



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

State Water Resources Control Board



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Division of Water Rights

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2000 ♦ Sacramento, California 95812-2000
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO APPROPRIATE WATER BY PERMIT

APPLICATION: 31567
COUNTY: Sonoma

DATE FILED: March 17, 2005
STREAM SYSTEM: Austin Creek

Notice is hereby given that Austin Creek Mutual Water Company has filed an application for a water right permit. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will determine whether a water right permit should be issued for the application and, if so, whether conditions are needed in the permit to protect the environment, the public interest, and downstream water users. This notice provides a description of the proposed project and also describes the procedure and time frame for submittal of protests against the application. This notice and the application may be viewed at the Division of Water Rights' (Division) website at www.waterrights.ca.gov. Any correspondence directed to the applicant should be mailed to:

Austin Creek Mutual Water Company
c/o Linda Petrulias
P.O. Box 86
Cazadero, CA 95421

Description of Project

The applicant seeks a water right to directly divert 9,235 gallons per day (gpd) from an existing shallow well adjacent to Austin Creek. The well was installed in 1958 and water extracted is for the domestic demands of 61 water users and 11 non-users within the Public Community Water System #4900630. The applicant's project is located about 1.5 miles north of the community of St. Joseph Camp or 1.25 miles upstream of the confluence of Austin Creek with the Russian River.

Summary of Application 31567

County: Sonoma.
Source: Austin Creek (subterranean flow) tributary to the Russian River thence the Pacific Ocean.
Points of
Diversion: Within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of projected section 3, T7N, R11W, MDB&M.
Amount: 9,235 gpd by direct diversion and the annual amount of water diverted shall not exceed 10 acre-feet per annum (afa).
Diversion
Season: January 1 to December 31.
Purposes: Domestic.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Place of Use: 72 parcels as show on maps on file with State Water Board are within the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 34, T8N, R11W; the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 35, T8N, R11W; the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of projected section 3, T7N, R11W, and the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of projected section 2, T7N, R11W, MDB&M.

Environmental Information

The lead agency will prepare the appropriate environmental documents for the project according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and its guidelines, and will determine whether or not the project will cause a significant effect on the environment. If you are not filing a protest, but wish to submit information that indicates the project may cause a significant effect on the environment, please send this information to Steven Herrera; State Water Board, Division of Water Rights; P.O. Box 2000; Sacramento, CA 95812-2000. This information will be reviewed in accordance with CEQA.

PROTEST SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

Protest Requirements

A person may file a protest based on any of the following factors:

- Interference with prior water rights.
- Adverse environmental impact.
- Not in the public interest.
- Contrary to law.
- Not within the jurisdiction of the State Water Board.

All protests must clearly describe the objections to approval of the application and the factual basis for those objections. There must be a clear link between the proposed project and the objection to its approval. If the objection is based on interference with prior water rights, the protest must describe specifically what injury would result if the application were approved. In addition, the party claiming interference with prior rights must provide specific information describing the basis of the prior right, the date the use began, the quantity of water used, the purpose of use and the place of use. Please note that any water right permit issued by the State Water Board is subject to vested water rights and will include conditions to protect such rights.

If the protest is based on an allegation that the proposed appropriation would not be within the State Water Board's jurisdiction, would not best conserve the public interest or public trust uses, would have an adverse environmental impact, or would be contrary to law, the protest must be accompanied by a statement of facts supporting the allegation.

For example, public interest protests should clearly indicate how the appropriation will affect the public; environmental protests should identify specific impacts and provide supporting recitals on the effect of the proposed project on plants, animals, fish, erosion, pollution, aesthetics, etc.; public trust protests must identify the navigable waters and public trust values that would be Affected by the proposed project and how the project will impact public trust values.

All protests should include a description of any measures that could be taken to resolve the protest. The protest also must indicate the manner in which the protestant served upon the applicant a duplicate copy of the protest.

If sufficient information is not submitted, the State Water Board may reject the protest or request that the protestant submit additional information. Protests of a general nature (not project specific) or protests that are inconsistent with constitutional or legislated state policy will not be accepted. A request for information or a request that studies be conducted does not constitute a protest.

Procedure for Submitting Protests

Protests should be submitted on standard protest forms available from the Division's website at www.waterrights.ca.gov/forms/ or upon request, in writing or by telephone, from the Division. A pamphlet that provides additional information relating to water rights and the procedure for filing protests is also available on the website or by mail. Any requests or the submittal of the completed protest form should be directed to the individual listed as the contact person at the end of this notice. **A copy of the completed protest form must also be mailed to the applicant.**

Protest Submittal Deadline

Protests submitted in response to this notice must be received **by the Division by 3:00 p.m. on August 30, 2006** (40th day after the date of this notice and the close of the protest period). Protests may be submitted by any of the following methods:

1. Mailed to Division of Water Rights; P. O. Box 2000; Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
2. Faxed to the Division at (916) 341-5400
3. E-mailed to the engineer listed below under the heading "Contact Person"
4. Hand-delivered to the Division office located at 1001 "I" Street, 2nd Floor (Fileroom), Sacramento, CA

If you choose to fax or e-mail the protest due to the constraints of the noticing period, the fax or e-mail must be followed by timely delivery of an original signed copy, either personally or by mail, to the Division in order for the protest to be accepted. The State Water Board will respond to all protests within 60 days of the final day to file a protest. **Protests not submitted by the close of the protest period will be subject to rejection.**

For good cause, the State Water Board may grant an extension of time to file a protest. It is the protestant's responsibility to contact the engineer listed below as "Contact Person" to request the extension prior to the end of the protest period.

Resolution of Protests

The applicant will have 30 days to respond to a protest once accepted by the Division. The protestant and the applicant are expected to make a good faith effort to resolve the protest within 180 days from the close of the protest period.

This is a "minor" project (the proposed diversion is 3 cubic feet per second or less by direct diversion or 200 AF or less by storage) as defined by section 1348 of the Water Code. Therefore, any protest issues not resolved by the applicant or by provisions of section 1335 of the Water Code will be decided by the Chief, Division of Water Rights, following a field investigation.

CONTACT PERSON

To obtain additional information regarding this project, or to obtain copies of protest forms, or general information pamphlets, please contact Whalen Toy by phone at (916) 341-5408 or by electronic mail at wtoy@waterboards.ca.gov. Information and protest forms are also available at the Division's website: www.waterrights.ca.gov/forms/.

Date of Notice: **JULY 21, 2006**

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