

THERMALITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

A Public Agency



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April 2, 2004

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn: Mr. Scott Zaitz
415 Knoll Crest Drive, Suite 100
Redding, CA 96002

Re: Discharges into Thermalito Power House Tail Channel between Wilber Road,
and Thermalito Power House.

Dear Scott:

After our last conversation regarding the above referenced subject, I walked the Winding Creek in question from the 36' box culvert Item 1, Photo No. 1, to a point due North of the Table Mountain Golf Course, as shown by the red line in Photo No. 2. For lack of a better name, I will call the Winding Creek "Snake Creek", which appears to be the main drainage conduit for approximately 1500 - 2000 acres of mostly unimproved pasture land, both North and South of State Hwy 162. Items 2 thru 7 on Photo No. 1 are various diameter culverts discharging into the Tail Channel and essentially serve localized areas (depression, swale and the like) with the exception of Culvert No. 4 which seems to drain a larger North of the channel area.

Without being certain of what your exact concerns are, I will give you my observations of possible pollutant discharges, related to this area of drainage. Snake Creek winds its way through the lowest part of this terrain. The predominate surface soil make up, is a deep red clay, which has been scoured away along the majority of the creeks banks during periods of high flow. In addition, fresh areas of soil erosion was evident throughout the creeks length. This in itself would introduce very high turbidity waters into Thermalito After Bay via the Power House Tail Channel.

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I also noticed excavations and spoil piles of red clay at two (2) residence's which approximate locations are shown as 1 and 2 on Photo No. 2. It is reasonable to surmise that run off from these excavations communicate with Snake Creek. In addition, the entire Snake Creek drainage basin is infested with gophers, generating countless small dirt piles, which to some unknown degree affect water quality, during periods of high runoff.

There is a new Sub-Division (Link Side) being developed on the South Side of Hwy 162 adjacent to the Table Mountain Golf Course's western boundary. I counted four (4) Cal-Trans roadway drainage culverts that pass runoff water from south to north under Hwy 162 along the new Sub-Divisions length. There appears to have been a small amount of red water pass through one of these culverts, I can find little evidence of the waters course beyond the Cal-Trans right-of-way. West, between the Link Side Sub-Division and Wilber Road are several culverts discharging run off storm water from south to north under Hwy 162. These seem to be functioning as designed, and reveal small amounts of soil erosion, generally on ground stirred up by grazing cattle. There is no discernable evidence of petroleum, or foreign object decay pollution that I could find. All in all, the area discussed seems to be in good condition.

I hope this information helps.

Best regards,



David E. Bird
General Manager

DEB:cmp

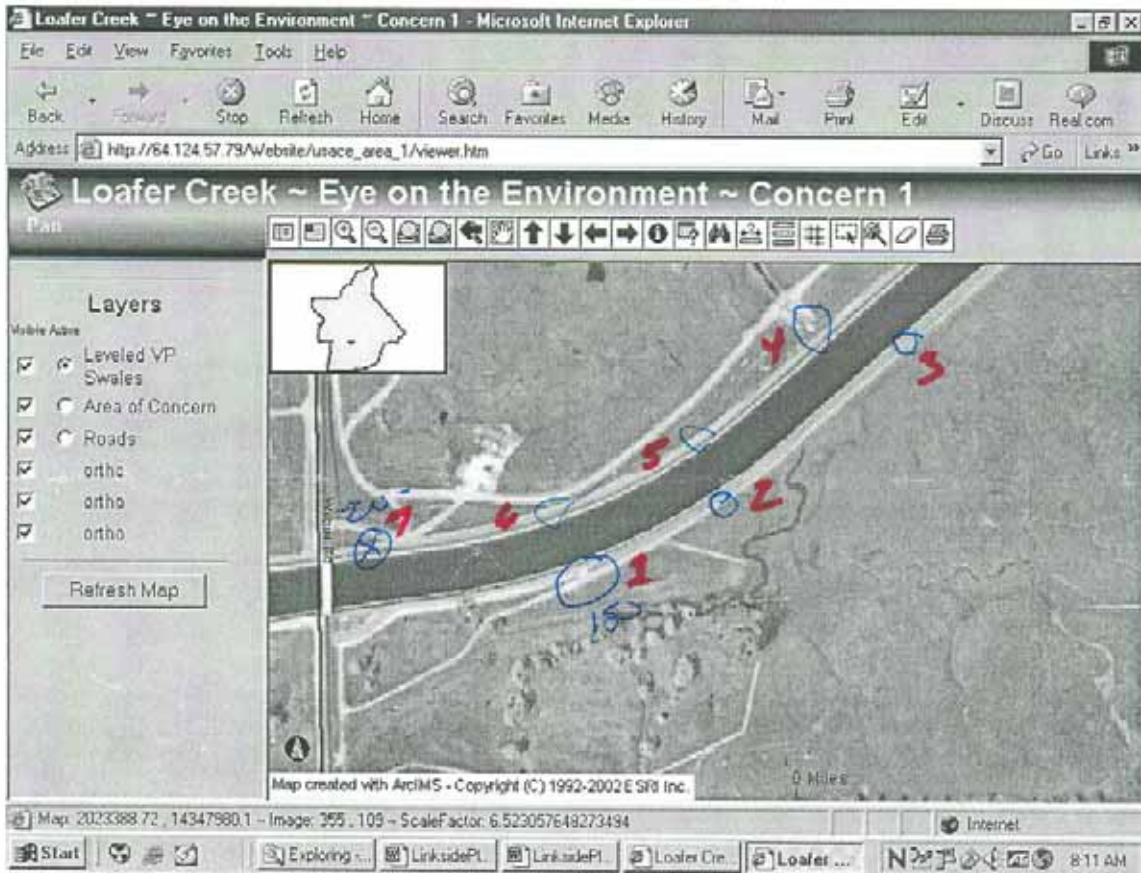


PHOTO #1



PHOTO # 2