

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

**DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS**

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In the Matter of Water Right Application A031305

**Surprise Valley Ranch, Inc.**

**ORDER APPROVING MINOR CHANGE TO APPLICATION**

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SOURCE: (1) Unnamed Stream tributary to the North Fork Albion River thence the Albion River

(2) North Fork Albion River tributary to the Albion River

COUNTY: Mendocino

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**WHEREAS:**

1. On March 14, 2002, Surprise Valley Ranch, Inc. (applicant) filed water right application A031305 with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board), Division of Water Rights (Division) to appropriate water from the Albion River stream system in Mendocino County.
2. The application was publicly noticed on September 27, 2002. Protests were received from the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Albion River Watershed Protection Association, Vanlee Waters, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The protest from Vanlee Waters was withdrawn on September 12, 2003.
3. On May 13, 2025, the State Water Board initiated a minor change to modify Application A031305 as follows:
  - a. Remove the Stockwatering Pond Diversion point of diversion to offstream storage on the North Fork Albion River located at North 2,233,406 feet and East 6,112,054 feet by California Coordinate System, Zone 2, North American Datum 1983, and is located within the Southeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 36, Township 17 North, Range 16 West, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.
  - b. Reduce the storage amount from 97 acre-feet per year to 67 acre-feet per year.

- c. Change the place of use to 53 acres within Section 6, Township 16 North, Range 15 West, and Section 31, Township 17 North, Range 15 West, all within Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.
4. On June 4, 2025, the State Water Board provided notice and an opportunity to provide comments regarding the minor change to the applicant, the protestants, and other interested parties. No comments were received.
5. The State Water Board may make a minor change to an application without requiring the filing of a petition for change if the Board finds all of the following:
  - a. The change does not enlarge or increase the authorized rate, amount, or season of diversion.
  - b. The change does not increase the total area subject to inundation by water diverted to storage or the area where facilities will be constructed.
  - c. The change is not substantial or constitutes a reduction, agreed to by the applicant, in the authorized diversion, affected area, or other feature of the application.
  - d. The change does not have the potential to adversely affect the water supply of other legal users of water or instream beneficial uses.

(Wat. Code, § 1700.4.)

6. The proposed changes will not enlarge or increase the authorized rate, amount, or season of diversion. The amount of water diverted will be reduced from 97 acre-feet per year to 67 acre-feet per year. The application does not include a specified rate of diversion and season of diversion will not change.
7. The proposed changes will not increase the total area subject to inundation by water diverted to storage or the area where facilities will be constructed. The proposed Stockwatering Pond and associated Stockwatering Pond Diversion will be removed and the place of use for irrigation and frost protection will be reduced.
8. The proposed changes are not substantial or constitute a reduction, agreed to by the applicant, in the authorized diversion, affected area, or other feature of the application. The amount of water for diversion will be reduced, a point of diversion and associated offstream reservoir will be removed, and the place of use for irrigation and frost protection will be reduced.
9. The proposed changes do not have the potential to adversely affect the water supply of other legal users of water or instream beneficial uses. There are no other legal users of water within the area associated with the application.

Removing a point of diversion and reducing the amount of water for diversion is a reduction that will not adversely affect instream beneficial uses.

10. Pursuant to Resolution 2023-0036, the State Water Board has delegated the authority to conduct and supervise the activities of the State Water Board to the Executive Director. By memorandum dated January 31, 2024, the Executive Director has redelegated the authority to act on minor changes to the Deputy Director for Water Rights. The Deputy Director for Water Rights has further redelegated this authority pursuant to a memorandum dated April 20, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

1. The minor change to the application is approved.
2. The maximum amount of water requested for diversion is changed to 67 acre-feet per year.
3. The points of diversion are changed by removing point of diversion 4, the Stockwatering Pond Diversion, a point of diversion to offstream storage located at North 2,233,406 feet and East 6,112,054 feet by California Coordinate System, Zone 2, North American Datum 1983, within the Southeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 36, Township 17 North, Range 16 West, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.
4. The places of storage are changed by removing the Stockwatering Pond offstream storage reservoir.
5. The place of use for irrigation and frost protection of the vineyard is changed to 53 acres as follows:
  - a. 14 acres within Northwest quarter of Northwest quarter of Section 6;
  - b. 13.5 acres within Northeast quarter of Northwest quarter of Section 6;
  - c. 1.3 acres within Southwest quarter of Northwest quarter of Section 6;
  - d. 16.2 acres within Southeast quarter of Northwest quarter of Section 6;  
and,
  - e. 8 acres within Southwest quarter of Southwest quarter of Section 31.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

*Matthew McCarthy*  
*Senior Environmental Scientist*  
*Division of Water Rights*

Dated: June 25, 2025