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

February 9, 2018
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

13% Slope

7.25% Slope

Elkhorn Slough
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
February 10, 2017
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/10/2017</td>
<td>Complaints received</td>
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<td>1st site visit</td>
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### Glez Farms

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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

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

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.

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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
Steep to very steep slopes

No evidence of BMPs for sediment management

Francisco Rocha Farms – October 24, 2017

Sediment Basin

Staff photos
Glez Farms – October 24, 2017

Minor slopes

Multiple BMPs for sediment management

Staff photos
Francisco Rocha Farms | Glez Farms
--- | ---
11/07/2017 | Staff site visit findings to dischargers | Sediment basin plans received | 11/07/2017 | Staff site visit findings to dischargers |
01/05/2018 | Draft CAO issued | 01/10/2018 | Requests RCD assistance |
02/05/2018 | CAO comment period ended | 02/01/2018 | Reminder re past due reporting |
02/05/2018 | E-mail from Strawberry Commission on Mr. Rocha’s behalf requesting interpreter | 02/05/2018 | Letter from attorney for Glez Farms with questions and status update |
**No response from discharger to date** | **Some technical reporting past due**
• 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
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 ???
Monterey County Rainfall Statistics

The average rainfall (solid line) accumulated over the course of a sliding 31-day period centered on the day in question, with 25th to 75th and 10th to 90th percentile bands. The thin dotted line is the corresponding average liquid-equivalent snowfall.
One of three slip-outs on Elkhorn Road