

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of Permits
10657, 10658 and 10659,
Issued on Applications
11199, 12578 and 12716,
UNITED STATES BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION,
Permittee

Source: Putah Creek
County: Solano

DECISION AND ORDER AMENDING DECISION D 869
AND PERMITS 10657, 10658 and 10659

On February 7, 1957, the State Water Rights Board, predecessor of the State Water Resources Control Board (Board), adopted its Decision D 869 approving Applications 11199, 12578 and 12716 of the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) and ordering that permits be issued subject to certain terms and conditions. Paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of the order provide for releases of water into the channel of Putah Creek, for the Bureau to gather certain information and report to the Board, and that the Board, prior to the expiration of a 15-year trial period, may make further orders concerning proper releases of water from the Monticello Reservoir and past Putah Diversion Dam for downstream use and recharge of

groundwater and concerning investigations, measurements and studies to be made by the Bureau.

On March 2, 1969, the Bureau filed a petition to set aside Conditions 11, 12 and 13, along with the corresponding conditions incorporated in Permits 10657, 10658 and 10659, and replace them with a monthly schedule of releases past the Putah Diversion Dam.

The Bureau's petition was the subject of a public hearing held by the Board in Sacramento, California, on June 17, 1969. The Bureau appeared and presented evidence, and appearances were also made by Solano County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Regents of the University of California and the Department of Fish and Game. No opposition to granting the petition was expressed.

The evidence received at the hearing having been duly considered, the Board finds as follows:

1. The Bureau has based its releases from Monticello Reservoir required by Decision D 869 on the reservoir's inflow calculated from evaporation rates and climatological data. However, records of Putah Creek streamflow above the reservoir since construction of the project compared with preproject records show substantially less flow into the reservoir during the summer

months than that calculated by the Bureau. The releases proposed by the Bureau exceed inflow to the reservoir during these months.

2. The schedule of releases proposed by the Bureau plus uncontrolled spills and tributary inflow of project water will maintain within reasonable limits the groundwater levels and satisfy the rights of surface diverters to the extent that they would have been satisfied in the absence of the Monticello Project, except as indicated in the next paragraph.

3. Groundwater in the area of influence of the lower reach of the Creek, from about mile 4.0 to mile 11.0*, has had a decrease of about 5,000 acre-feet per annum of water between 1957 and 1966 as a result of project operations. Releases in accordance with the Bureau's proposed schedule will not correct this deficiency. However, the groundwater in the vicinity of the lower reach of the creek is being benefited by the use of imported water from West Cut and the use of water from Putah South Canal in lieu of well water and Cache Creek water. Whether this will result in offsetting the diminution of groundwater in the area remains to be seen.

* Mile 0.0 is the west levee of the Yolo By-Pass.

4. The schedule of releases proposed by the Bureau, in lieu of the Board's order contained in Condition 11, should be adopted. However, the Board should continue to retain jurisdiction over Permits 10657, 10658 and 10659 until December 31, 1974, or such additional time as then seems necessary, to determine if the release schedule affords adequate protection to prior rights.

5. It is no longer necessary for the Bureau to report streamflow measurements and water quantity data as directed by Condition 12 except for measurements of diversions to Putah South Canal and flows past the Putah Diversion Dam. Also, the provisions for groundwater monitoring should be limited to recording depths to groundwater and estimates of changes in storage in the area influenced by Putah Creek between mile 4.0 and mile 11.0.

From the foregoing findings the Board concludes that Conditions 11, 12 and 13 of Decision D 869 and the corresponding conditions contained in Permits 10657, 10658 and 10659 should be and they are amended to read as follows:

11. Permittee shall release water into the Putah Creek channel from Monticello Reservoir and past the Putah Diversion Dam in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Normal Year (cfs)*</u>	<u>Dry Year (cfs)**</u>
November through January	25	25
February	16	16
March	26	26
April	46	46
May through July	43	33
August	34	26
September and October	20	15

* Cubic feet per second.

** When inflow to Lake Berryessa is less than 150,000 acre-feet per annum.

12. Permittee shall submit to the Board with its annual progress reports, or at such other times as the Board may request, the following information:

(a) Daily records of diversions to Putah South Canal and flows past the Putah Diversion Dam.

(b) Records of depth to groundwater and estimates of changes in the groundwater storage in the area influenced by Putah Creek between mile 4.0 and mile 11.0.

Permittee shall allow authorized representatives of the Board reasonable access to the project works and properties for the purpose of gathering information and data.

13. The Board reserves jurisdiction over Permits 10657, 10658 and 10659 until December 31, 1974, or for such additional time as then seems necessary, to determine if the schedule of releases in paragraph 11 herein provides adequate protection to downstream prior rights and for the recharge of groundwater to the extent that water would have been available in the absence of the Solano Project to make any further orders that may be required concerning proper releases of water for such purpose, and to impose any conditions providing for additional measurements or studies as may become necessary.

Adopted as the decision and order of the State Water Resources Control Board at a meeting duly called and held at Santa Monica, California.

Date: April 16, 1970

KERRY W. MULLIGAN **ABSENT**
Kerry W. Mulligan, Chairman

E. F. DIBBLE
E. F. Dibble, Vice Chairman

NORMAN B. HUME
Norman B. Hume, Member

RONALD B. ROBIE
Ronald B. Robie, Member

W. W. ADAMS
W. W. Adams, Member