

El Dorado Irrigation District

Farmer's Free Ditch Diversion Statement

A stream gage was installed at this location on or about 2007. The stream gage location is Weber Creek just upstream from the Highway 49 bridge at the Farmer's Free Ditch Diversion structure. The Farmer's Free Diversion Structure is a rock and mortar diversion spanning Weber Creek. Historically water was diverted into a mortar lined diversion channel and eventually an earthen ditch to serve agricultural purposes in area. More recently, the District has diverted this right downstream at its existing Folsom Reservoir pumping station for treatment and municipal and industrial uses instead of its original point of diversion upstream at Weber Creek.

Subsequent to installation of the gage miners began significantly altering the stream channel around 2010, which caused the stream gage to not accurately record streamflow measurements. Following consultation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement, the District determined that a stream gage was no longer feasible since the streambed alterations, while destructive, were legal and would be allowed to continue. Based upon this determination staff have implemented an alternative method to evaluate and report streamflow at this location. Using streamflow information from upstream gaging stations, historic accurate streamflow data from Farmer's Free Ditch Diversion gage during the period of 2007-2009, and rainfall data for the watershed, the District now models the streamflow at this location.

The infeasibility of a stream gage for this diversion, due to the activities of miners in the area, results in the District being unable to strictly comply with the performance standards contained in 23 C.C.R. sections 933 and 934. Specifically, the District cannot satisfy the data and accuracy requirements contained in section 933 because there is no feasible measuring device that can be installed at this location. The District's alternative compliance for data recording is to model the flow rate at this location, based on available information. The District also cannot strictly comply with the measurement method requirements contained in section 934 because the modeled flow method is unlikely to meet the accuracy requirements of section 934(e). The

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District developed the alternative compliance plan in a manner that utilizes available information from upstream gaging stations, historic accurate streamflow data from Farmer's Free Ditch Diversion gage during the period of 2007-2009, and rainfall data for the watershed and uses this information to model water flow. Therefore, the accuracy of the modeled water flow for calculating diversion is dependent on the accuracy of the model inputs.