NOAA FORM 17-4 (4-81) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Form Approved OMB Control No. 0648-0025
Expires 05/31/2027

INITIAL REPORT ON WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES

This report is required by Public Law 92-205; 85 Stat. 735; 15 U.S.C. 330b. Knowing and willful violation of any rule adopted under the authority of Section 2 of Public Law 92-205 shall subject the person violating such rule to a fine of not more than $10,000, upon conviction thereof.

Complete in accordance with instructions on reverse and forward one copy to:
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
1315 East-West Highway, WWMC-3, Rm 11216
Silver Spring, MD 20910

1. PROJECT OR ACTIVITY DESIGNATION, IF ANY
Kaweah River Basin Cloud Seeding Program

2. DATES OF PROJECT
a. DATE FIRST ACTUAL WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITY IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN: 11/1/2025
b. EXPECTED TERMINATION DATE OF WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES: 4/30/2026

3. PURPOSE OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY
Snowpack Augmentation

4. (a) SPONSOR

NAME	Shane Smith		
AFFILIATION	Kaweah Delta Water Cons	PHONE NUMBER	559 747-5801
STREET ADDRESS	2975 Farmersville Rd		
CITY	Farmersville	STATE	CA
ZIP CODE	93223		

4. (b) OPERATOR

NAME	Richard Stone		
AFFILIATION	RHS Consulting, Ltd	PHONE NUMBER	
STREET ADDRESS	PO Box 17096		
CITY	Reno	STATE	NV
ZIP CODE	89511		

5. TARGET AND CONTROL AREAS (See Instructions)

TARGET AREA		CONTROL AREA	
LOCATION	Kaweah River Basin	LOCATION	Merced, Tule, Cottonwood (
SIZE OF AREA	500 SQ. MI	SIZE OF AREA	1141 SQ. MI

6. DESCRIPTION OF WEATHER MODIFICATION APPARATUS, MODIFICATION AGENTS AND THEIR DISPERSAL RATES, THE TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED, ETC. (See Instructions)

This is a continuation of the Kaweah Basin Program, a long-term program that began in 1976. During the 2026 winter season winter storms will be seeded using aircraft and ground-based methods. The preferred seeding method is aircraft using end burning pyrotechnics 20-30 miles upwind of the target at altitudes of 9,000-17,000'. Seeding is conducted near the top of the saturated cloud layer in supercooled water and/or mixed phase conditions depending on temperature and wind profiles. Ground-based generators are used during post frontal periods. Seeding opportunities are forecast SLW explicitly using a modified regional version of the Weather Research and Forecast model. A streamflow assessment is updated annually.

7. LOG BOOKS *Enter name, affiliation, address, and telephone number of responsible individual from whom log books or other records may be obtained.*

NAME	Richard Stone		
AFFILIATION	RHS Consulting, Ltd	PHONE NUMBER	775 357-4659
STREET ADDRESS	PO Box 17096		
CITY	Reno	STATE	NV
ZIP CODE	89511		

8. SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

☑ YES ☐ NO	Has an Environmental Impact Statement, Federal or State, been filed? If yes, please furnish a copy as applicable.
☑ YES ☐ NO	Have provisions been made to acquire the latest forecasts, advisories, warnings, etc., of the National Weather Service, Forest Service, or others when issued prior to and during operations? If yes, please specify on a separate sheet.
☑ YES ☐ NO	Have any safety procedures (*operational constraints, provisions for suspension of operations, monitoring methods, etc.*) and any environmental guidelines (*related to the possible effects of the operations*) been included in the operational plans? If yes, please furnish copies or a description of the specific procedures and guidelines.

9. OPTIONAL REMARKS (See instructions. Use Separate Sheet).

CERTIFICATION: I certify that all statements in this report on this weather modification project are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and are made in good faith.

NAME OF REPORTING PERSON	Richard Stone		
AFFILIATION	RHS Consulting, Ltd	SIGNATURE	Richard Stone
STREET ADDRESS	PO BoX 17096	OFFICIAL TITLE	President
CITY	RENO	STATE	NV
ZIP CODE	89511	DATE	10/31/2025
PHONE NUMBER	775 357-4659		

Kaweah River Basin Supplement to Form 17-4

The following information is provided as requested by item 8 on Form 17-4, Safety and Environment

Environmental Impact Report

An Environmental Assessment was conducted by the sponsor, and a Negative Declaration was filed with no dissenting opinions.

Suspension Criteria

The project may be temporarily suspended when one of the following conditions exists

EXCESSIVE SNOWPACK

These snowpack amounts serve as a guide regarding the potential suspension of the seeding program; they are not hard and fast criteria but rather are designed to prompt close coordination with the water managers. These criteria are based on average target area precipitation amounts as follows:

1. 200% on January 1
2. 180% on February 1
3. 160% on March 1
4. 150% on April 1

Snow sensor observation are available on a daily basis at several locations. Interpolation of these percentages can be made for any given day in order to aid suspension decisions.

FLOODING

1. TARGET AREA- Utilizing quantitative precipitation forecasts (QPF), antecedent indices, and forecast freezing levels, decisions can be made of individual storm event runoff in the area draining into Lake Kaweah. If the estimated storm runoff volume exceeds the available storage (i.e., spill condition), the project may be suspended.
2. RAIN ON SNOW - During periods above average snowpack exists and rising freezing levels and potential for rain on snow events where insufficient storage capacity is available the project may be temporarily suspended until the river flows recede and freezing levels fall below 4,500'.
3. Severe Weather- Severe weather is monitored on a storm-by-storm basis, and even hourly basis during rapidly changing weather conditions. The project may be suspended when a National Weather Service Flash Flood Warning is in effect over any part of the target area until the warning expires.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Official emergency response activity within the target area.

2. Other Special Circumstances or unusual circumstances, which may be deemed hazardous. Examples of special circumstances very strong winds, heavy snow at low elevations, and other unforeseen conditions that could be hazardous or perceived by the public as hazardous. Reservoir storage levels, soil moisture content, and amounts of precipitation in prior seasons are all factors to consider in assessing whether a temporary program suspension is appropriate



Figure 1. Kaweah River Basin Target Area