

Corps Verification Letter





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT 1325 J STREET SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

May 27, 2015

Regulatory Division SPK-2015-00265

South Valley Water Banking Authority Attn: Mr. Dan Vink 357 East Olive Avenue Tipton, California 93272-9627

Dear Mr. Vink:

We are responding to your March 13, 2015, request for an approved jurisdictional determination for the Pixley Groundwater Bank site. The approximately 4,222-acre site is located approximately 4 miles southeast of the town of Pixley and bisected by Deer Creek, in Sections 7-11 and 14-18, Township 23 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Latitude 35.93420°, Longitude -119.19535°, Tulare County, California.

Based on available information, we concur with the estimate of waters of the United States, as depicted on the enclosed revised, April, 2015, Jurisdictional Delineation, Pixley Groundwater Bank, Tulare County, California, drawing prepared by Gibson & Skordal, LLC Wetland Consultants. Approximately 2.040 acres of waters of the United States are present within the survey area. These waters are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, since they are relatively permanent waters that flow directly from traditionally navigable waters, into "navigable in-fact waters".

The 3,086-acres of waters identified as "Deer Creek", the 1.122-acres of waters identified as "Tail Water Pond/Ditch", and the 9.568-acres of waters identified as "Irrigation Holding Pond", on the provided drawing are intrastate isolated waters with no apparent interstate or foreign commerce connection. As such, these waters are not currently regulated by the Corps of Engineers. This disclaimer of jurisdiction is only for Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Other Federal, State, and local laws may apply to your activities. In particular, you may need authorization from the California State Water Resources Control Board and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This determination is valid for five years from the date of this letter, unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date. If you object to this determination, you may request an administrative appeal under Corps regulations at 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 331.

A Notification of Appeal Process (NAP) and Request for Appeal (RFA) form is enclosed. If you request to appeal this determination you must submit a completed RFA form to the South Pacific Division Office at the following address: Administrative Appeal Review Officer, Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division, CESPD-PDO, 1455 Market Street,

2052B, San Francisco, California 94103-1399, Telephone: 415-503-6574, FAX: 415-503-6646.

In order for an RFA to be accepted by the Corps, the Corps must determine that it is complete, that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 CFR Part 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the NAP. Should you decide to submit an RFA form, it must be received at the above address by 60 days from the date of this letter. It is not necessary to submit an RFA form to the Division Office if you do not object to the determination in this letter.

You should provide a copy of this letter and notice to all other affected parties, including any individual who has an identifiable and substantial legal interest in the property.

This determination has been conducted to identify the limits of Corps of Engineers' Clean Water Act jurisdiction for the particular site identified in this request. This determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. If you or your tenant are U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to starting work.

We appreciate your feedback. At your earliest convenience, please tell us how we are doing by completing the customer survey on our website under Customer Service Survey.

Please refer to identification number SPK-2015-00265 in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please contact Evan Kreklow Carnes at our California South Regulatory Branch, 1325 J Street, Room 1350, Sacramento, California 95814-2922, by email at Evan. G. Carnes@usace.army.mil, or telephone at 916-557-7506. For more information regarding our program, please visit our website at www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Nepstad

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Deputy Chief

Regulatory Division

Enclosures

cc: (w/o encls)

Ms. Leana Rosetti, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, Rosetti.Leana@epa.gov

Ms. Elizabeth Lee, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, EMLee@waterboards.ca.gov

Mr. James Gibson, Gibson and Skordal, LLC, JGibson@gibsonandskordal.com

Draft Aquatic Resources Delineation Map

