State Water Resources Control Board

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
SITE OBSERVATION REPORT

Date of Site Visit:	11/08/2023 8:45 AM
Report Author:	Connor Bovée
Observation Performed By:	Roberto Cervantes, Kathryn Bare, Kenneth Petruzzelli, Tomas Eggers, Connor Bovée
Type:	Site Visit
Other Agencies Present:	United States Forest Service, Non-Governmental Organizations

Site Visit Summary

On November 8th, 2023 the following individuals met to observe the headwaters of Strawberry Creek and diversion facilities associated with Blue Triton Brands (BTB).

State Water Resources Control Board	United States Forest Service	Non-Governmental Organizations
Roberto Cervantes	Kelley Giron	Amanda Frye
Kathy Bare	Mike Nobles	Hugh Bialecki
Kenneth Petruzzelli	Dave Anderson	
Tomas Eggers		
Connor Bovée		

During this visit, the weather was fair with minimal clouds, a light wind, and a high temperature of approximately 55 degrees Fahrenheit. The meeting location was a turnout off California State Highway 18, approximately at the location of the Ponderosa Saw Mills & Log Structures. Once everyone had arrived around 8:45 AM, the planned itinerary for the day was developed. The group first visited the headwaters of Strawberry Creek and then observed BTB's facilities at springs 1A, 8, 4, 2, 3, 7, and 7ABC, in that order. After observing Spring 3, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) personnel departed while SWRCB and USFS staff continued to the Spring 7 complex. Notes from the visit are summarized below for each site. Attached to this report is a collection of photos taken during the visit by members of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). For additional details on these locations please refer to Order WR 2023-0042.

Spring Information

Spring ID:	**Strawberry Creek Headwaters Spring (A006108)**
Lat/Long:	34.229°, -117.234°
Description:	During the site visit, flow was observed coming out of Headwaters Spring. This visible surface flow was observed to dry up approximately 300 feet downstream of the headwaters. This measurement was taken by SWRCB staff using a laser range finder. The site is located approximately 540 feet southwest of the meeting location. See photos 1-5 in the photo log for additional information.

Spring ID:	**Spring 1A**
Lat/Long:	34.228°, -117.234°
Description:	Infrastructure at this spring consisted of a small, enclosed vault made of cinderblocks with a metal pipe protruding from the bottom of the vault. No visible surface flow and no diversions were observed at this site during the site visit. The site is located approximately 250 feet south of the headwaters. See photo 6 in the photo log for additional information.

Spring ID:	**Spring 8**
Lat/Long:	34.228°, -117.234°
Description:	Infrastructure at this spring consisted of a large, enclosed vault made of concrete and encased in stone with pipes coming out of the vault at multiple locations. There are two metal pipes that come from the bottom of the vault and head south. These pipes had no water in them and ended shortly after the concrete pad of the vault. Another metal pipe came out of the western side of the vault and had flow running through it to an unseen location. Water could be heard and felt flowing through this pipe. Out of the top of the vault there was a metal pole that had an antenna, a solar panel, and another device that appeared to be a camera. The site is located approximately 70 feet south of Spring 1A. See photos 36-40 in the photo log for additional information.

Spring ID: **Spring 4 (as described in Assessment of History and Nature of Arrowhead Springs San Bernardino Mountains San Bernardino County, California - Dames and Moore 1999)**

Lat/Long: 34.228°, -117.234°

Description: Mr. Cervantes, and Mr. Petruzzelli from SWRCB accompanied United States Forest Service (USFS) staff and the NGO personnel to observe the spring. The remaining staff stayed behind at Spring 8 to document additional observations.

Most of the site was overgrown and there appeared to be no infrastructure in use. Some water was observed flowing down the hillside, but the source of this water was not clear. Site is located approximately 120 feet south of and 15-20 feet below Spring 8.

Spring ID: **Spring 2**

Lat/Long: 34.228°, -117.235°

Description: The infrastructure at this spring consisted of a large, enclosed vault made of concrete encased in stone with pipes coming out of multiple locations. Two pipes protruded from the bottom of the vault going in a southeasterly direction.

The topmost pipe was made of metal and was approximately 4-6 inches in diameter. Water could be heard and felt flowing through this pipe going toward an unseen location.

The bottommost pipe was made of a plastic material and appeared to act as an overflow system for the top pipe.

Another metal pipe came out of the bottom of the vault going south. This pipe appears to act as the overflow for the entire vault. During the site visit, flow was observed coming out of the end of the pipe. SWRCB staff took a flow measurement using a bottle and stopwatch of approximately 0.88 gallons per minute.

A metal pole was mounted to the front of the vault and extended upwards beyond the top of the enclosure. The base of the metal pole clearly goes inside the metal enclosure. Partway up the pole there was a trail camera. At the top of the pole were various cables connecting two solar panels, an antenna, what appeared to be another camera and some lights that were not on during the site visit.

This site is located approximately 400 feet west of Spring 1A. See photos 7-14 in the photo log for additional information.

Spring ID: **Spring 3**
Lat/Long: 34.228°, -117.236°
Description: The infrastructure at this spring consisted of a large, enclosed vault made of concrete and encased in stone with pipes coming out of multiple locations.

The main diversion pipe leaves from the bottom of the vault and heads southeast to an unseen location. This pipe is supported by a metal frame welded onto its exterior.

Below that pipe are two pipes made of a plastic material that appear to act as the overflow for the vault. Flow could be seen discharging from the end of one of the two pipes. SWRCB staff took a flow measurement using a bottle and stopwatch; the flow was approximately 0.21 gallons per minute.

Coming out of the top of the vault was a metal pole at the top of which were some cables connected to a solar panel and an antenna. The base of this metal pole could be seen going into a conduit that ran into the bottom of the vault.

This site is located approximately 250 feet southwest of Spring 2. See photos 15-21 in the photo log for additional information.

Spring ID: **Spring Tunnel 7**
Lat/Long: 34.226°, -117.229°
Description: The infrastructure at this spring consisted of a large, enclosed vault made of concrete. The vault sits at the bottom of a depression in the landscape created by a stone embankment. Staff did not observe any pipes at this site.

The site is located approximately 1,300 feet southeast of the meeting location. See photos 22-24 in the photo log for additional information.

Spring ID: **Spring 7 ABC**
Lat/Long: 34.226°, -117.230°
Description: Infrastructure at this spring consisted of a large, enclosed vault made of concrete and encased in stone with pipes coming out of the vault at multiple locations. This site contains a total of four boreholes (7, 7A, 7B, and 7C).

The main diversion pipeline leaves from the bottom of the vault and goes southwest. The end of this pipeline could not be observed from the site.

Staff observed two additional 4-inch pipes protruding from the bottom of the vault heading south for a short distance before terminating. A large amount of flow was observed discharging from one of these two pipes and had an animal guard installed at the outlet. SWRCB staff determined this flow rate was too high to measure using the bottle and stopwatch, or other equipment staff had available at that time.

The pipe not discharging water was approximately 4 inches in diameter and also had an animal guard installed at the end of the pipe that reduced the effective inner diameter of the pipe.

Metal and plastic pipes were found embedded in the terrain that did not connect to any of the facilities at this site. SWRCB staff presume these pipes were part of the original conveyance infrastructure of Spring 7 that have since been abandoned.

A metal pole protruded from the top of the vault where cables connected to a solar panel, an antenna, a camera, and another device that the group was unable to discern the purpose of. SWRCB staff commented that the device bears a strong resemblance to antennas used for telemetry devices in remote areas. USFS staff added that this area had the weakest cell signal out of all the sites so a stronger antenna might be necessary to transmit data collected at this site.

This site is located approximately 90 feet south of Spring 7. See photos 25-35 in the photo log for additional information.

Follow-Up Items

After observing the last spring site, the group returned to the meeting location at approximately 12:30 PM and began discussions for future site visits. This report does not make any determinations on compliance with the Cease and Desist Order WR 2023-0042. Staff expect to receive BTB's first monitoring report on or before December 15, 2023.

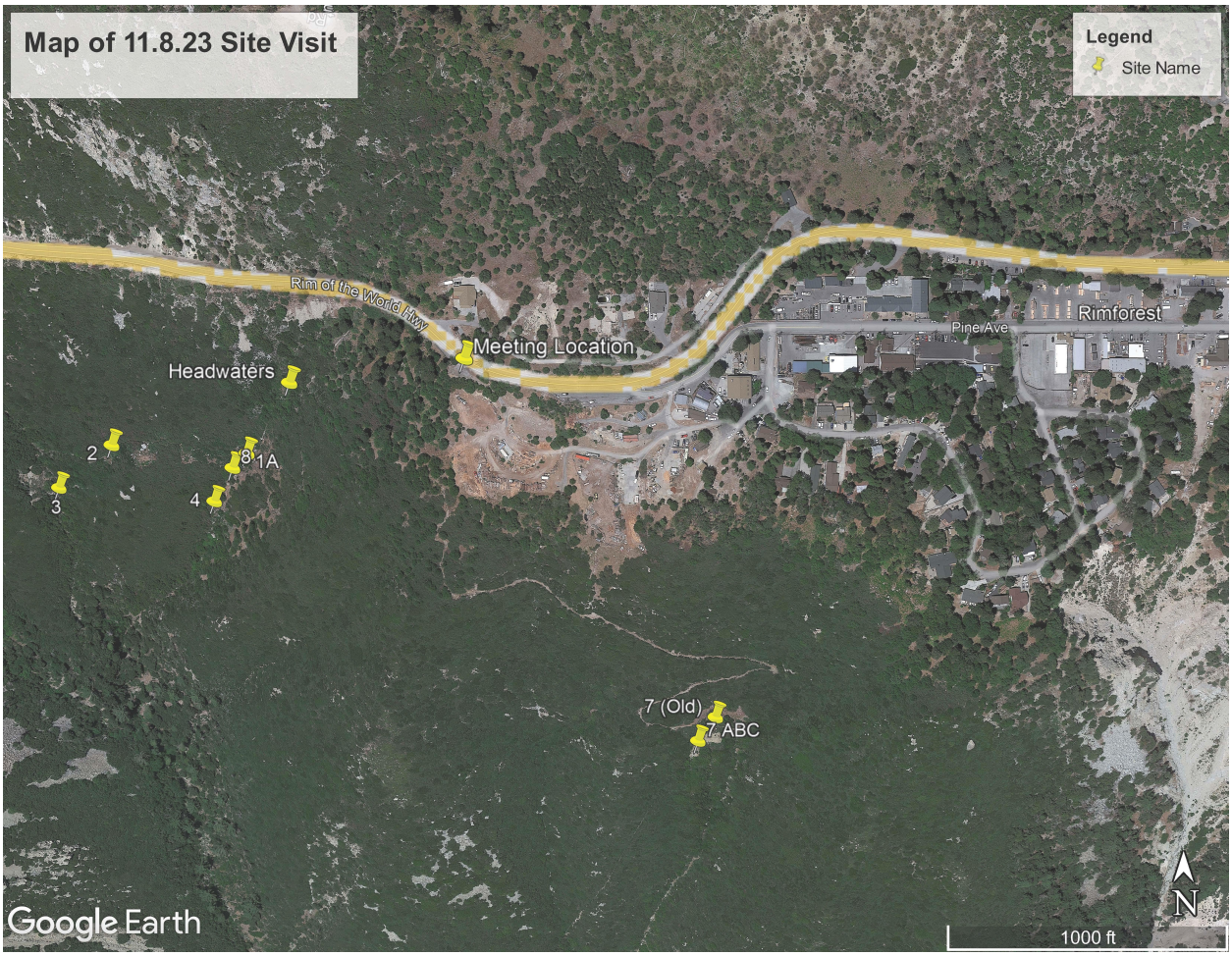
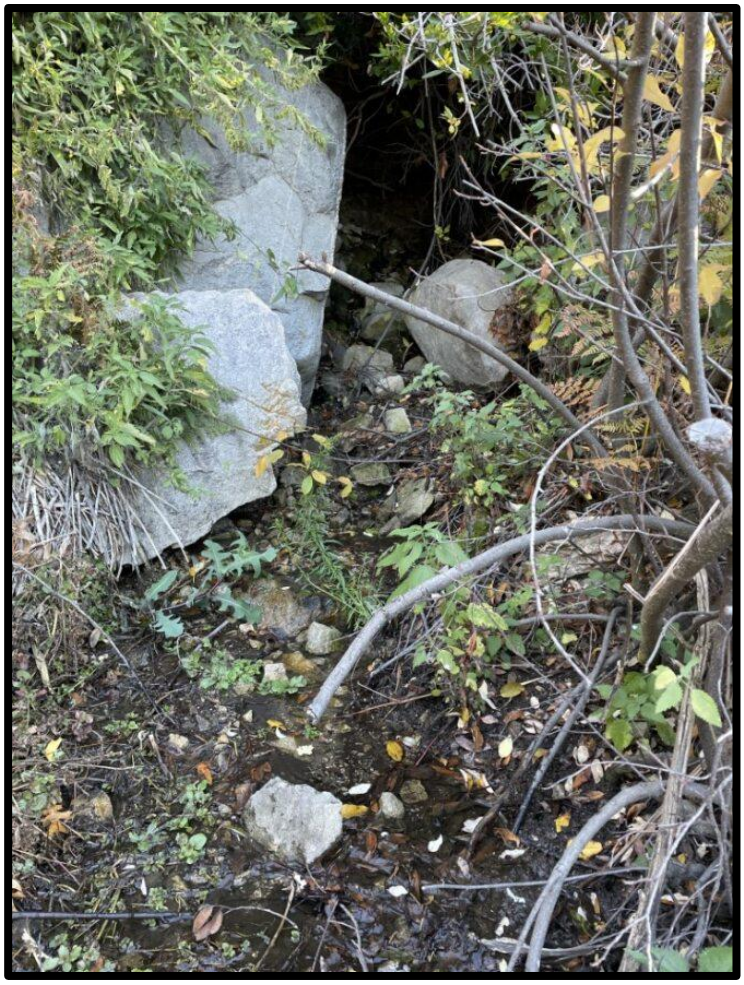


Figure 1: General Site Map

Blue Triton Brands
11/08/2023 8:45 AM Observation Photos

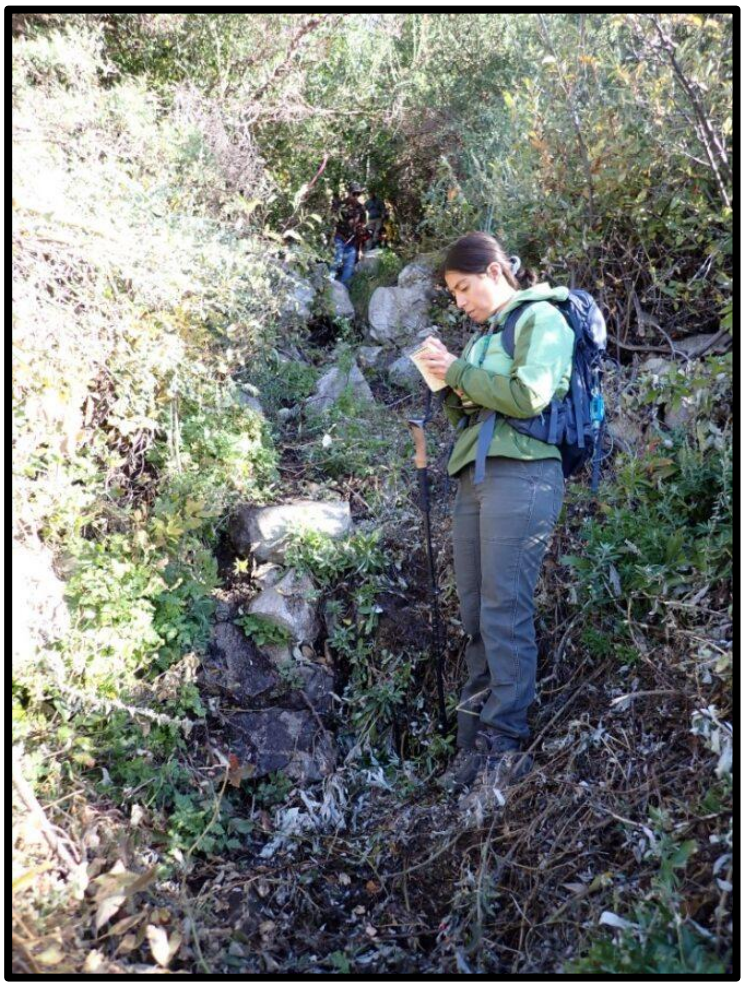


1. Headwaters: Looking at source of water

2. Headwaters: Looking at equipment installed downstream of source

3. Headwaters: Looking at flow downstream from source

4. Headwaters: Looking at abandoned infrastructure at source



5. Headwaters: Looking at location where water from source is no longer visible on the ground surface

6. Spring 1A: Looking at infrastructure at site

7. Spring 2: Looking at infrastructure at site

8. Spring 2: Looking at equipment installed at top of pole

9. Spring 2: Looking at trail camera installed partway up pole

10. Spring 2: Looking at base of pole going into vault

11. Spring 2: Looking upslope towards infrastructure from discharge pipeline

12. Spring 2: Looking at discharge pipeline and plastic overflow pipe

13. Spring 2: Looking at flow out of vault overflow pipe

14. Spring 2: Looking at SWRCB staff taking flow measurement at vault overflow pipe

15. Spring 3: Looking at infrastructure at site

16. Spring 3: Looking at equipment installed at top of pole

17. Spring 3: Looking at discharge pipeline from vault

18. Spring 3: Looking at vault from discharge pipeline

19. Spring 3: Looking at overflow pipes from vault

20. Spring 3: Looking at flow coming out of one overflow pipeline

21. Spring 3: Looking at SWRCB staff taking flow measurement at vault overflow pipe

22. Spring Tunnel 7: Looking at infrastructure at site

23. Spring Tunnel 7: Looking towards stone embankment

24. Spring Tunnel 7: Looking behind infrastructure at site

25. Spring 7ABC: Looking at top of site containing boreholes 7, 7A, 7B, and 7C

26. Spring 7ABC: Looking at infrastructure at site

27. Spring 7ABC: Looking at equipment installed at top of pole

28. Spring 7ABC: Looking at discharge pipeline and other pipeline

29. Spring 7ABC: Looking at discharge pipe and other abandoned pipes

30. Spring 7ABC: Looking at insert at the end of the other pipe

31. Spring 7ABC: Looking at vault overflow pipeline (note flow coming out of pipe)

32. Spring 7ABC: Looking at abandoned pipelines to the north of the discharge pipeline

33. Spring 7ABC: Looking at ends of abandoned pipelines

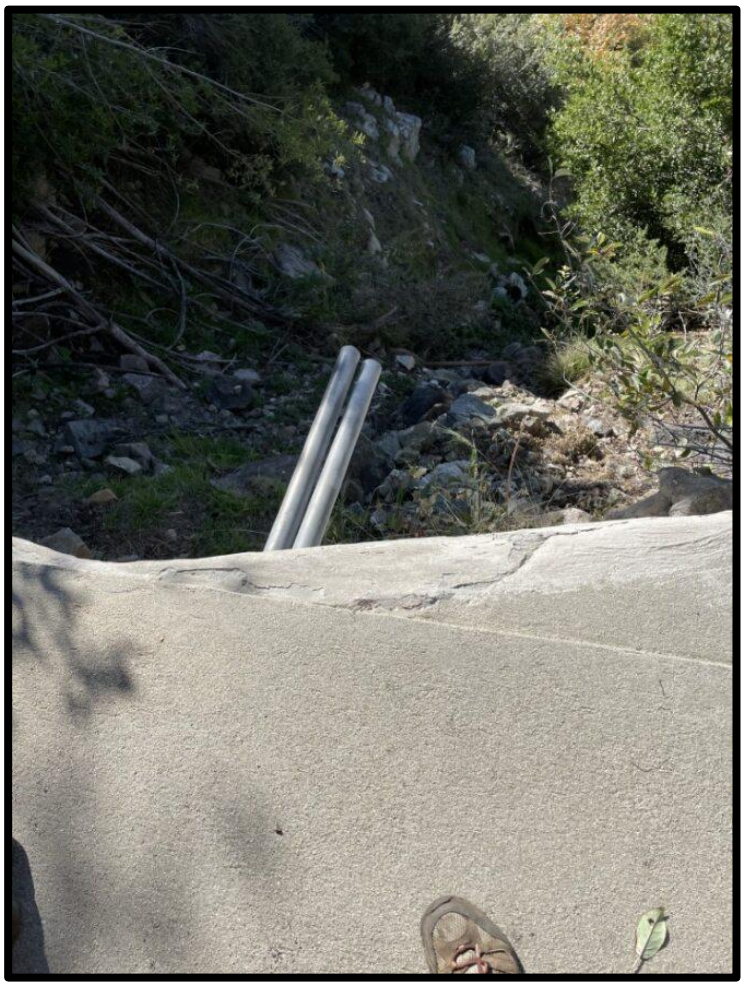
34. Spring 7ABC: Looking north of prior photo to upstream sections of abandoned pipelines

35. Spring 7ABC: Looking at upstream sections of abandoned pipelines

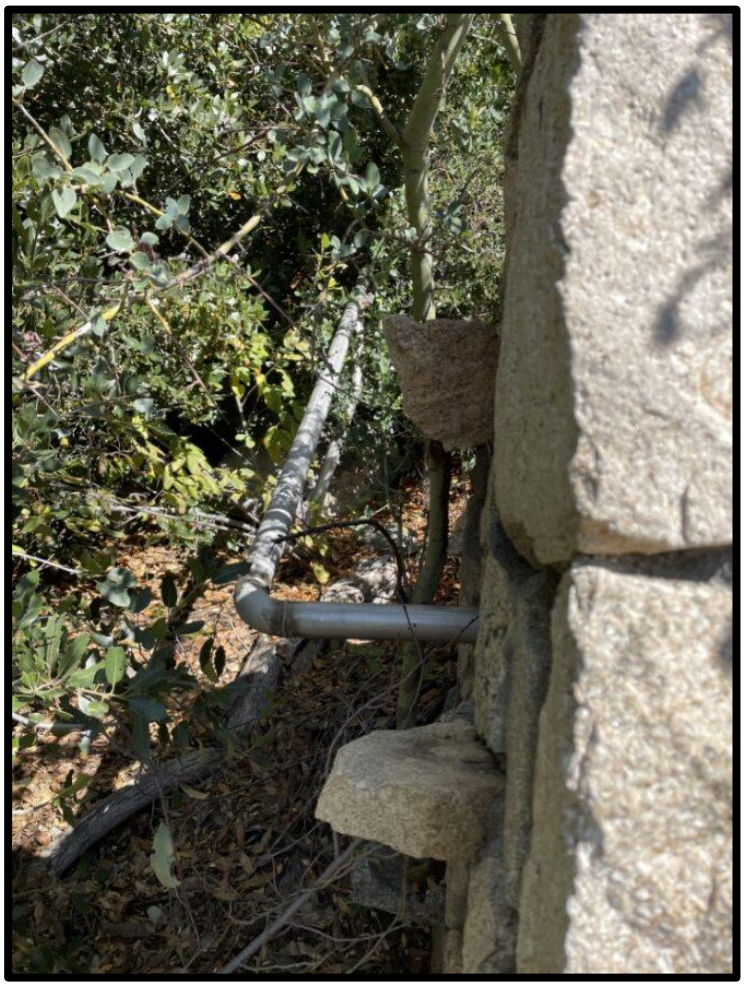
36. Spring 8: Looking at top of site

37. Spring 8: Looking at equipment at top of pole

38. Spring 8: Looking at discharge pipeline coming out of west side of vault



39. Spring 8: Looking at vault overflow pipelines



40. Spring 8: Looking at pipe coming from upstream of site going into vault