



State Water Resources Control Board



Division of Water Rights

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Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION Pursuant to Section 21092– Public Resources Code

The staff of the State Water Resources Control Board has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration setting forth the findings that the following proposed action will have a less than significant effect on the environment.

PROJECT TITLE: Beckstoffer Vineyards Applications 29852, 30252, and 30253 and Petition to Change Application 25630 (License 12902)

APPLICANT: Beckstoffer Vineyards
c/o Napa Valley Vineyard Engineering
176 Main Street, Suite B
St. Helena, CA 94574

PROJECT LOCATION:

Beckstoffer Vineyards (Applicant) is located approximately 7 miles southwest of the City of Napa in Napa County, California, and is bounded on the north by Las Amigas Road and on the west by Huichica Creek. The project site consists of 296 acres of developed vineyard on gently rolling terrain, located at the southern end of the Huichica Creek watershed within the "Cuttings Wharf, California" U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle at Township 4N, Range 4W, Sections 6 and 7, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Water Right Applications 29852, 30252, and 30253 were filed to request appropriation and storage of an additional 79 acre feet of water per year in three licensed reservoirs for irrigation of the existing vineyard. The additional 79 acre feet of water would be diverted from three existing Points of Diversion located on an unnamed stream tributary to Mud Slough, an unnamed stream tributary to Napa Slough, and Huichica Creek. The three storage reservoirs (Cabral Reservoir #1, Cabral Reservoir #2, and Las Amigas Reservoir #1) on the property exist under water right licenses 11333 and 12902 (Applications 24493 and 25630). Cabral Reservoir #1 and Las Amigas Reservoir are onstream reservoirs. An unnamed stream has been routed around Cabral Reservoir #2 to create an offstream, pit-type reservoir. The reservoirs are located on the two separate unnamed streams, neither of which discharges into Huichica Creek. Las Amigas Reservoir is located on a watercourse that discharges into Mud Slough and Cabral Reservoir #1 is located on a watercourse that discharges into Napa Slough. Cabral Reservoir #2 was located downstream of Cabral Reservoir #1 on the unnamed stream discharging to Napa Slough prior to the stream being rerouted. There are three existing licensed Points of Diversion; two of the Points of Diversion are the onstream dams, and the third Point of Diversion is on Huichica Creek. The pending applications propose water diversion for use in vineyard irrigation throughout the 296 acres of developed vineyard and expansion of Cabral 2 and Las Amigas reservoirs for additional water storage.

The Applicant also filed two petitions for change on License 12902 (Application 25630). The first petition was filed on February 26, 1993 and requests expansion of the Place of Use from 171 acres to 296 acres to account for a neighboring vineyard which was acquired by the Applicant. The second petition was filed on June 30, 1997 and requests addition of a point of diversion at Cabral Reservoir #1 to accommodate Cabral Reservoir #2 as an offstream reservoir. The Point of Diversion associated with the original onstream dam of Cabral Reservoir #2 is to be abandoned as a result of routing the stream around the reservoir.

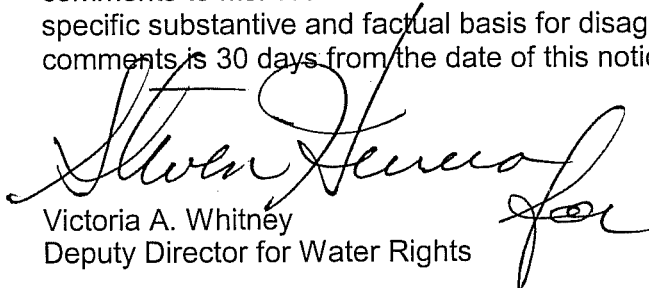
The project also involves removal and replacement of the existing pump structure located on the bank of Huichica Creek. The replacement would occur within a small footprint adjacent to the upland maintenance area, approximately 15 feet away from the bank.

DETERMINATION:

The State Water Resources Control Board has determined that the above-described project will have a less than significant effect on the environment for the reasons specified in the Initial Study prepared for this project.

The Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Initial Study in support of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are available on the Division of Water Rights website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/ceqa/index.shtml. A hard copy of these documents or additional information concerning the proposed action may be obtained by writing to Katy Washburn, Division of Water Rights, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000, by email at kwashburn@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 341-5386.

Persons who disagree with the conclusions set forth in the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration or who disagree with the information contained therein are invited to furnish written comments to Ms. Washburn at the above address. The comments should summarize the specific substantive and factual basis for disagreement. The final date for submitting comments is 30 days from the date of this notice.


Victoria A. Whitney
Deputy Director for Water Rights

Dated: OCT 26 2009