

From: Terry Bechtel
To: Fregien, Susan; Hartman, Jelena; Klassen, Parry; West', 'Rachel
CC: Jimmerson, Chris; Johnson', 'Francisca; Johnson', 'Michael; 'MelissaTurner'; mjniemi@tid.org; Reising', 'Lara
Date: 3/1/2012 6:01 PM
Subject: RE: ESJWQC E. coli, nutrient, inorganics and metals Exceedance Report-January 2012

And I know who and how it spiked. The Prairie Flower Drain monitoring watershed is about 80 plus percent dairy land base. There are prox. 8 dairies that have or can reach the drain. On the morning of January 5th there was a spill from a dairy into the P.F. Drain. The Dairy Unit and DFG is working on an enforcement as we speak (or type). The monitoring location is in a flat spot of the drain and may show continued exceedences from the original spill until other water comes down to drain and flushes it. Recovery is not probable because a significant portion of the drain is underground pipe or not accessible. Parry is correct. The Prairie Flower Drain is used to take out the perched water table. At times, the depth to ground water is only a couple feet. The drain is about 6 foot deep to the top of the concrete pipe. It starts just west of Mitchell Rd as an underground pipe. Surfaces to an open ditch at Morgan Rd. It then goes northwest and discharges into the Harding Drain east of Carpenter Rd.

>>> Parry Klassen <pklassen@unwiredbb.com> 2/29/2012 9:27 AM >>>

Jelena,

If you look at our 6+ years of monitoring results from Prairie Flower Drain you'll see a definite trend of high EC, N and e coli, year after year. The watershed is dominated by a high water table 5-20 feet deep, many years of manure applications to surrounding fields plus numerous dairies.

The drain was built to take out the perched water table so crops could be grown. That perched water is saturated with nutrients that over time have leached through the soil profile into the shallow groundwater, then the water moves laterally into the drain. There is also irrigated ag in the watershed that occasionally drains surface into the drain (dairies are prohibited from discharging). Incidentally, when the San Joaquin River has high flows, local growers report upwelling more than 1 mile east of the river (in the same area as Prairie Flower Drain.)

Solutions to the above are difficult if not impossible (short of stopping all ag).

Mike/Melissa can fill in the gaps I've left out.

We can talk more about this Thursday.

Parry

Parry Klassen
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From: Jelena Hartman [<mailto:JHartman@waterboards.ca.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:56 AM
To: Rachel West; Susan Fregien
Cc: Lara Reising; Francisca Johnson; Michael Johnson; MelissaTurner; mjniemi@tid.org; ParryKlassen; Chris Jimmerson
Subject: Re: ESJWQC E. coli, nutrient, inorganics and metals Exceedance Report-January 2012

Hi Rachel,

Thank you for the Exceedance Report.

The ammonia, nitrate and *E. coli* exceedances at Prairie Flower Drain @ Crows Landing suggest potential dairy/feedlot influence on the water quality in the subwatershed, and I will forward the exceedance information to Terry Bechtel so that the Dairy Unit is aware of the possible issues with dairies in the area. What are your thoughts on the potential sources?

I will let you know if there are further questions.

Best regards,

Jelena

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Jelena Hartman | Environmental Scientist
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>>> Rachel West <rwest@mlj-llc.com> 2/28/2012 4:26 PM >>>

Dear Susan,

As required in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Order No. R5-2008-0005) for Coalition Groups, an Exceedance Report is being submitted to address the following issues a) the exceedances, b) the follow-up monitoring, and c) any analysis or other actions the Coalition Group may take to address the exceedance.

a.) On January 10, 2012, Normal Monitoring (NM) and Management Plan Monitoring (MPM) were conducted in the ESJWQC region. Water was collected for the analysis of physical parameters, nutrients, metals, and bacteria. During this monitoring event five sites were sampled as non-contiguous waterbodies (Bear Creek @ Kibby Rd, Berenda Slough along Ave 18 1/2, Deadman Creek @ Gurr Rd, Dry Creek @ Rd 18 and Livingston Drain @ Robin Ave). There were three dry sites during this monitoring event (Cottonwood Creek @ Rd 20, Duck Slough @ Gurr Rd and McCoy Lateral @ Hwy 140). Final data for this event were received from the laboratory on February 27, 2012. Exceedances of receiving water limitations for *E. coli*, total dissolved solids (TDS), ammonia, dissolved copper and nitrate-nitrite occurred. Details on the sites and constituents sampled and associated exceedances are provided in an excel spreadsheet attached to this email. Raw data are available upon request. Site pictures and flow data from this event were provided by email on January 16, 2012, and are also available on the MLJ-LLC Sharepoint website (<http://sharepoint.mlj-llc.com/mlj-db/database/forms/allitems.aspx>).

b.) Sampling occurred at sites in the ESJWQC region again on February 7, 2012.

c.) All new exceedances requiring Management Plans as well as Management Plan Monitoring results will be evaluated in the ESJWQC Annual Management Plan Update Report due April 1, 2013.

Michael Johnson

Thanks,

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Rachel C. West  
Environmental Scientist

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