



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

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RECEIPT NUMBER:

47-12/12/2025-070

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 12/12/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SISKIYOU COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 2025-47-070	
PROJECT TITLE		

WELL WATER PERMIT #25066

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME JOSEPH FARIS	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 806 SOUTH MAIN STREET	CITY YREKA	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 96094

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) \$ 4,123.50 \$ _____
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$ 2,968.75 \$ _____
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$ 1,401.75 \$ _____

☒ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) \$ 850.00 \$ _____
☐ County documentary handling fee \$ 50.00 \$ _____
☐ Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 0.00

SIGNATURE X ENDORSED-D. BROOKS	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Dana Brooks Deputy Clerk
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Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Siskiyou
311 Fourth Street, Room 201
Yreka CA 96097

From: (Public Agency): Environmental Health Division
806 South Main Street
Yreka CA 96097

FILED

(Address) Siskiyou County

DEC 12 2025

LAURA BYNUM, CLERK

Project Title: Water Well Permit #25066

BY:

Project Applicant: Joseph Faris

ENDORSED BY: BROOKS

Project Location - Specific:

7619 Machado Lane, Montague, CA (APN: 039-181-270)

Project Location - City: Montague

Project Location - County: Siskiyou

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
Approval of a production well.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Siskiyou County Community Development

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Environmental Health Division

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15303 and 15061(b)(3)
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
See attachment.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Halley Lang

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-841-2100

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature: Halley Lang Date: 12/11/2025 Title: Director

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:

Reason why project is exempt:

Larry Walker and Associates performed a hydrogeological analysis utilizing their hydrologic modeling tool from which Natural Resources and Community Development has concluded the separation distance and well pumping drawdown indicates that the production well will not have a significant adverse impact on public trust resources. County staff has determined that the well does not pose any threat to human health, safety, or the environment. Per the Siskiyou County Flood Control District, this well is consistent with historic activity occurring on the parcel and is also consistent with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for Shasta Valley. See memorandum for additional details.

12/15

12/15



December 8, 2025

MEMORANDUM

MEMO TO: RICK DEAN, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT, SISKIYOU COUNTY

FROM: MATT PARKER, NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST,
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: PUBLIC TRUST CONSIDERATION: JOE FARIS PRODUCTION
WELL PERMIT APPLICATION, APN: 039-181-270

Whereas the counties, as subdivisions of the State of California have a fiduciary duty to consider the public trust before authorizing the drilling of groundwater well whose extractions might have an adverse impact on public trust resources.

The Siskiyou County Natural Resources Department (Department) has reviewed the above entitled well permit application for a production well to serve the purpose of irrigating 22 acres of farmland in the Shasta Valley. The Department has reviewed 1) the information in the application, and 2) the technical memorandum (Attachment #1) prepared by Larry Walker Associates to aid in its evaluation of Public Trust Doctrine consideration.

The Department finds:

- The well location is approximately 3.5 miles from the nearest navigable waterway (Shasta River).
- The professional technical memorandum prepared by Larry Walker Associates, which models impacts from the proposed well, along with the other materials reviewed, do not indicate that extraction of water from the proposed well would substantially impair or interfere with public trust uses or values within interconnected downstream navigable waters, including the Shasta River.
- More specifically, under the conditions specified below, the limited pumping from this existing Agricultural Use (22 acres) in the Shasta Valley watershed in the same historic farmed acreage will not substantially impair or interfere with public trust uses or values within interconnected downstream navigable waters, including the Shasta River.

- To the extent the use of groundwater from this site may ultimately contribute to cumulative reductions in surface waters in downstream navigable waters, the production of groundwater for irrigation use on this parcel in the Shasta Valley is within the public interest because this parcel holds groundwater rights intended to be put to beneficial use consistent with Article X, section 2 of the California Constitution.
- The issuance of this permit for a production well purpose qualifies as a Class 3 categorical exemption under Section 15303 of the CEQA Guidelines which allows for construction and installation of small new equipment facilities. In addition, the project has been found to be consistent with Siskiyou County Codes and Policies.

Production Well water use (well permit conditions):

- Water production is not to exceed irrigation of the 22 acres of farmland historically farmed on APN #039-181-270
- The subject well shall be in compliance with current and any future directives put forth by the Shasta Valley Groundwater sustainability Agency (GSA) to maintain groundwater sustainability, including monitoring and addressing impacts to Public Trust Resources. In the Shasta Valley the project and management actions may include but are not limited to reporting of pumping volume, strategic groundwater pumping restrictions, voluntary well metering

Attachment:

- Attachment #1 - LWA Technical Memorandum

**Preliminary evaluation of proposed well JF
APN 039-181-270, Shasta Valley, CA**

This technical memorandum (TM) describes a preliminary modeling analysis of the effects of pumping proposed well JF in Shasta Valley, California (Figure 1) on Shasta River streamflow.

The Shasta Watershed Groundwater Model (SWGM), documented in the GSP¹, was used to simulate pumping from the proposed well. SWGM represents the best currently available scientific tool for this purpose. The model is presently being updated through the GSP process, and the current version of the model was used for the analysis presented in this memorandum.

Thus, SWGM was applied to evaluate impacts of the proposed pumping on streamflow in the Shasta River. Location, depth, pumping rate, and period of pumping, along with use information, for the proposed well were provided by the applicant and are listed in Table 1.

SWGM grid cell location for the pumping was determined from the well location provided by the applicant, and model layer for the pumping from JF was determined from the land surface elevation at the proposed well site and the expected completion depth of the well.

Streamflow impacts were evaluated by comparing model results with well JF pumping to results of the baseline scenario. The estimated pumping rate of JF is 40 gallons per minute (gpm), and the well is planned to operate from April through November (Table 1), which is 243 days. However, Table 1 also reports the estimated annual extraction volume to irrigate the pasture is 60 acre-feet, which suggests that pumping would not occur continuously at 40 gpm during the 8 months of use. Thus, an average pumping rate of 55.87 gpm for the period, which totals 60 acre-ft for the season, was simulated to evaluate the streamflow impacts.

Note that the permit application for JF indicates this is for deepening an existing well; also, the purpose of the proposed pumping is to supply the

¹ Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Shasta Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan, January 2022, <https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/naturalresources/page/shasta-valley>

demand when Irrigation District water is not available. Thus, the model results presented in this memo represent effects of the maximum amount of pumping that may occur for this well.

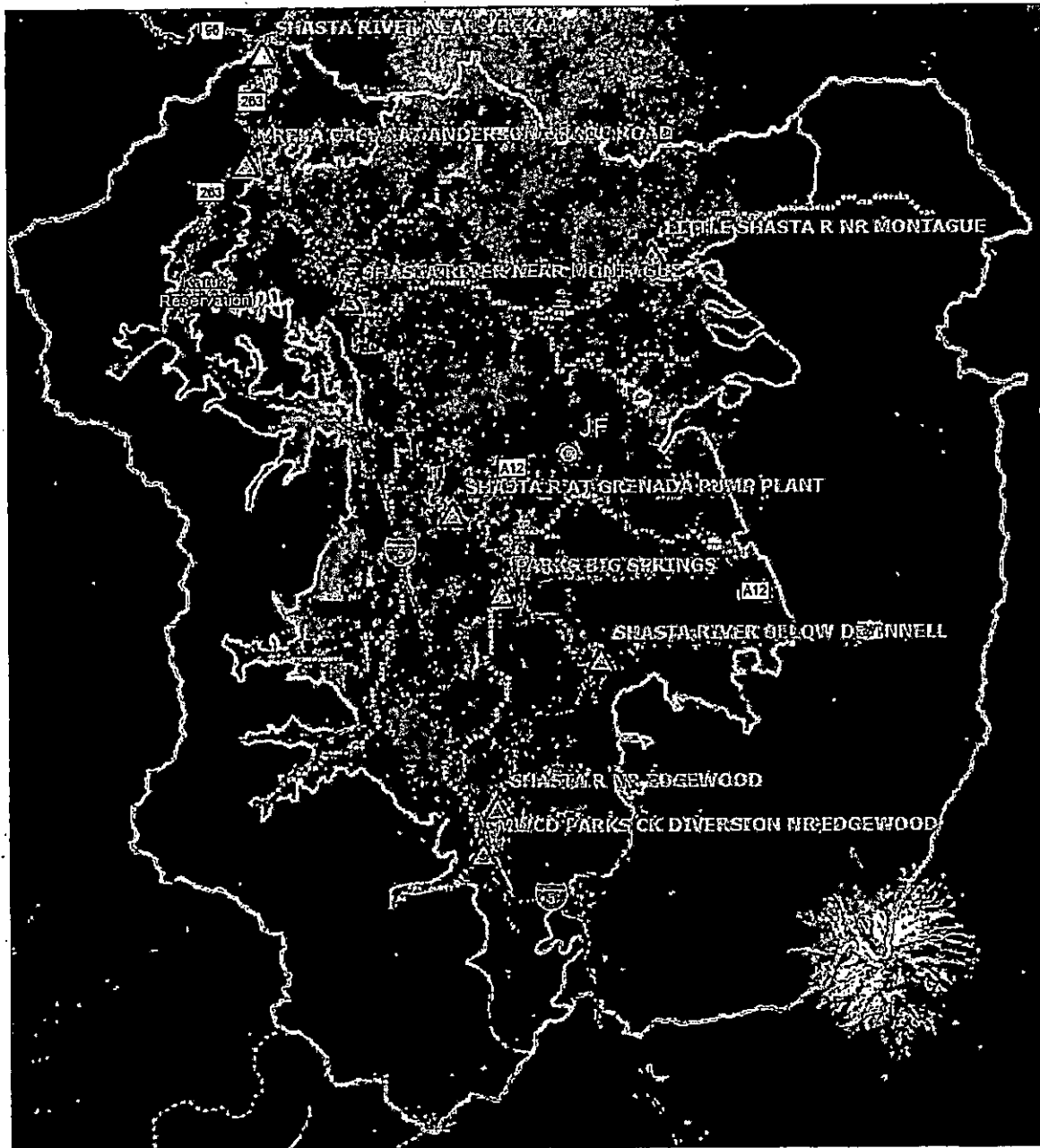


Figure 1. Map showing Shasta Valley watershed and groundwater basin, Shasta River, stream gage locations, and location of proposed well JF.

Table 1. Proposed well information.

Well Code	Lat	Long	Estimated Pumping Rate (gpm)	Estimated Depth (ft)	Estimated Time Frame of Use	Estimated Acreage of Use	Estimated Annual Extraction Vol (acre-ft)	Crop Type	Irrigation Method
JF	41.6387	-122.4	40	150	April – November	22	60	Pasture; grass	Sprinkler

JF model coordinates (NAD_1983_California_Teale_Albers)

x: -200221 m

y: 404900.3 m

SWGM model row: 83

SWGM model column: 109

SWGM model layer: 2

Evaluation of Proposed Well JF

Figure 2 shows the location of the proposed pumping well JF, east of Grenada. Tributaries to the Shasta River are shown both to the south and to the north of the proposed well location. Blue shaded cells represent the Shasta River and its tributaries, and red shaded cells represent virtual agricultural pumping wells² in SWGM. The closest reach on Big Springs Creek to well JF is about 2.6 miles to the south; the distance from well JF to the closest reach of the Shasta River is approximately 3.5 miles to the southwest.

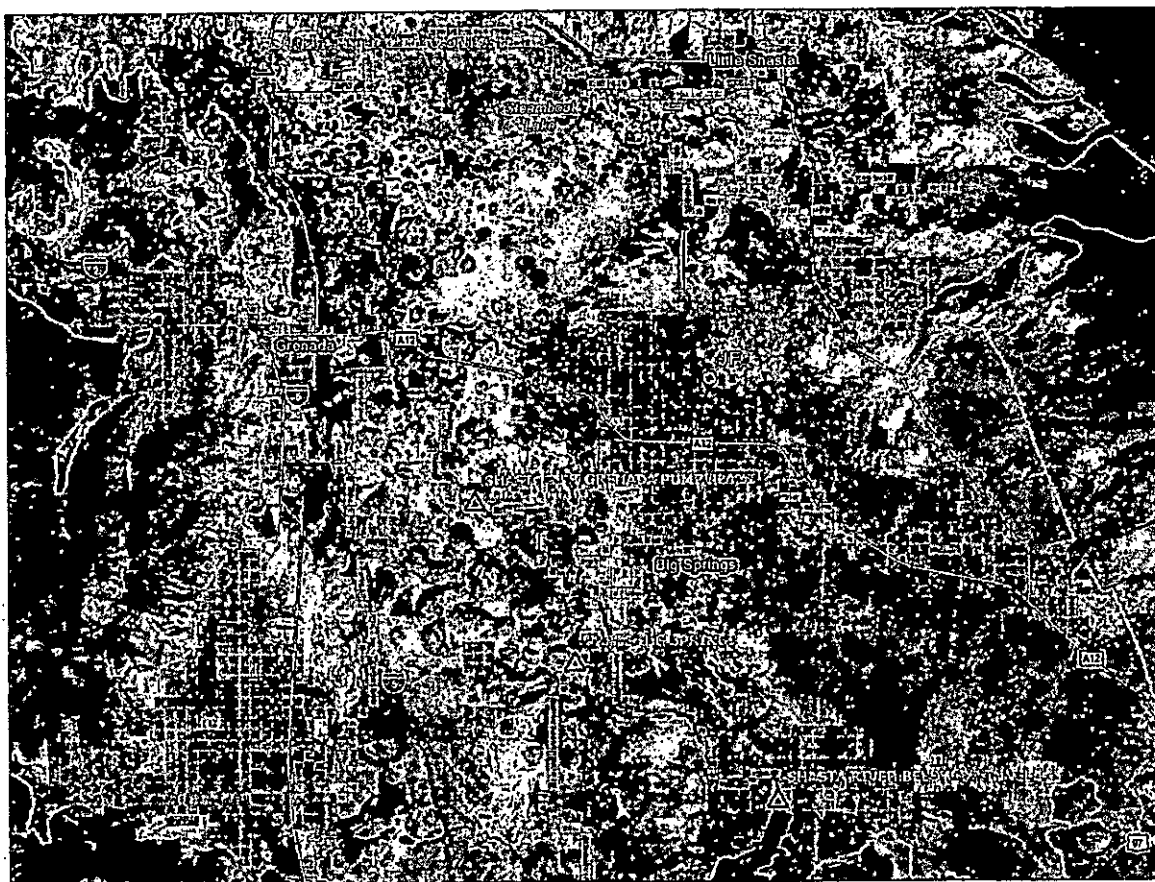


Figure 2. Map showing location of proposed well JF, Shasta River and its tributaries, and agricultural pumping locations in SWGM.

Figure 3 shows an east-west cross-section along the SWGM in the vicinity of well JF. Model grid cells are uniform in map view with an area of 270 m², but are variable in thickness. In the vicinity of well JF, model layer 1; the

²Actual agricultural irrigation well locations were not determined in the current model configuration; thus, virtual wells were used to distribute the irrigation pumping estimated by University of California, Davis and Larry Walker Associates.

uppermost layer, is about 13 m or 43 ft in thickness; model layer 2 is 50 m or about 164 ft in thickness; model layer 3 is 100 m or 328 ft thick, and model layer 4 is 350 m or 1,148 ft thick. In this view, the model representation of the Shasta River and its tributaries is indicated with a green shaded cell in layer 1. The location of agricultural wells in the current model is depicted with red shaded cells. Cyan shaded cells in layer 1 indicate locations of irrigation ditches. The location of well JF is shown by the blue circular symbol with an "X" inside. The screen interval of JF is determined to be located within SWGM model layer 2, which corresponds with the expected depth of well JF.

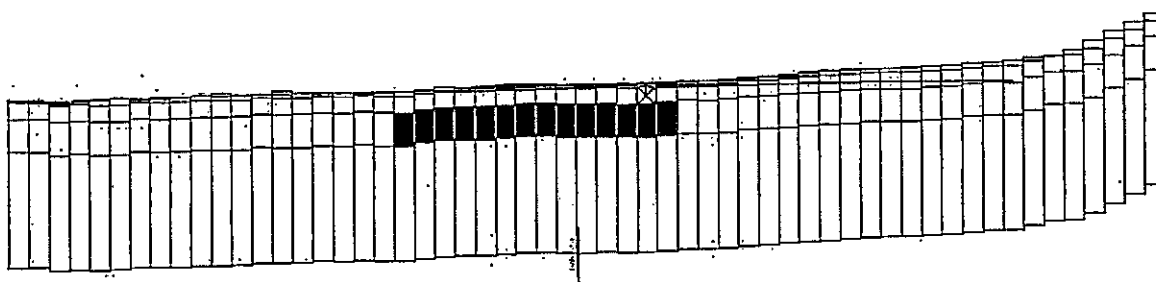


Figure 3. Cross-section of model grid in vicinity of well JF. Model rows are oriented along east-west cardinal directions on a compass: east is to the right and west is to the left.

Figure 4 shows contours of the difference in the computed water table elevation with well JF pumping compared to the baseline model. Maximum drawdown at the water table is about 0.04 m, and maximum drawdown along Big Springs Creek is approximately 0.004 m or about 0.4 cm. Maximum drawdown along Shasta River is about 0.002 m or 0.2 cm.

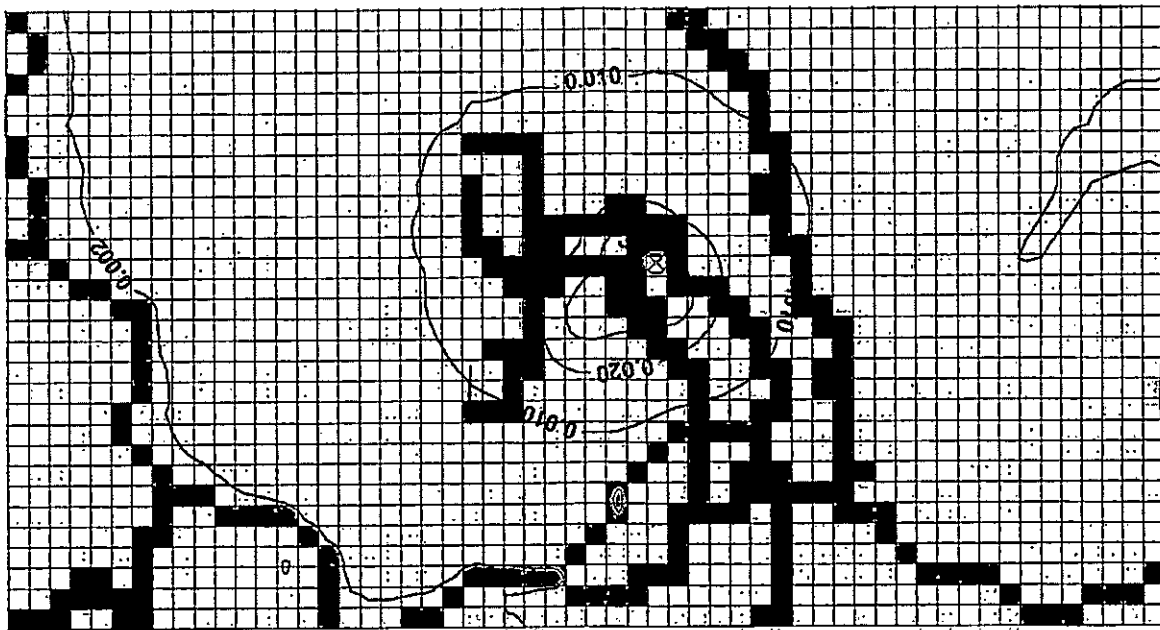


Figure 4. Contours of water table difference, in meters, due to pumping Well JF. Variable contour interval is shown. Green shaded cells represent Shasta River and its tributaries; cyan shaded cells represent irrigation ditches. The black line designates the groundwater basin boundary.

Streamflow depletion along the Shasta River and its tributaries due to pumping from well JF varies through time. Initially, the water pumped by the well comes from groundwater storage corresponding with groundwater level declines but, with time, an increasing amount of the pumped water is derived from reduced discharge to the streams and induced infiltration from the streams. Table 1 indicates that pumping from well JF occurs during the irrigation season from April through November; effects of the additional pumping continue for a time after pumping stops, then the system transitions back to its previous state as the irrigation season ends and the wet season begins, then the cycle repeats.

Based on comparison of model computed streamflow over 33 years in the baseline vs. well JF pumping scenario at the Shasta River near Montague gage (SRM), annual average streamflow depletion increases to about 84 percent of the annual pumping of well JF, which is 60 acre-ft (Table 1). It requires about 10 years to reach this value of approximately 50.5 acre-ft per year of the well discharge being supplied by streamflow depletion. Maximum streamflow depletion represents approximately 0.03 percent of modeled average annual streamflow at the SRM gage.

Limitations

SWGM is presently being updated and recalibrated. Currently, some areas of the model are better calibrated than others. Thus, computed groundwater levels and flows, and stream flows, may change as improvements are included in the model. However, the evaluation described herein is based on changes in heads and streamflow from the baseline model, which should help minimize issues with the current status of calibration. An additional limitation of this analysis is that, currently, pumping from individual wells is evaluated separately; however, the effects of permitting multiple new wells are additive. Thus, a model simulation that includes all the permitted wells would be needed to evaluate the combined effects on streamflow depletion. Further, this simple approach for evaluating the proposed wells assumes that the recharge, due to climatic variations over the past 33 years, will follow the same pattern with the same rates in the future. It also assumes that, except for the addition of JF, future pumping will occur at the same locations and rates as the historical modeled values.

Future hydrology (wet or dry years), if different than the period simulated, could result in more or less computed streamflow depletion due to differences in accompanying aquifer recharge rates. A future simulation with projected hydrology could address this limitation on estimating long-term impacts from the proposed pumping.

Conclusions

The SWGM was used to compute groundwater level and streamflow impacts, due to pumping proposed well JF, on the Shasta River. Results based on the current model suggest that pumping at the proposed location, depth, pumping rate and duration, would have minimal impact on streamflow in the Shasta River.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL FEE FORM

On 12/12/2025, Joseph Faris filed an application
(Date) (Name)

for development with the County of Siskiyou. Before the application
(Name of City)

is accepted as complete for processing, fees in the following amount(s) must be deposited with the County Clerk.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clerk Processing Fee	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative Declaration	\$2,968.75*
<input type="checkbox"/>	EIR	\$4,123.50
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorically Exempt	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Statutorily Exempt	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fee Exemption issued by the DFG	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	\$ _____

No project shall be operative, vested or final until the required fee is paid. *Public Resources Code §21089 (b)*

On 12/12/2025, Siskiyou Environmental Health deposited \$ 50.00,
(Date) (Name)

with the Siskiyou County Clerk ENDORSED-D. BROOKS
(Attest)

Application No. N/A
(To be completed when application is received for processing)

Receipt # 20250046751
47-121212025-070

* If it is determined by Siskiyou County that the fee required for a Negative Declaration does not apply to your project a refund will be granted.
2025 Fee Form

IGC
32605751