

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

18 December 2024

David Guy, President
Northern California Water Association
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 703
Sacramento, CA 95814

APPROVAL OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER QUALITY COALITION'S REQUEST TO RELOCATE ILRP MONITORING SITE ON PINE CREEK

Thank you for your letter dated 11 December 2024 requesting to relocate the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition's (Coalition) Representative surface water quality monitoring site located on Pine Creek. Staff reviewed the request to determine compliance with requirements pursuant to the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2014-0030-11 (Order) and Attachment B (Monitoring and Reporting Program) to the Order.

Pine Creek at Highway 32 is a Representative surface water quality monitoring site in the Butte-Yuba-Sutter Subwatershed. Due to a change in the accessibility for sampling crews to safely access the Pine Creek at Highway 32 monitoring site, the Coalition requests to relocate the Representative monitoring site on Pine Creek 0.6 miles downstream to the Pine Creek Boat Launch on River Road. The proposed Pine Creek Boat Launch on River Road monitoring site meets the Order requirements for Representative site monitoring and may be used as a replacement monitoring site on Pine Creek. Therefore, I am approving the request to relocate the Representative monitoring site on Pine Creek from Pine Creek at Highway 32 to Pine Creek Boat Launch on River Road.

If you have any questions, please contact Olivia Mathews by e-mail at Olivia.Mathews@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Adam Laputz
Digitally signed by Adam Laputz
Date: 2024.12.20 10:43:49 -08'00'

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

David Guy

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18 December 2024

Enclosure: Staff Review Memorandum

Cc: Bruce Houdesheldt, Northern California Water Association

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Petra Lee
Senior Environmental Scientist
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

FROM: Olivia Mathews
Environmental Scientist
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

DATE: 12 December 2024

SUBJECT: **REVIEW OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER QUALITY
COALITION'S REQUEST TO RELOCATE ILRP
MONITORING SITE ON PINE CREEK**

Thank you for your letter dated 11 December 2024 requesting to relocate the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition's (Coalition) Representative surface water quality monitoring site located on Pine Creek. The request was reviewed to determine compliance with requirements pursuant to the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2014-0030-11 (Order) and Attachment B (Monitoring and Reporting Program) to the Order.

According to the Monitoring and Reporting Program requirements, a Representative monitoring site is selected to be in an area of irrigated agricultural waste discharge such that the monitoring site is representative of the conditions in the surrounding drainages. Pine Creek at Highway 32 is a Representative monitoring site in the Butte-Yuba-Sutter Subwatershed. According to Appendix MRP-3 to Attachment B of the Order, Representative monitoring on Pine Creek is representative of the Pine Creek, Little Chico Creek, Big Chico Creek, and Dicus Slough drainages.

A summary of the request is provided below, followed by the staff recommendation.

Request to Relocate the Monitoring Site on Pine Creek

Historically, the sampling crew has gained access to the Pine Creek at Highway 32 Representative monitoring site by driving a vehicle off Highway 32 onto a path that parallels Highway 32. In recent months, a guardrail has been installed along Highway 32 that prevents the sampling crew from gaining access to the path in a vehicle, requiring the sampling crew to walk along Highway 32 to access the monitoring site. The sampling contractor reached out to the Coalition in October to ask if the monitoring

location on Pine Creek could be relocated due to safety concerns for sampling crew members in accessing the monitoring site.

The sampling contractor investigated three potential alternate monitoring locations on Pine Creek and found the Pine Creek Boat Launch on River Road to provide the safest access for surface water quality monitoring on Pine Creek. The Pine Creek Boat Launch on River Road monitoring site is located 0.6 miles downstream of the Pine Creek at Highway 32 monitoring site. Based on the sampling contractor's reconnaissance efforts, no physical or environmental factors were identified that would affect ambient water quality between the Pine Creek at Highway 32 monitoring site and the proposed Pine Creek Boat Launch on River Road monitoring site. The Coalition met with the Butte County Farm Bureau and the Butte County Agricultural Commissioner's office to discuss the monitoring site relocation. As a result of that conversation and the field reconnaissance by the sampling contractor, the Pine Creek Boat Launch on River Road monitoring site was identified as the replacement Representative monitoring site on Pine Creek.

Staff Recommendation

Due to a change in the accessibility for sampling crews to safely access the Pine Creek at Highway 32 Representative monitoring site, the Coalition requests to relocate the Representative monitoring site on Pine Creek to the Pine Creek Boat Launch on River Road monitoring site. The replacement monitoring site is located 0.6 miles downstream from the Pine Creek at Highway 32 monitoring site. The proposed Pine Creek Boat Launch on River Road monitoring site meets the Order requirements for Representative site monitoring and staff recommends approval of the request to relocate the Representative monitoring site on Pine Creek.