The Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) filed Application T032899 to appropriate water by temporary permit on January 24, 2018, pursuant to Water Code section 1425 et seq. The District proposed to divert up to 72,000 acre-feet (AF), at a maximum rate of 600 cubic feet per second (cfs), from Cache Creek for groundwater recharge (underground storage) in the Yolo subbasin for later irrigation use. The District received Temporary Permit 21363 (TP21363) from the State Water Resources Control Board on January 31, 2018.

Under TP21363, the District diverted 0 AF of water from Cache Creek at the Capay Diversion Dam (Dam) due to the limited rainfall and lack of excess storm flows. The flows at the Yolo gauge were less than 50 cfs from January 24 to March 21, 2018, and the two storms that occurred at the end of March and beginning of April did not result in much runoff through the Creek. The small storms in March and April resulted in a flush of sediment coming down the Creek and only allowed for a few days of actual stormwater diversions at the Capay Diversion Dam, which was not worth the operational changes to the canal system. Generally, the District has to let the sediment-laden, peak-storm events pass and maximizes diversions when the flows in the Creek are sustained following an event when the hydraulic connectivity with Yolo is maintained. Additionally, sediment-laden flows will result in “plugging up” of our canals, which will hinder recharge capability.
Permit Terms 010500, 0109999, 0000204, and 0360899 of TP21375 necessitate this Final Report (Report). Unfortunately, since there were no diversions under TP 21363, there was no water applied to beneficial use, as required to be included in this Report under Term 0100500. Since there were no diversions, this Report does not include records of the daily quantity and maximum rate of diversion under the temporary permit and other amounts diverted under other bases of right during the reporting period (as required by Term 0109999). Additionally, this Report does not include the corresponding daily mean flow as recorded at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Gauge 11452500 on Cache Creek near Yolo (Yolo Gauge), the USGS Gauge 11452800 at the Cache Creek Settling Basin Overflow Weir, the USGS Gauge 11453000 at the Yolo Bypass, and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Fremont Weir Gauge (as required by Terms 0000204 and 0360899).

On February 2, 2018, the District submitted a plan to the State Water Resources Control Board for measurement and accounting of water diverted to underground storage and extracted for beneficial use and provided current photographs of the device or method installed with certification that it was properly installed, calibrated, and operating as designed (as required by Term 0089999).

The permit acquisition was discussed at many water resources management meetings throughout the County and throughout the Sacramento Valley to express the opportunity and potential benefit of available conjunctive use opportunities. The District continues to discuss the conjunctive use benefits in the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency’s meetings, and highlights stormwater capture for groundwater recharge as a principal management action in the future Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

For long-term water supply benefits, the District is interested in obtaining a long-term permit that would ensure sustainable groundwater management by increasing conjunctive management opportunities in Yolo County.