

# SCOTT VALLEY WATER

**Did you know?** A new law is now controlling water in Scott Valley. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) is a statewide law which, for the first time, targets groundwater use in all California basins. Regulations that will change Scott Valley water use are being drafted now. SGMA requires the County to be our regulating agency, or the State will take over. We must support our County if we hope to avoid being regulated directly by the State. Our County will be more accountable and mindful of residents' needs.

**What could happen?** Scott Valley's problem—according to the State—is that we need more water in the Scott River for fish in late summer. Studies have linked groundwater use to river flows. If the State becomes our regulating agency, it could use SGMA to make municipalities and farmers pump less water by:

- **Metering wells—at landowners' expense.**
- **Charging fees and fines for water use.**
- **Forcing pump turn-off dates.**

Depriving farmers and ranchers of their water may force them to sell out and subdivide. Please support Scott Valley agriculture by opposing these options!

**What should happen?** We must find other ways to put water in the river. Actually, SGMA provides opportunities to do that. The law states one of its purposes is to “increase groundwater storage and remove impediments to recharge.” So, we should pursue projects such as:

- **Water storage:** Using new or existing reservoirs to store water during the wet months. Some of our mountain lakes even have the potential to store extra water for release in the fall.
- **Groundwater recharge:** Using existing ditch systems to flood-irrigate fields during the winter months. That water will slowly make its way to the river in the summer months, keeping the river running longer.
- **Thinning upland brush and trees** to decrease their water demand.
- **Fish-friendly structures or devices** to slow flows and raise water table.
- **Continuing to improve irrigation efficiency.**

**The truth about Scott Valley ag water use:** Scott Valley agriculture uses little water compared to the amount that flows down the Scott River and out to the ocean every year. During 7 to 10 days of high spring flows, enough water flows out of the valley to supply all of Scott Valley's farmers and ranchers with the water they need for the whole irrigation season.

For the benefit of all, let's hold onto some of our water—not turn off our pumps!

**Get involved!** Please lend your support. If the State rejects the County's plan, the State will regulate us instead.

- The County wants to hear your input. Attend the meetings held every month (see [https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/recent\\_meetings](https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/recent_meetings)).
- Send comments or questions to Siskiyou County Natural Resources ([SGMA@co.siskiyou.ca.us](mailto:SGMA@co.siskiyou.ca.us), (530) 842-8019, or 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097) or to Paul Sweezey ([rdspaul@sisqtel.net](mailto:rdspaul@sisqtel.net)), Groundwater Advisory Committee member.
- Learn more at <https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/naturalresources/page/sustainable-groundwater-management-act-sgma>.

# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

## Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Ch 4 p 31 line  
953

"Strategic Groundwater Pumping Reductions" Comment: This section should be removed. This valley is not in an overdraft, and the GSP is on course to prevent that from happening without implementing any pump turn-offs. Even if well outages are experienced in certain areas, asking everyone to stop pumping is not fair. For example, if a person builds a house near some alfalfa fields and then their house well goes dry, it's not fair to ask the neighboring farmers to turn off their pumps.

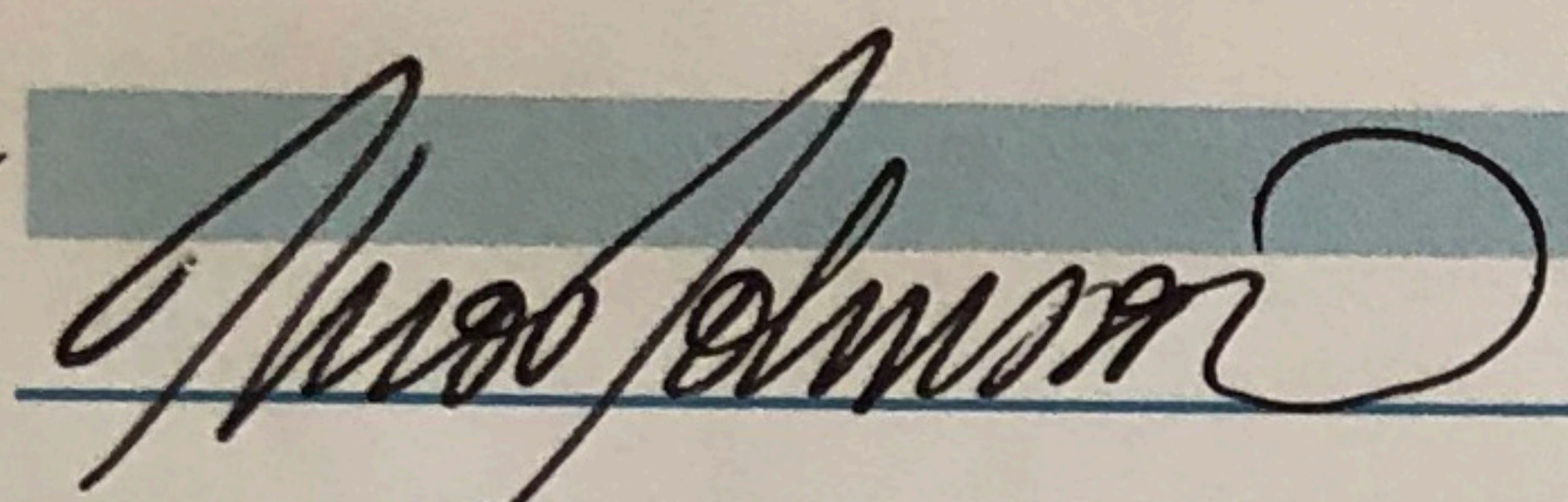
Using pump shut-offs as a "solution" in the plan will only result in pressure to bump up the shut-off dates and wells. The mechanism should be removed entirely.

Ch 4 p 32

Again, PMAs to be added or studied:

- Building a clay dam at the bottom of the valley, and
- Pumping water into the river in late summer/fall when and where connectivity is desired.

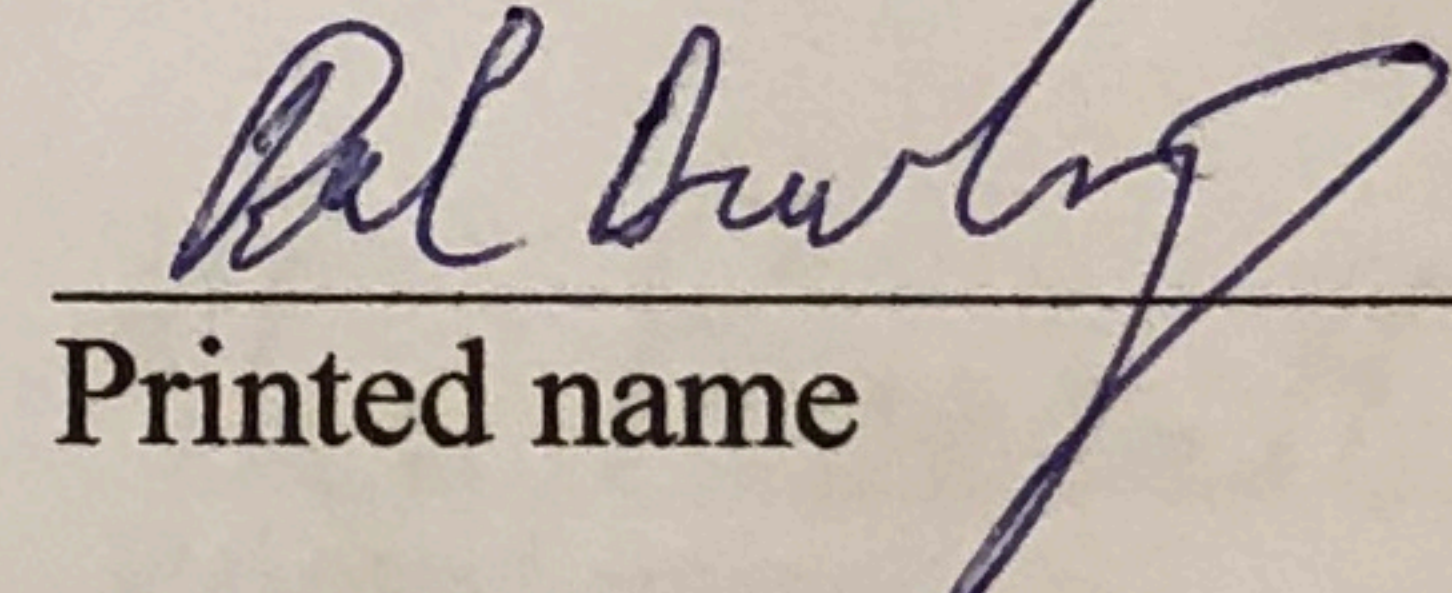
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Paul Dowling  
Signature

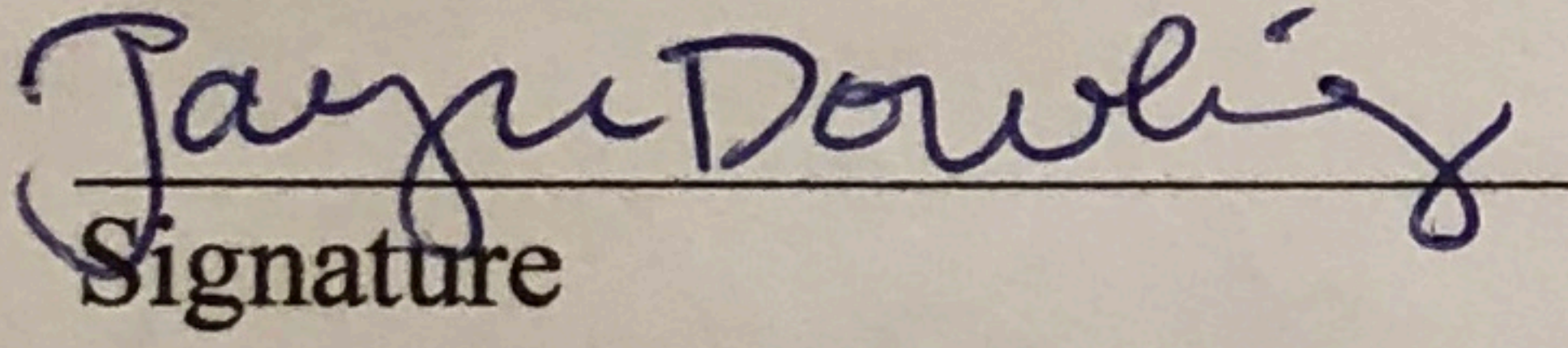
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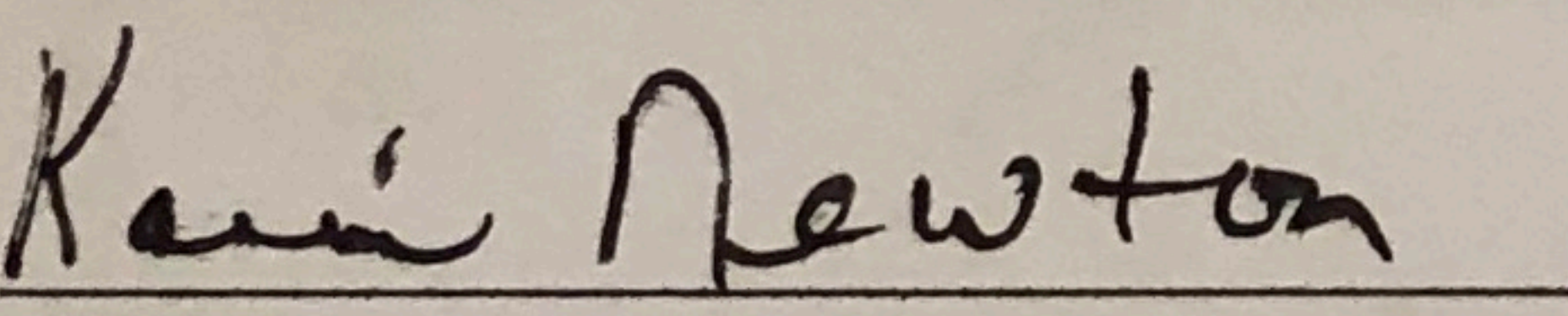
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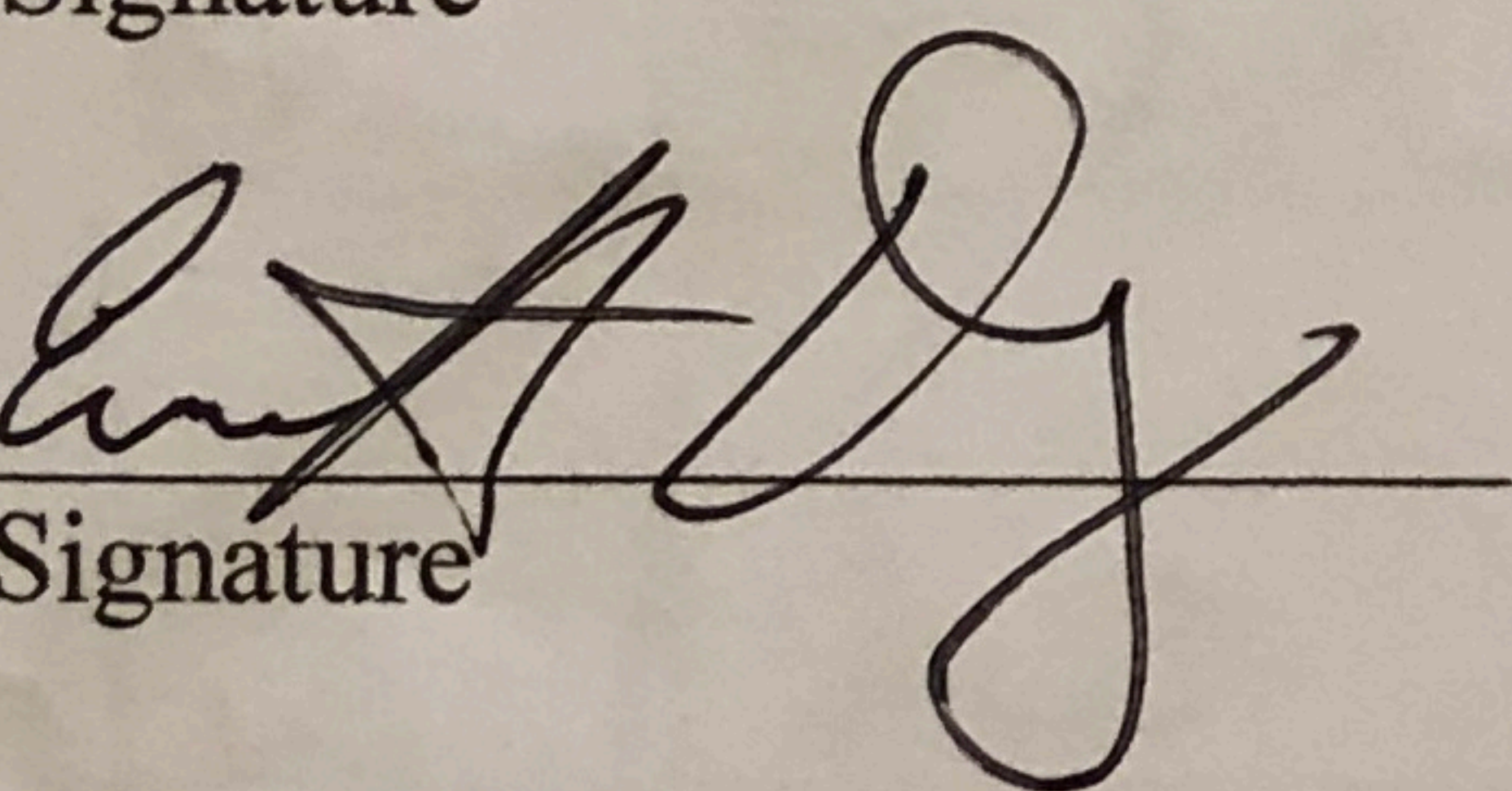


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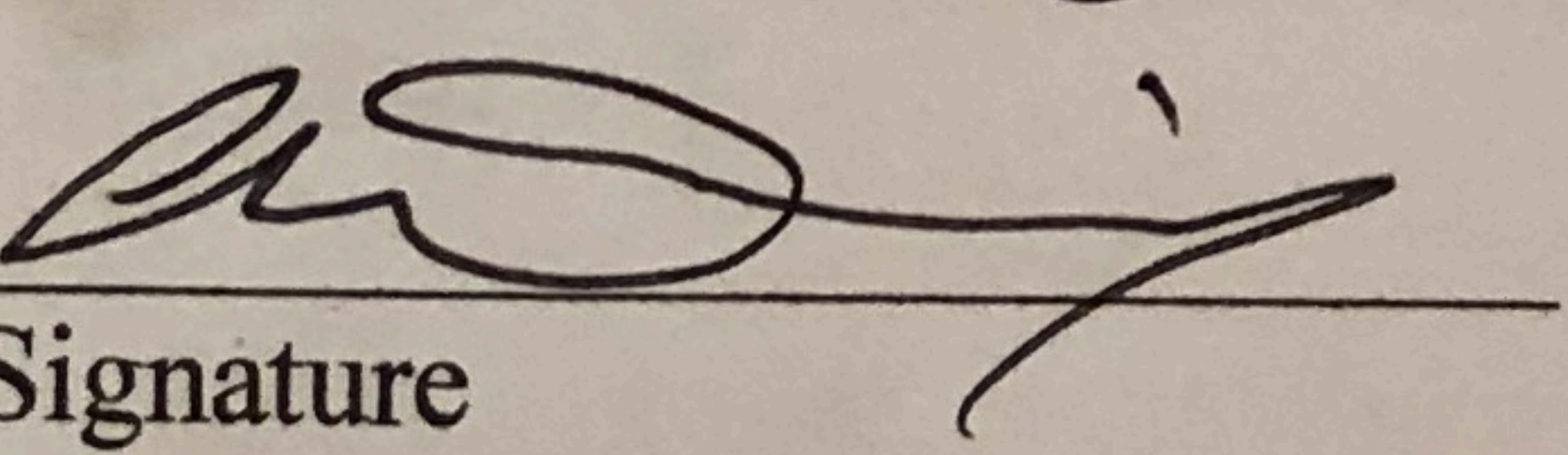


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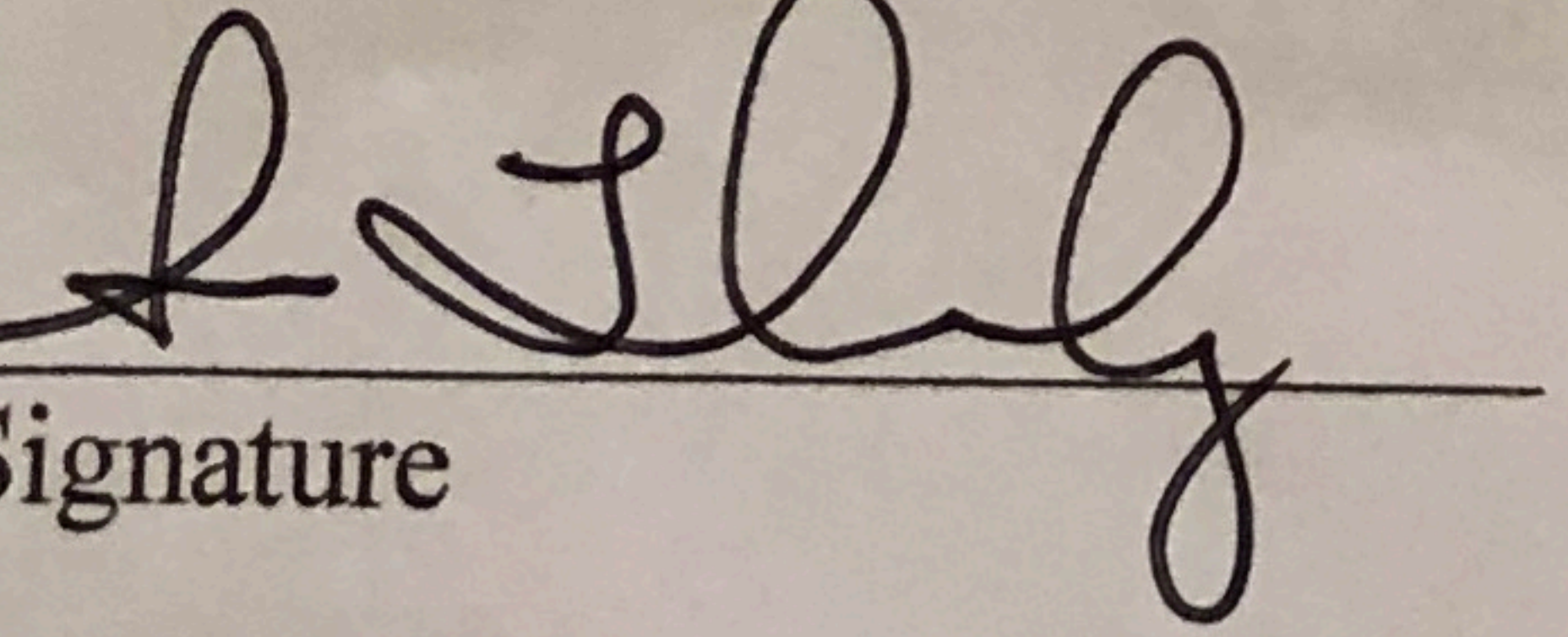
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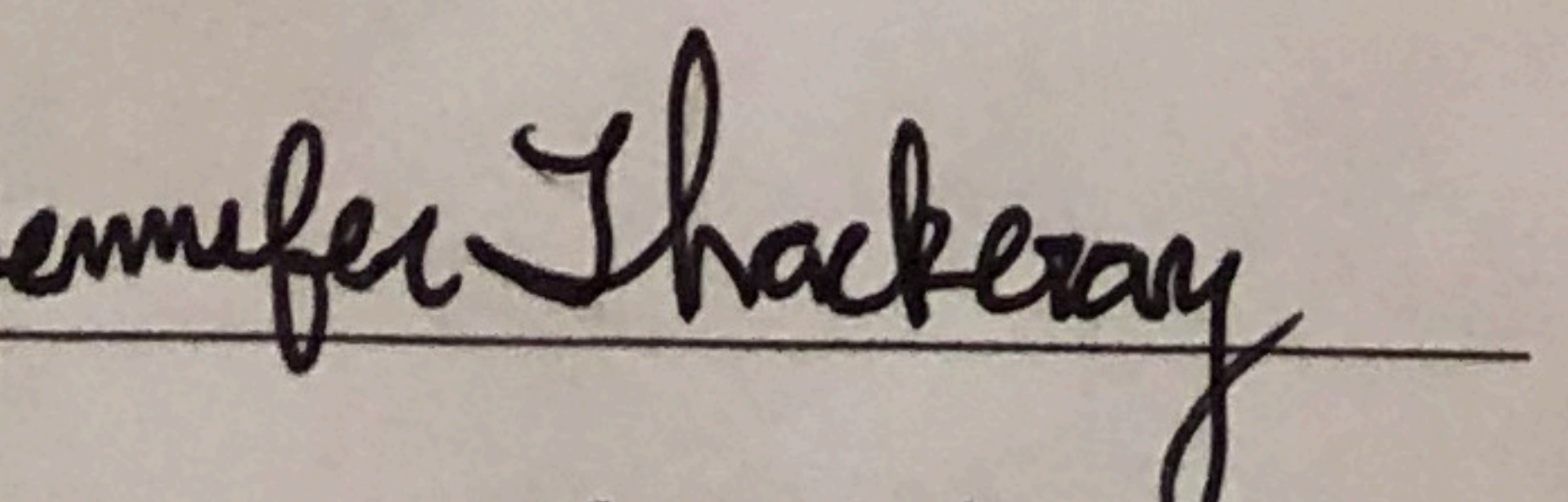
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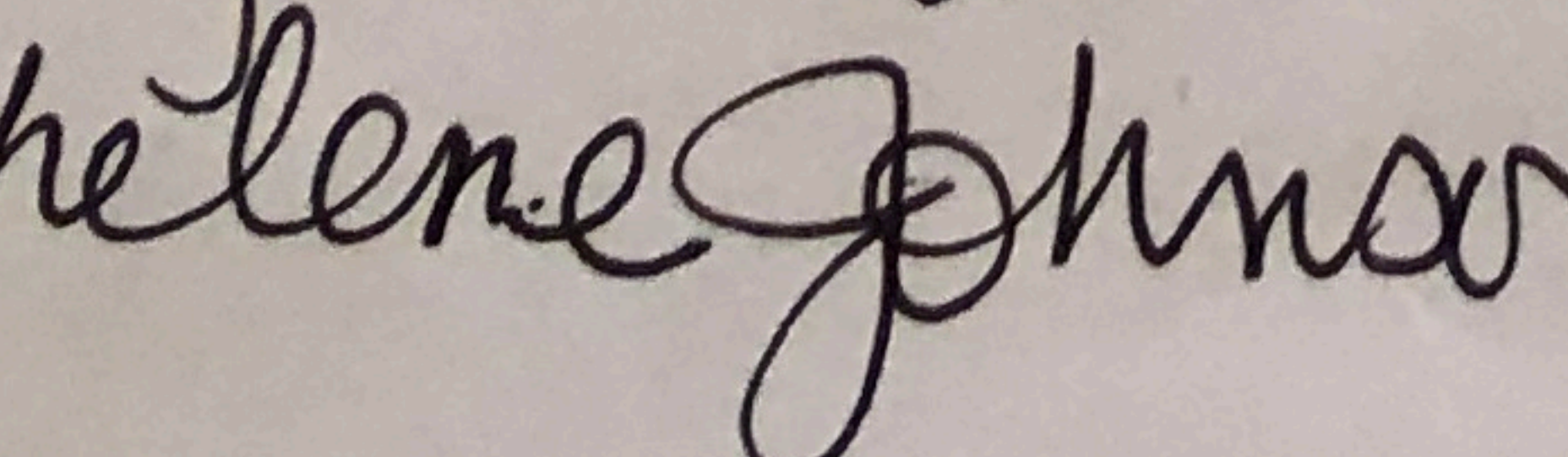
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# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

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