



Item 17 – Update on Erosion and Sedimentation Cases at Elkhorn Road and Discussion of Erosion and Sedimentation on Agricultural Lands

February 9, 2018



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



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SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



California Environmental
Protection Agency
State Water Resources
Control Board

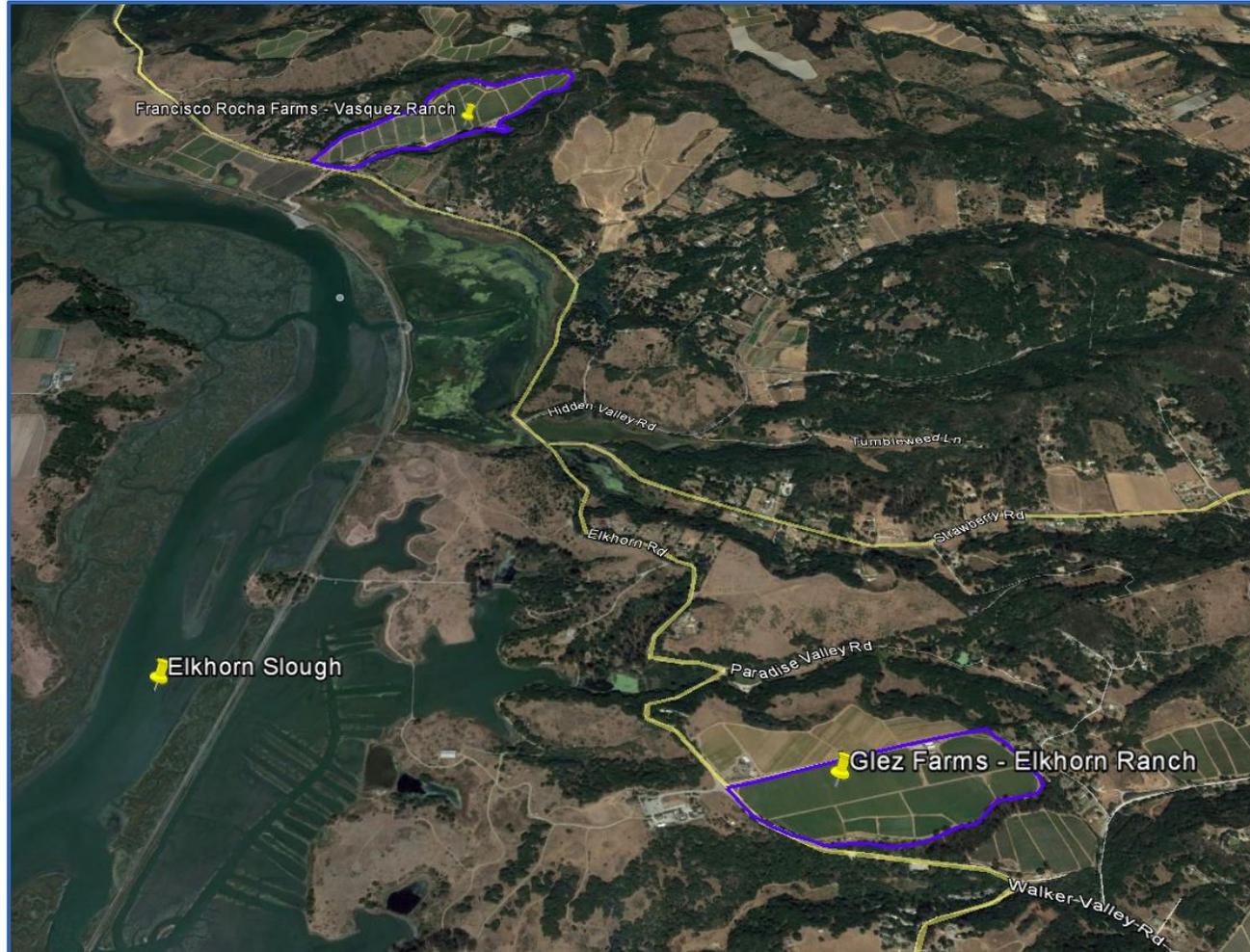
Central Coast
Regional Water
Quality Control Board

Paula Richter
Chris Rose
Irrigated Lands
Regulatory
Program

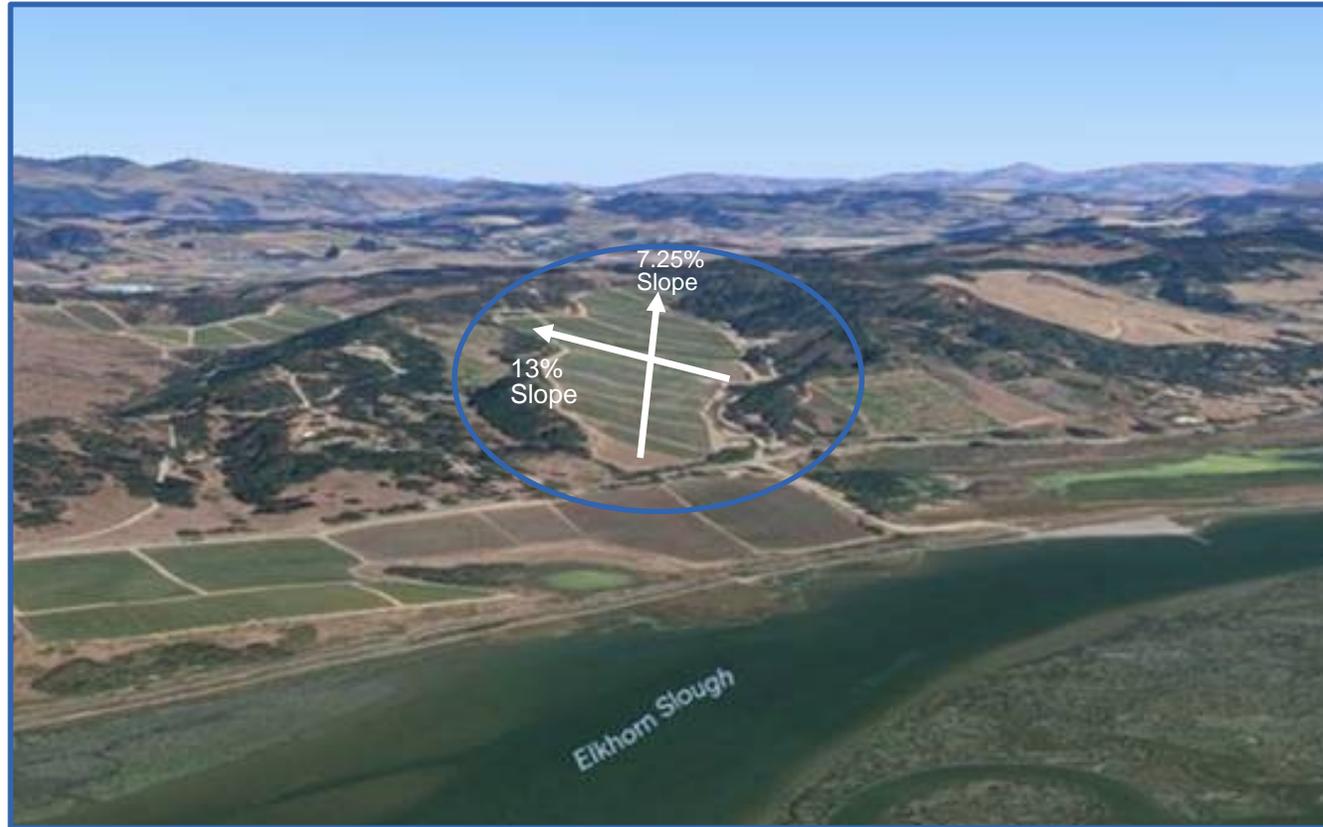
Item 17 – Part 1

- Staff update on complaints investigation
- Severe runoff, erosion, and sediment discharges to Elkhorn Slough from strawberry fields along Elkhorn Road
- Two farms identified as potential dischargers:
 - Francisco Rocha Farms
 - Glez Farms

Elkhorn Road (Watsonville) – Locator Map



Francisco Rocha Farms – Locator Map



Glez Farms – Locator Map



February 10, 2017

Elkhorn Road near Walker Valley Road



Photos courtesy of citizen complainant

Francisco Rocha Farms – Sediment Basin and Runoff Patterns



February 10, 2017

Elkhorn Road at Kirby Park – Francisco Rocha Farms



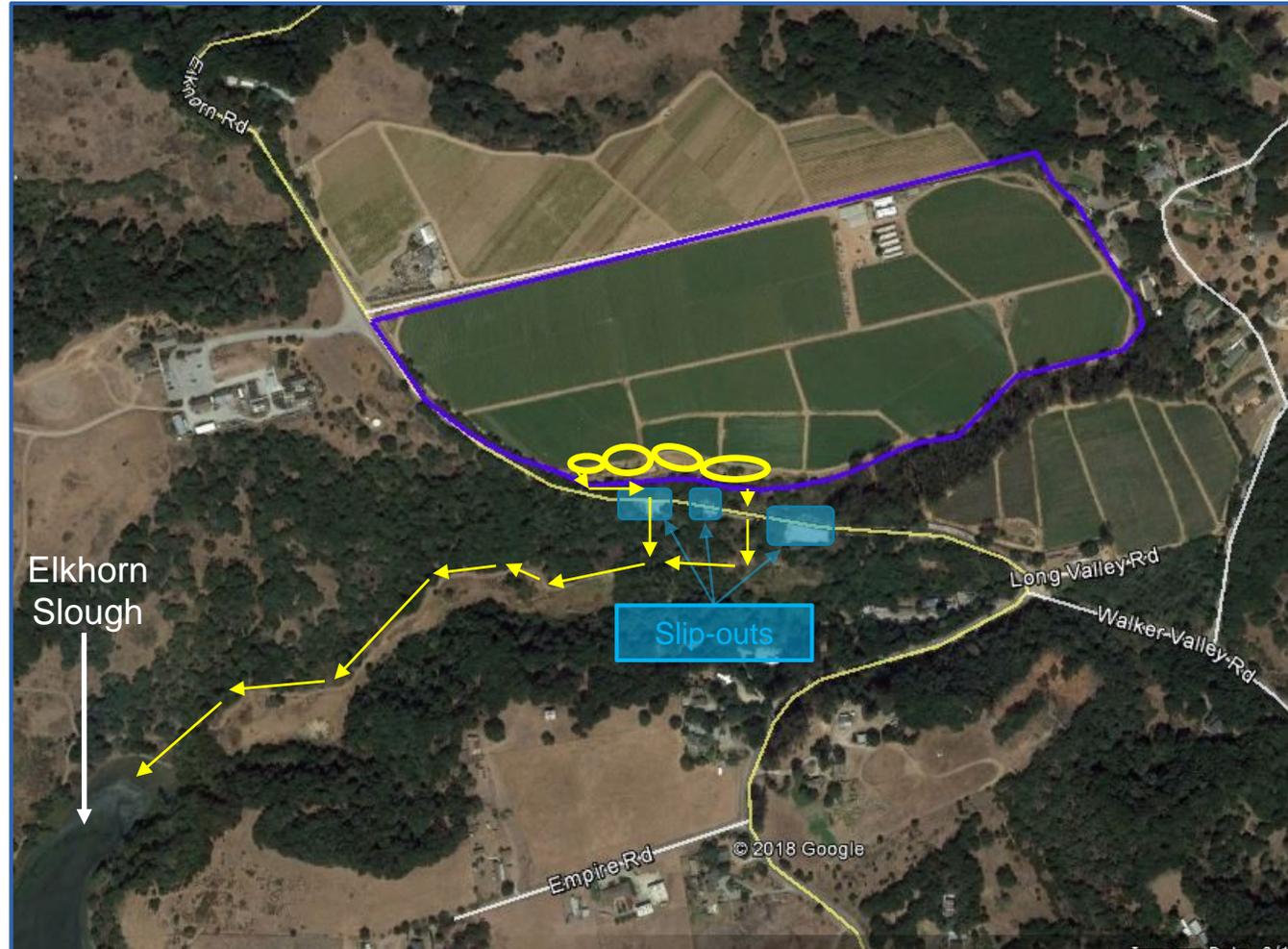
Sediment plume at Elkhorn Slough



Damaged culvert at Kirby Park

Photos courtesy of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Glez Farms – Sediment Basin System and Runoff Patterns



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Elkhorn Road near Walker Valley Road – Glez Farms



Sediment discharge at bottom of ravine



Sediment plume at ephemeral swale that discharges to Elkhorn Slough

Photos courtesy of California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Chronology of Events

Francisco Rocha Farms

02/10/2017	Complaints received
02/10/2017	Staff begins investigation
03/06/2017	1 st site visit

Glez Farms

02/10/2017	Complaints received
02/10/2017	Staff begins investigation
03/06/2017	1 st site visit

1st multi-agency site visit – March 6, 2017

- In attendance were staff from:
 - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife
 - Elkhorn Slough Reserve
 - Friends, Artists and Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough
 - Central Coast Water Board

March 6, 2017 Elkhorn Road at Kirby Park – Francisco Rocha Farms



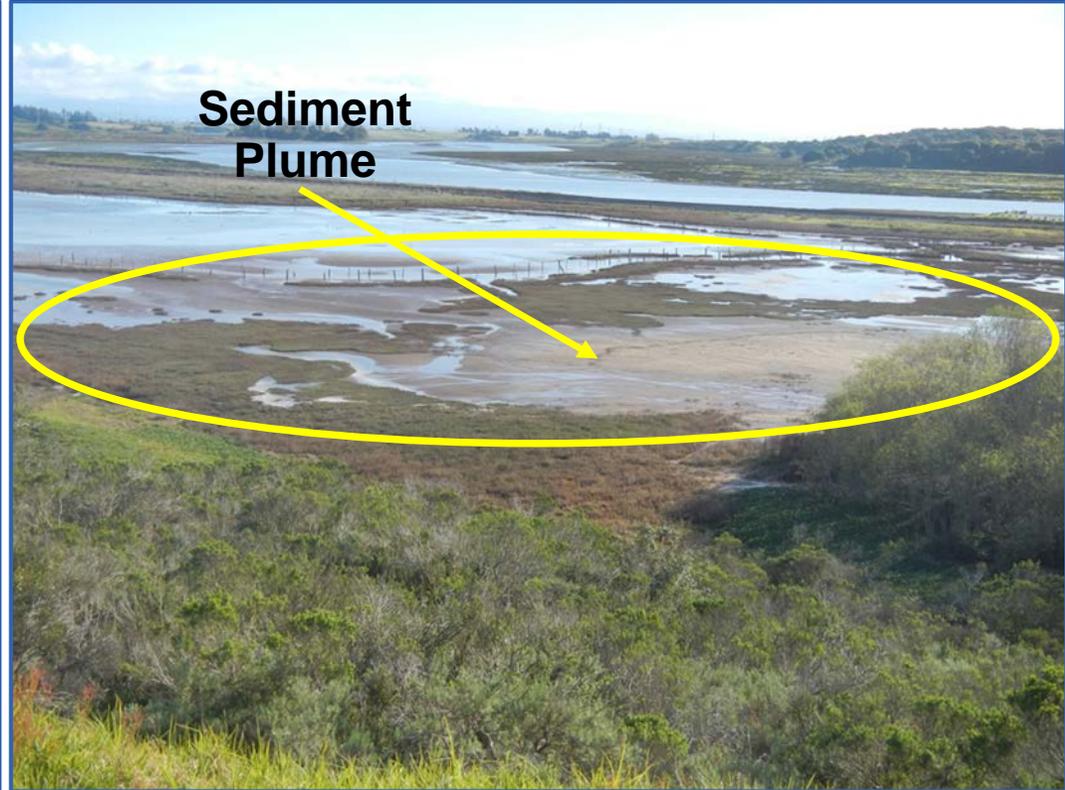
Discharge from farm to a culvert under Elkhorn Road

Staff photos

March 6, 2017 Elkhorn Slough at Kirby Park – Francisco Rocha Farms



Discharge from culvert to unmaintained sediment basin



CDFW estimated sediment discharge to Elkhorn Slough: 5,000 cubic yards

Staff photos

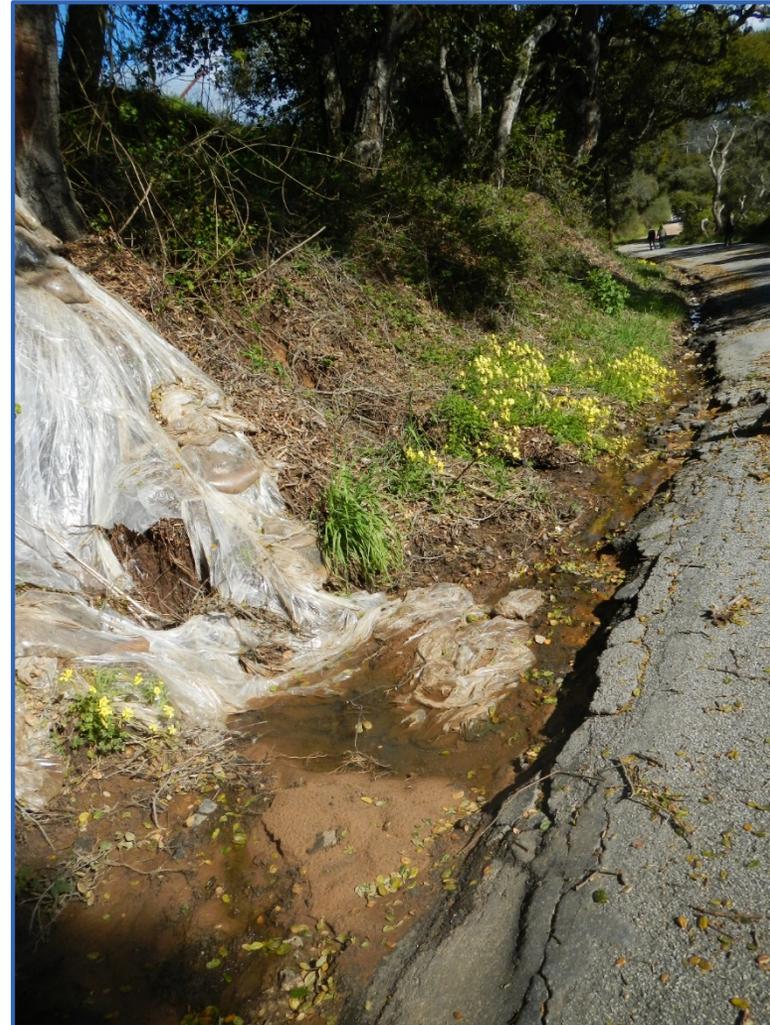
March 6, 2017

Elkhorn Road near Walker Valley Road – Glez Farms



Discharge from farm to Elkhorn Road

Staff photos



March 6, 2017

Elkhorn Road near Walker Valley Road – Glez Farms



CDFW estimated discharge to Elkhorn Road / Drainage to Elkhorn Slough (??): 3,000 cubic yards

Staff photos

Chronology of Events – Cont'd.

Francisco Rocha Farms

07/10/2017	1 st NOV issued
	No response
07/24/2017	2 nd NOV issued
	No response
10/04/2017	3 rd NOV issued
	No response
10/06/2017	Drive-by inspection
10/24/2017	2 nd site visit

Glez Farms

07/10/2017	1 st NOV issued
	No response
07/24/2017	2 nd NOV issued
07/25/2017	Extension request
10/04/2017	3 rd NOV issued
10/19/2017	Updated Farm Plan received
10/06/2017	Drive-by inspection
10/24/2017	2 nd site visit

2nd multi-agency site visit – October 24, 2017

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Monterey County Enforcement
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- Central Coast Water Board
- Dischargers

Francisco Rocha Farms – October 24, 2017



Steep to very steep slopes

Staff photos



No evidence of BMPs for sediment management

Glez Farms – October 24, 2017



Minor slopes



Multiple BMPs for sediment management

Staff photos

Chronology of Events (Cont'd.)

Francisco Rocha Farms

11/07/2017	Staff site visit findings to dischargers
01/05/2018	Draft CAO issued
02/05/2018	CAO comment period ended
02/05/2018	E-mail from Strawberry Commission on Mr. Rocha's behalf requesting interpreter
No response from discharger to date	

Glez Farms

11/03/2017	Sediment basin plans received
11/07/2017	Staff site visit findings to dischargers
01/10/2018	Requests RCD assistance
02/01/2018	Reminder re past due reporting
02/05/2018	Letter from attorney for Glez Farms with questions and status update
Some technical reporting past due	

Francisco Rocha Farms - Summary

- Discharger has not submitted Farm Plan
- Discharger has not submitted Technical Reporting
- Sediment basin is significantly undersized and in need of maintenance
- Reported ranch fumigation the morning of 2nd site visit
- **Risk of future sediment discharges high**

Glez Farms – Summary

- Submitted updated Farm Plan
- Submitted sediment basin system design plans
- Multiple BMPS to manage sediment
- Contend sediment basin system is adequate
- Contend road failures and downed trees led to majority of sediment discharges
- Some Technical Reporting is past due
- **Risk of future sediment discharges low**

Next Steps for These Two Cases

Francisco Rocha Farms

- Issue final CAO

Glez Farms

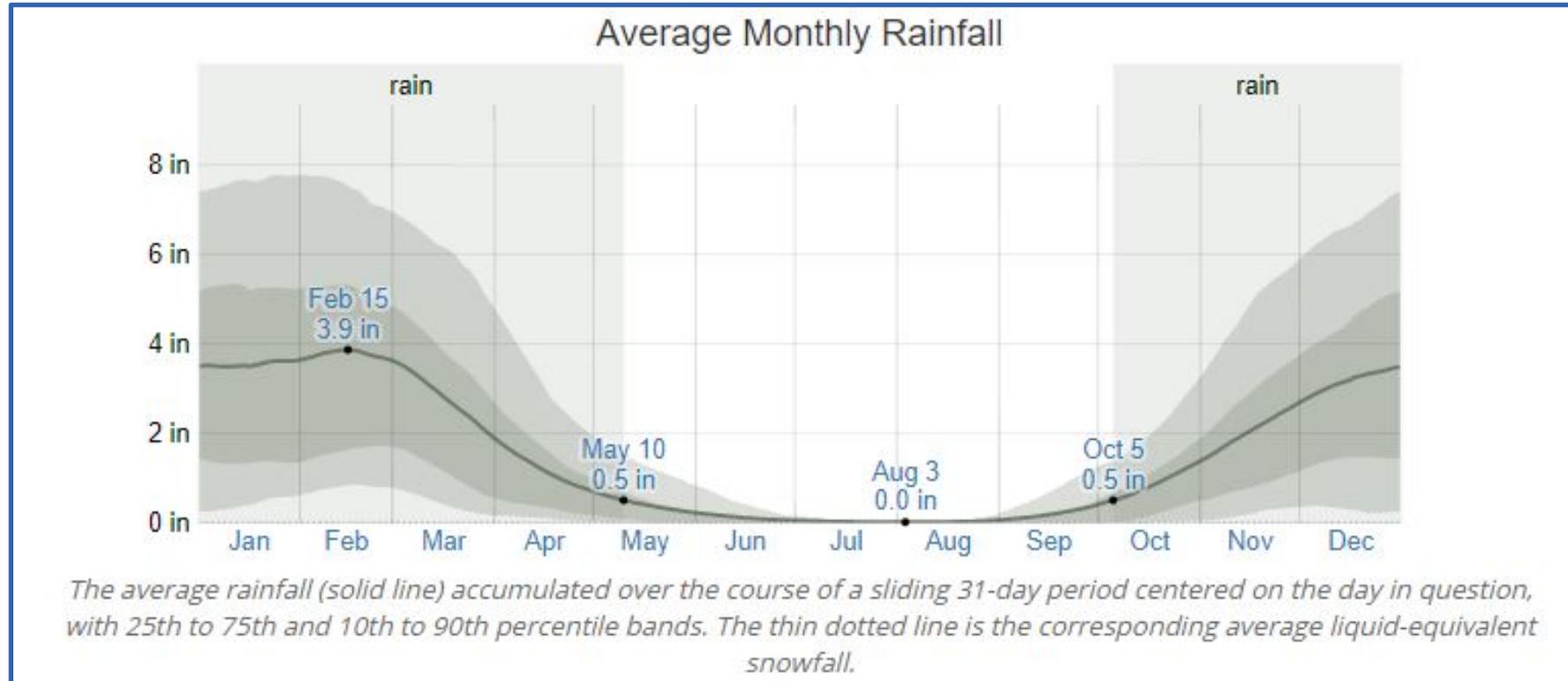
- Follow up on past due technical and monitoring reporting
- Review letter from attorney and respond to questions
- Sediment basin system has been maintained
- Left last season's strawberry crop to fallow this winter

Erosion Control Issues in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

- Questions ???

Reserved Slides

Monterey County Rainfall Statistics



One of three slip-outs on Elkhorn Road

