



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898



IN REPLY REFER TO:
CGB-440
WTR-4.10

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. Erik Ekdahl
Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights State Water Resources Control Board
Post Office Box 2000
Sacramento, California 95812-2000

Subject: Petition to Add Central Valley Project Points of Rediversion on Los Banos Creek

Dear Mr. Ekdahl:

Please find enclosed the United States Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Petition for Change, filed pursuant to Water Code Section 1701.2, to add the Los Banos Creek Detention Dam and three downstream points of diversion on Los Banos Creek as points of rediversion for previously stored Central Valley Project (CVP) water. The requested change is for the purpose of improving water supply reliability for wildlife refuges and other south-of-Delta CVP contractors by permitting up to 8,000 acre-feet of CVP water to be re-stored in Los Banos Creek Detention Reservoir for delivery downstream on Los Banos Creek.

The requested change will help optimize operations of the Los Banos Creek Detention Reservoir. The State Water Resources Control Board previously approved two petitions for temporary change in 2019 and 2020 that facilitated a successful proof-of-concept to support this Petition.

Also included is a check of \$850.00 for the Department of Fish and Wildlife fee (Pub. Resources Code §10005).

Reclamation requests this Petition be processed promptly so that construction of project facilities can be accomplished this year, and to avoid the loss of state grant funding. Approval of the Petition is required before a solicitation for bids on construction can be released. The bidding process will take approximately 6 weeks. Most construction work is limited to a 5-month window between June 15 and November 15, 2025, to avoid: (1) impacts to sensitive species, (2) recreational access impacts at the Reservoir, and (3) flood control operations and water release schedules. A grant awarded by the Department of Water Resources' Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program requires that project facilities be constructed before February 2026. Reclamation appreciates the assistance that the Division will be providing in processing this Petition.

Should you wish to discuss this petition further, please contact Vanessa Emerzian at (916) 978-5252 or vemerzian@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

MELISSA
VIGNAU

Digitally signed by
MELISSA VIGNAU
Date: 2025.02.09
16:13:01 -08'00'

Melissa Vignau
Regional Resources Manager

Attachments:

- 1) Petition for Change Form
- 2) Supplement to Petition
- 3) Environmental Information for Petition
- 4) Map
- 5) Photographs
- 6) Proof of Service of Petition on California Department of Fish and Wildlife

cc: Lon Martin

General Manager San Luis Water District
1015 6th Street
Los Banos, CA 93635

Steve Chedester
Director of Policy and Programs San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
541 H Street
Los Banos, CA 93635

Ric Ortega
General Manager Grassland Water District
200 W. Willmott Avenue
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