



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Inland Deserts Region
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Ontario, CA 91764
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 21, 2020

Mark Norton
LESJWA Administrator
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
11615 Sterling Avenue
Riverside, CA 92503

CDFW Letter Regarding LE/CL TMDL and San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Dear Mr. Norton:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) appreciates the opportunity to voice our concerns to the LE/CL TMDL Task Force (Task Force). Currently, we are a Task Force Agency because of our property, the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA). We have not participated in the LE/CL TMDL Task Force meetings in the recent past and are therefore not current with the actions of the Task Force. However, we have re-engaged this Summer in participation and seek to understand the different aspects of the Task Force including monitoring and distribution of participation fees.

The primary concern we have is that we question our need to participate as a Task Force agency any further. According to “Table 6-9q4. Nutrient Load Reduction Required for Watershed Jurisdictions to Comply with Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDLs” on page 4 of “Draft Attachment A to Resolution No. RB8-2019-0041 Revised TMDLs, WLAs, and LAs Tables April 23, 2019” (see attachment), CDFW is complying with LAs and has no reduction of nutrient load required. Since we are in compliance, can we now discontinue participation as a Task Force Agency and as a responsible entity? Furthermore, does the fact that we are in compliance or the amount of relatively low amounts of TMDLs from SJWA affect the calculation of participation fees?

We are also writing to let you know that we no longer lease any land for agriculture. We stopped leasing the land over seven years ago and now only farm the land for wildlife. Our farming practices do include the use of any fertilizers or pesticides. The land is solely used to provide the public with hunting, recreational, conservational, and scientific opportunities.

Additionally, Mystic Lake which is a part of the SJWA, receives its water from the San Jacinto River, after upstream land uses have already loaded the flow with nutrients. The lake acts as a sink and accumulates the nutrients. Every so often the lake overflows back into the river but the nutrients are not from the Wildlife Area. Furthermore, we also do not farm within the Mystic Lake. Are the water quality monitoring points placed to

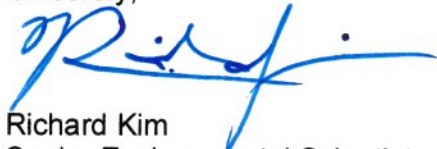
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take into account the upstream sources of nutrients? Also, do you take all the above into consideration when calculating the participation fees or the need to participate? Please provide in writing, the basis of why the CDFW is included as a Task Force Agency and Responsible Entity, and how our participation fees are calculated.

If you have any questions regarding this Letter, please contact Stefan Awender at Stefan.Awender@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Richard Kim
Senior Environmental Scientist
Inland Deserts Region - Lands South Program

ATTACHMENT A