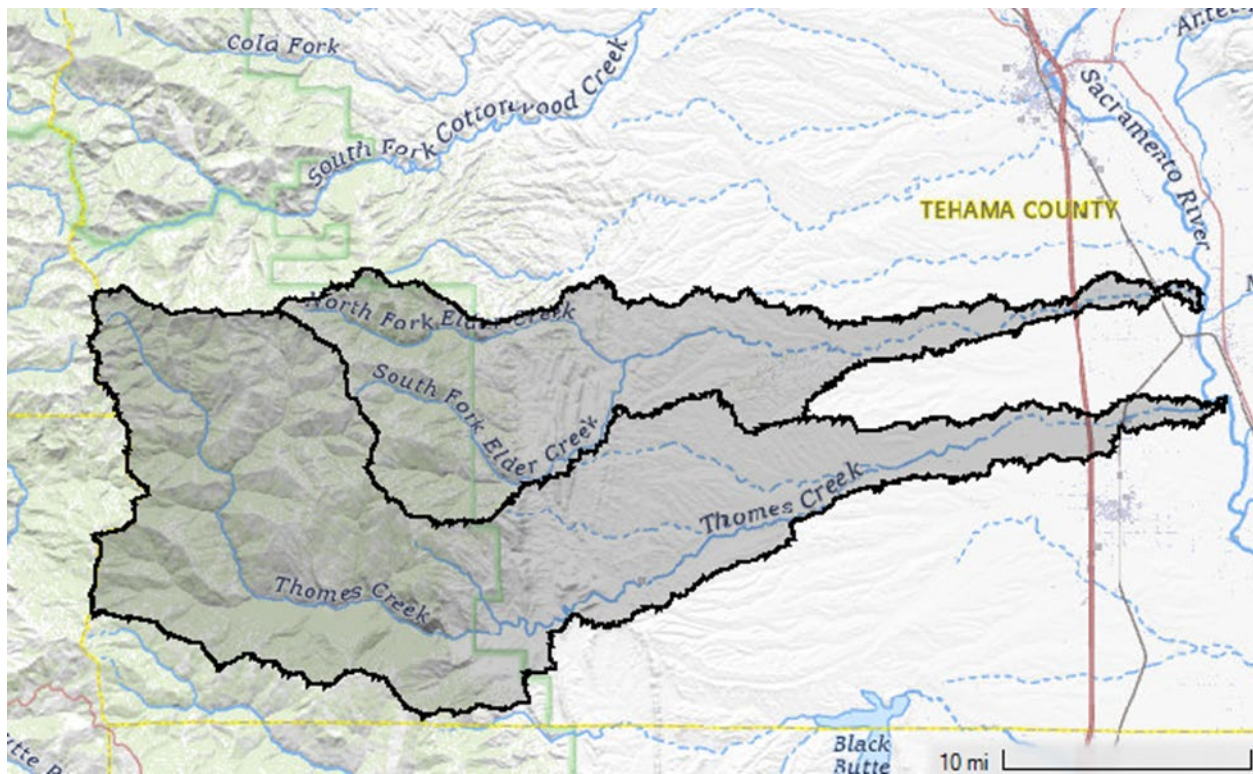


Figure 1. Elder and Thomes Creek Watersheds

### 3. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

This project did not involve any construction activities. The grant proposal for this project was for feasibility study work only and as such no funds were allocated for construction of any physical infrastructure. The short-term and infrequent nature of floodwater diversions in the subbasin also make the construction of permanent infrastructure a poor use of funds. Diversions from Thomes and Elder Creek will be made via existing diversion structures or temporary pumps.

### 4. QUANTIFICATION OF PROJECT BENEFITS

Floodwater diversions are expected to take place at varying frequencies based on the hydrology of both Thomes and Elder Creeks. Once the flood stage of the corresponding creek is met, a flood declaration can be made by a relevant agency and diversions can commence. Modeling efforts for both creeks yielded thresholds at which flood impacts would be expected, shown in **Table 1**. At the relevant flow rate, diversions to bring the total flow below the flood threshold would provide both flood mitigation and groundwater recharge benefits. Diversions could be made at any flow rate above the threshold which can range as high as the rates shown in **Table 1**.

| Table 1. Creek Diversion Information |                                       |                                                         |                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Creek                                | Flood Event Threshold Interval (year) | Flood Event Threshold Flow Rate (cubic feet per second) | Maximum Statistical/Observed Flow Rate (cubic feet per second) |
| Thomes                               | 5                                     | 13,801                                                  | 43,592                                                         |
| Elder                                | 10                                    | 10,561                                                  | 16,293                                                         |

### 5. MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

Monitoring and reporting for stormwater diversions is specified by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The first step in the process is a declaration of imminent flooding made by the relevant agency, in this case the TCFCWCD will make the declaration as they are the flood agency for Tehama County. When flood flow diversion criteria are met, diversions are then allowed using existing diversion infrastructure or temporary pumps.

Each diverter is then required to file three reports with the SWRCB and the TCFCWD in their capacity as the GSA. The first is a notice, which must be filed at least 48 hours before diverting if possible, but no later than 48 hours after diversions begin. Then, a preliminary report, detailing the amount of water diverted, location of the diversion and inundation, and other pieces of information must be submitted to the SWRCB and TCFCWCD within 14 days of the start of diversions. Then, a final report with finalized diversion volumes must be submitted no later than 15 days after diversions have ended. The fillable form for all three reports is available on the SWRCB website at the following link:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/groundwater-recharge/docs/flood-recharge-diversions-form.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/groundwater-recharge/docs/flood-recharge-diversions-form.pdf) and is also included as **Appendix A**.

The TCFCWCD will compile recharge volumes from all diverters through the water year and report amounts recharged as part of the annual reporting process for the GSP.

## 6. REFERENCES

Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TCFCWCD). 2024. Red Bluff Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

## **Appendix A: Flood Recharge Diversions Reporting Forms**

# Flood Recharge Diversions (Water Code §1242.1) Reporting Forms

For information regarding the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information, please review the [privacy notice on collection](#)

**CHOOSE REPORT TYPE FROM DROP-DOWN:**  
( Notice, Initial or Final )

-SELECT-

- Attach verification of reported information, as necessary: [click here](#) → **attach**
- Reports received will be posted on website: [Water Code 1242.1 Flood Diversion](#)
- Direct questions and notice/report submittals to: [FloodDiversion@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:FloodDiversion@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Flood Diversion Reporting is Not a Water Right**

## NOTICE:

- The required Notice shall be filed with the State Water Board **48 hours before** (if feasible, but in no case later than **48 hours after**) diversions begin - §1242.1(g)(1)(A)
- If a website is not provided as proof of notice, attach documentation of noticing (PDF, JPG, etc.)
- Calendar date & time (Pacific Standard) the Board receives the submittal serves as the official "filing".
- The submittal filing date will be posted on the [Water Code §1242.1 Flood Diversion Website](#)

## 1 Diverter information:

Owner Name:

Facility Name:

Waterbody Source:

County:

-SELECT-

## 2 CHOOSE DATE & TIME DIVERSION BEGAN :

MONTH/DAY/YEAR

HOUR

MINUTES

AM/PM

## 3 Local or Regional agency identifying risk of flooding downstream:

Flood threshold/indicator:

Method & location of noticing:

Website URL if applicable:

## 4 Provide an estimate, as of the report's date, of the amount of flood flows to be diverted:

(acre-feet)

**Provide locations of all points of diversion (latitude/longitude), and associated assessor parcel numbers (APNs).**

The Department of Water Resources maintains a Groundwater Recharge website with tutorials, webinars and a page for general questions. There is also an online application that can be used to help identify coordinates, APNs, acres, GSA information, and develop a map. Visit this link : <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-groundwater-recharge-information>

**5 Attach map showing associated inundation areas.**

click here

attach

Attach PDF or JPG file

**6 GPS Coordinates (Decimal Degrees # # # . # #):**

To list additional Points of Diversion (PODs), please see

Addendum

POD #1

Latitude

Longitude

POD #2

POD #3

**7 List APNs that could be or were inundated by the diversion activity:**

(# # # - # # # # - # # # - # # # # separated by commas)

**INITIAL & FINAL REPORTS:**

- **Preliminary report** to be filed with the Board and any applicable GSA, no later than **14 days after** diversions begin - §1242.1(g)(1)(B)
- **Final report** to be filed with the Board and any applicable GSA, no later than **15 days after** diversions end - §1242.1(g)(1)(C)

**8 Diverter information:**

Owner Name:

Facility Name:

Waterbody Source:

County:

-SELECT-

**9 CHOOSE DATE DIVERSIONS BEGAN/END FROM DROP-DOWN OPTIONS:**

Date diversions began:

Date diversions end:

(for initial report, leave blank)

MONTH

DAY

YEAR

(acre-feet)

(acres)

**10 Provide an estimate, as of the report's date, of the amount of flood flows diverted:**

**11 Provide an estimate of the maximum area of inundation:**

**12 Local entity (flood control agency, city or county) identifying risk of flooding downstream:**

**13 You must also provide this report to the Groundwater Sustainability Agency(s) (GSAs) for basin(s) receiving recharge.**

Identify GSAs you will notify:

(You may choose to provide GSA notification as cc's on your submittal email)

Date of notification:

**Additional Points of Diversion (PODs)**

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| POD #4  | POD #26 |
| POD #5  | POD #27 |
| POD #6  | POD #28 |
| POD #7  | POD #29 |
| POD #8  | POD #30 |
| POD #9  | POD #31 |
| POD #10 | POD #32 |
| POD #11 | POD #33 |
| POD #12 | POD #34 |
| POD #13 | POD #35 |
| POD #14 | POD #36 |
| POD #15 | POD #37 |
| POD #16 | POD #38 |
| POD #17 | POD #39 |
| POD #18 | POD #40 |
| POD #19 | POD #41 |
| POD #20 | POD #42 |
| POD #21 | POD #43 |
| POD #22 | POD #44 |
| POD #23 | POD #45 |
| POD #24 | POD #46 |
| POD #25 | POD #47 |

**Self Certification For INITIAL/FINAL Reports:**

Please check all boxes that apply

**Please verify that you HAVE NOT diverted at:**

- ☐ Any barns, ponds, or lands where manure or waste from an animal facility that generates waste from the feeding and housing of animals for more than 45 days per year in a confined area that is not vegetated are applied.
- ☐ Any agricultural field that has been identified as an outlier with respect to nitrogen application by any of the following: The board, appropriate regional board, agricultural coalition charged with implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.
- ☐ Any area that could cause damage to critical levees, infrastructure, wastewater and drinking water systems, drinking water wells or drinking water supplies, or exacerbate the threat of flood and other health and safety concerns.
- ☐ Any area that has not been in active irrigated agricultural cultivation within the past three years, including grazing lands, annual grasslands, and natural habitats. This limitation does not apply to facilities already constructed for the purpose of groundwater recharge or managed wetlands.

**Please verify which of these apply:**

- ☐ Diversions utilize existing infrastructure.
- ☐ Diversions do not require new permanent construction.
- ☐ Diversions utilize temporary pumps.
- ☐ Diversions from tributaries to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta would occur under excess conditions as described in [Water Board's Technical Guidance](#) document.
- ☐ Screens constructed of any rigid material, perforated, woven, or slotted, that provides water passage while physically excluding fish.
- ☐ Screen face is parallel to the flow and adjacent to the water's edge.
- ☐ Upstream and downstream transitions to the screen structure are designed and constructed to minimize eddies upstream of, in front of, and downstream of the screen, while minimizing entrainment to the degree feasible.
- ☐ Diverter has reviewed fish screen recommendations and design parameters as described in [Water Board's Technical Guidance](#) document.

**Please check if apply to either the LOCAL or REGIONAL AGENCY:**

- ☐ Has adopted a local plan of flood control.
- ☐ Has considered flood risk as part of its most recently adopted general plan.
- ☐ Diversion trigger identified by local or regional agency in a Proclaimed Drought County, per [Executive Order N-16-25](#).
- ☐ Has given notice via its internet website/electronic distribution list/emergency notification service/another means of public notice, that flows downstream of the point of diversion are at imminent risk of flooding and inundation of land, roads, or structures. Request provide notice as attachment.

**Check if the following APPLY to your diversions:**

- ☐ Ceased when the flood conditions described in the public notice have abated to the point there is no longer a risk of flooding.
- ☐ PERSON OR ENTITY MAKING THE DIVERSION FOR GROUNDWATER RECHARGE DOES NOT CLAIM ANY WATER RIGHT BASED ON THAT DIVERSION AND RECHARGE.

**By signing below, I certify that all information is true  
and correct to the best of my knowledge**

PRINT NAME (First & Last):

TITLE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMPANY:

SIGNATURE:

SIGN DATE:

**ATTACHMENTS**

**SUBMIT TO EMAIL**

### **State Water Resources Control Board Privacy Notice on Collection**

[Civil Code section 1798.17](#) requires a Privacy Notice on Collection to be provided when personal information is collected. Individuals have the right to review personal information maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Boards), unless access is exempted by law. You may review your records by contacting the official responsible for maintaining your information below. We will not disclose your personal information unless authorized by law. To learn more about our Privacy Policy, visit [waterboards.ca.gov/privacy.html](http://waterboards.ca.gov/privacy.html).

**Please do not include any personal information that is not requested**

#### **Authority for Collection of Personal Information**

The Division of Water Rights collects the information requested on the form as authorized by Statutory Water Rights Law [Article 4 sections 1242.1-3](#).

#### **Principal Purpose for Which the Information Collected is to Be Used**

Personal information is collected to track and evaluate flood water diversions for groundwater recharge.

#### **Known or Foreseeable Disclosures of the Information**

We may disclose any information added to the report, since it will be posted to our Flood Diversion website. Your personal information may be shared with other units or state departments.

#### **Consequences of Not Providing Any or All Parts of the Requested Information**

Please note that this request for information is made on a voluntary basis and does not constitute a subpoena or legally binding demand. Failure to provide the requested information may result in delays or elimination from flood diversion reporting program (Statutory Water Rights Law Article 4 sections 1242.1-3).

#### **Official Responsible for Maintenance of Information**

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, environmental scientist.

#### **Contact Information for Responsible Official**

1001 I St.  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 341-5300