

Recharge Water Rights Permitting and Flood Diversions

September 16, 2026



Amanda Montgomery, Division of Water Rights

Water Rights Permitting

Authorization to divert and beneficially use surface water

Temporary Permits

- 180-day
- 5-year
- Common starting point

'Standard' Permits

- Permanent - secures priority date
- Longer processing time than temporary permit

Change Petition

- Modify an existing permit or license
- Temporary (180-day or 5-year)
- Permanent change

Temporary Permitting: Challenges



GOAL: READY TO
DIVERT WHEN HIGH
FLOWS OCCUR



PROJECT PLANNING
CEQA



DEMONSTRATING
WATER AVAILABLE FOR
A PROJECT



PUBLIC CONCERNS

Temporary Permitting: Opportunities



GOAL: READY TO
DIVERT WHEN HIGH
FLOWS OCCUR



PREFILING
CONSULTATION
REDUCED FILING FEE IF
APPLYING EARLY
5 YEARS FOR COST OF
SINGLE SEASON



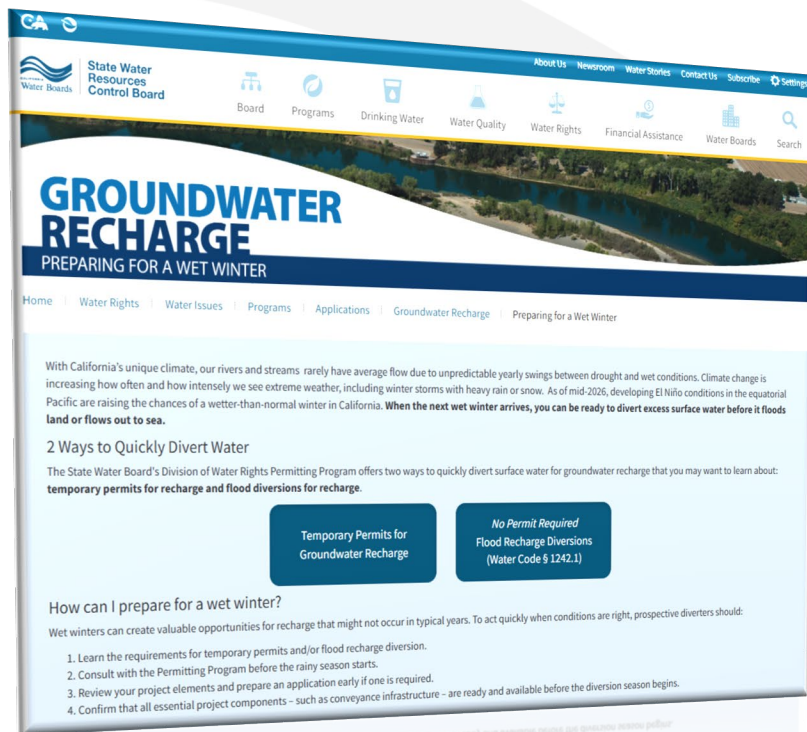
STREAMLINED PATHWAY
90/20 BASED ON
EXISTING GAGE OR
FLOOD FLOWS TRIGGER



APPLICANTS EARLY
OUTREACH
PROJECT BENEFITS AND
PROPOSED PROTECTIVE
CONDITIONS

Flood Diversions for Recharge

- No permit required
- July 10, 2023 to January 1, 2029
- Parties comply with Water Code conditions
- Noticing and reporting requirements
- Form, reports received, technical guidance on Board's webpage
- **Challenge:** Availability of plans for diversion trigger



Interested in learning more?

https://waterboards.ca.gov/groundwater_recharge/wetwinter.html