East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
1201 L Street Modesto, CA 95354
www.esjcoalition.org

December 5, 2012

Ms. Pamela Creedon
Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Re: ESJWQC Monitoring and Reporting Project Plan update – removal of Peaslee Creek as an Assessment site

Dear Ms. Creedon,

The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (ESJWQC or Coalition) is submitting a request to update its Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRPP) to remove the monitoring site Peaslee Creek @ Lake Rd. The Coalition is requesting for Assessment Monitoring in 2013 to rotate to the next scheduled site, Mustang Creek @ East Ave. This request is based on 1) there is no access to the creek from the road due to a fence that runs along the roadway blocking entry onto private property and the creek is about 40 below the bridge making bridge sampling impossible, and 2) irrigation drainage to the creek is minimal resulting in very low flow for most of the year.

In the ESJWQC Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan (MRPP, approved September 15, 2008), the Coalition developed a list of potential monitoring sites and a schedule for when those sites would be monitored. Coalition monitoring is stratified based on zones with one Core Monitoring location and several Assessment Monitoring locations in each zone. The sites were selected based on knowledge of waterways in the area and review of maps; however, prior to any new site being rotated into the monitoring schedule, the Coalition visits the site to ensure the waterbody is suitable for monitoring.

Peaslee Creek @ Lake Rd (target location: N 37.61769, W -120.50733) is a new site that has not been monitored by the Coalition. It is scheduled for Assessment Monitoring in 2013 and 2014. When the monitoring team scouted Peaslee Creek @ Lake Rd in 2012, they found that there is no access to the creek from the road due to a fence that runs along the roadway blocking entry onto private property, and that irrigation drainage to the creek is minimal. There is no access to the creek from the bridge at Lake Road because the bridge is 40 feet above the creek and the water is not deep enough to use a grab bucket collection device. The amount of irrigated land above the planned monitoring location at Lake Road is small. There is a large Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) directly upstream from the sample site that appears to divert water in the creek to use within the facility and may explain why there is minimal to no flow in Peaslee Creek. It also appears that the creek is regularly used by the property owners for livestock watering and grazing. Figure 1 is an upstream view of the creek from Lake Road. Figure 2 is a photo of Peaslee Creek and highlights the paths used by livestock to access the water. Figure 3 and 4 are satellite images from Google Earth of the adjacent land use including the upstream CAFO. There is no other public road other than Lake Road that crosses Peaslee Creek (Figure 4).

The Coalition is requesting that the monitoring location, Peaslee Creek @ Lake Rd, be removed from the ESJWQC MRPP. Once approved, the MRPP monitoring schedule will be updated to rotate Mustang Creek @ East Ave into

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Assessment Monitoring for 2013 and 2014. Mustang Creek was last monitored in 2010 and was originally scheduled to rotate into Assessment Monitoring in 2015. In addition, Mustang Creek will become a high priority management plan site with focused outreach in 2014 which would coincide with Assessment Monitoring if this request is approved.

Please let me know if you need additional information to support this request. Upon approval, the Coalition will submit an updated MRPP monitoring schedule table.

Sincerely,

Parry Klassen
Executive Director
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

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Figure 1. Peaslee Creek @ Lake Rd monitoring location; photo of upstream view (facing southeast).

Figure 2. Peaslee Creek @ Lake Rd monitoring location; photo of downstream view (facing southwest).

Figure 3. Peaslee Creek @ Lake Rd subwatershed land use from Google Earth (upstream view).

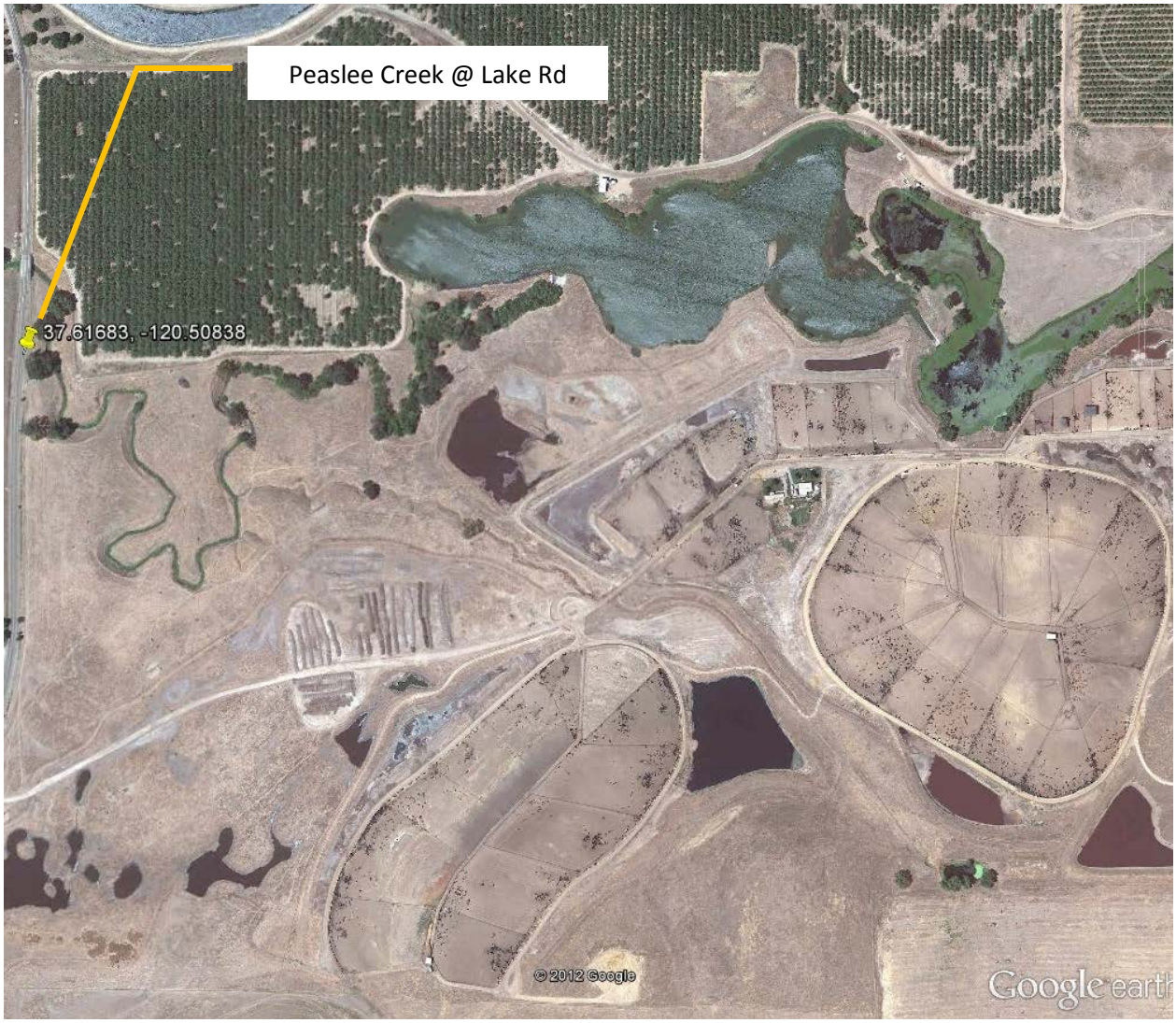

Figure 4. Peaslee Creek @ Lake Rd subwatershed land use from Google Earth (downstream view).