

State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND STAFF WORKSHOP ON DRAFT EMERGENCY INFORMATION ORDER REGULATIONS FOR THE CLEAR LAKE WATERSHED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will accept written comments on proposed Draft Emergency Information Order Regulations for the Clear Lake Watershed (draft regulations).

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The draft regulations are available online at <https://waterboards.ca.gov/clearlakehitch/>.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments must be received no later than **12:00 p.m. (noon) on October 31, 2023**. Please email written comments to ClearLakeHitch@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject “**Clear Lake Emergency Regulation Comments**”.

NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN that State Water Board staff will hold the following public workshops to receive input and answer questions on the draft regulations.

In-Person Participation Only

Thursday, October 19, 2023 – 2:00 p.m. (PDT)
Lake County Board of Supervisors Chambers
255 N Forbes St # 109
Lakeport, CA 95453

A quorum of State Water Board members may be present, but no action will be taken.

Remote Participation Only

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. (PDT)
Online via Zoom

Registration is required.

Please register at bit.ly/CLH_Oct24 to receive participation instructions.

PURPOSE OF DRAFT REGULATIONS

The draft regulations would allow the State Water Board to gather information on water use from water right holders or water users in the Clear Lake watershed – including groundwater users. Information may include groundwater well location and depth, extraction rates or volumes, timing and frequency of extractions, beneficial uses, and other information relevant to the State Water Board’s Clear Lake hitch protection efforts. The draft regulations also include an alternative reporting mechanism that could allow for modified reporting requirements for water users who participate in key voluntary actions.

BACKGROUND

The Clear Lake hitch is a large minnow found only in Clear Lake and its tributaries. The hitch population has been declining for some time, but recent drought exacerbated conditions. Of particular concern is the amount of water flowing through Clear Lake creeks from February through June for hitch spawning and rearing.

In March 2023, Governor Newsom issued [Executive Order N-5-23](#), which directed the State Water Board to evaluate minimum instream flows, work with water users and Tribes on voluntary actions, and consider emergency regulations to protect the Clear Lake hitch.

Based on current available data, it is possible that groundwater pumping in the Clear Lake watershed may be impacting creek flows, but additional data is needed to better understand the groundwater-surface water relationship and potential solutions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information regarding the Clear Lake hitch emergency, visit the [Clear Lake hitch webpage](#). To receive updates, please subscribe to the Clear Lake hitch email list at the bottom of the webpage.

CONTACT

If you have questions regarding this notice or related efforts, please email ClearLakeHitch@waterboards.ca.gov.

September 5, 2023
Date


Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board