

CSPA Recommendations

From Testimony of Chris Shutes

El Sur Ranch WRA 30166

July 8, 2011

CSPA Recommendations

1. Complete, frequent and publicly-available gauging of the surface flows in the Big Sur River at a fully calibrated USGS Gage 11143010. Applicant should be required to pay for gauge installation, calibration and maintenance, and for real-time reporting on the internet of the 15-minute flows measured at this gauge.
2. Should USGS Gage 11143010 prove impossible to calibrate, applicant should be required to fund an alternate gauge, with the components stated in recommendation 1, as close as possible upstream of the zone of influence of the applicant's diversions.
3. Complete direct hydraulic gauging (through actual gauges connected to applicant's pumps) of applicant's diversions, and electronic reporting of to the State Board of 15-minute, hourly, and average daily diversion data. The diversion records should be made available to the public upon request.

CSPA Recommendations

4. Interim implementation of the minimum instream flow measures recommended by CSPA/CBD/VWA biologist David H. Dettman in Exhibit CSPA/CBD-100.
5. A clear, established process for the Board to revisit the instream flow requirements to account for the results of the CDFG instream flow study that is currently underway by Robert Holmes, should a permit be issued prior to completion of the instream flow study.
6. Limitation of diversions to conform to the maximum diversions provided for beneficial use in Water Code §1004 for uncultivated crops.

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7. Implementation of best management practices for applicant's irrigation distribution system, including oversight and maintenance, that brings water use in line with modern standards and that conforms with strict implementation of the Water Code's prohibition of waste and mandate for reasonable and beneficial use.
8. Prohibition of additions to the place of use.
9. Prohibition of changes in purpose of use.

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10. Prohibitions of transfer of permitted water.
11. A long-term monitoring program of the hydrology and biota of the Big Sur River downstream of Highway 1, including the lagoon, to be carried out by or in consultation with CDFG, funded by the applicant. The monitoring should include a baseline population study of steelhead and California red-legged frogs, and other sensitive biota as recommended by CDFG.
12. Standard permit terms appropriate to the location, including especially prohibition on take of listed species.
13. Expedited investigation and enforcement action for waste and non-reasonable use by applicant.
14. Coordination with CDFG regarding the need for and development of a streambed alteration permit.