

J.F. Enterprises And Burchell Nursery, J.F. Enterprises Worm Farm, Stanislaus County

The J. F. Enterprises Worm Farm cultivates tubifex worms for use as live food for tropical fish. As part of the worm culturing operation, 3 to 4 million gallons of water is diverted each day from the Stanislaus River to 41 shallow ponds on the south bank of the River. Prepared food, consisting primarily of grains, is added to the ponds at a ratio of approximately 3 pounds of food per pound of worms harvested. Approximately 80,000 pounds of worms are harvested annually. After passing through the ponds, the co-mingled surface and groundwater is delivered to a 112,500 cubic foot settling basin. From the settling basin, process water is discharged at a maximum flow rate of 5.44 mgd to the Stanislaus River. The Facility maintains the ability to add up to 1.44 mgd of groundwater to the ponds to control turbidity in the event that the Stanislaus River is excessively turbid (e.g., during periods of high run-off). However, under normal operating conditions the Facility does not use groundwater. There are no significant issues with this permit that involve interpretation of a Basin Plan narrative objective.