



September 04, 2009

Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer
Joe Karkoski, Assistant Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Dear Ms. Creedon,

The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) is submitting a request to update its Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan (MRPP) submitted on August 25, 2008 to move the sampling location Mootz Drain @ Langworth Rd (535XMDALR) from its current location to a downstream location approximately 250 feet to the west of Langworth Rd. The Coalition has monitored the current location from October 2008 to August 2009 and would move to the new location starting September 22, 2009. The current monitoring location on the Mootz Drain water body pools water from upstream and acts as an agricultural holding pond for agricultural discharge upstream of this point. The Coalition requests to continue collecting samples on Mootz Drain downstream of the pond where the pooled water exits and continues west to the Modesto Irrigation District Main Canal. The closest downstream access point to Mootz Drain is a good site for sampling, and is proposed to be the alternate site for Mootz Drain @ Langworth Rd. The access point furthest downstream along Mootz Drain prior to discharge into the MID Main Canal is adjacent to a dairy and it would be difficult to distinguish between agricultural and dairy inputs in samples from that site. The attached letter further identifies the reasons for dropping the location Mootz Drain @ Langworth Rd from its MRPP including photographs of the sampling location, aerial and GIS maps clearly noting the location where samples have been collected, alternative access points and the flow of water. A replacement site, Mootz Drain Downstream of Langworth Pond (535XMDDL), is being proposed to take the place of Mootz Drain @ Langworth Rd in the Coalition sampling plan. The new location drains the same site subwatershed as the previous site. Detailed information on this site is also provided in this document.

Additional documentation can be supplied as needed.

Submitted respectfully,

Parry Klassen
Board Chairman
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (ESJWQC or Coalition) is requesting that Mootz Drain @ Langworth Rd (N 37.70582, W -120.89303) be replaced by Mootz Drain Downstream of Langworth Pond (N 37.70551, W -120.89438) for the following reasons:

1. The current sampling site at Mootz Drain is an agricultural settling pond and the quality of water therein does not accurately characterize discharge leaving the pond.
2. The Coalition is able to sample Mootz Drain just downstream of the settling pond which is more reflective of agricultural discharge entering downstream water bodies.

1. Samples collected at Mootz Drain @ Langworth Rd reflect water quality in an agricultural holding pond.

Mootz Drain @ Langworth Rd is a small site subwatershed containing a little over 1000 acres of agricultural land. Mootz Drain originates approximately three miles east of the sample site (at Langworth Rd) flowing west a total of about four miles where it spills into the MID Main Canal. The current sampling site is located at a settling pond along Mootz Drain about one mile from the MID Main canal.

Figure 1. Aerial photograph (from Google maps) depicting current monitoring site at the settling pond along Mootz Drain relative to the drain's confluence with the Main Canal.



The Coalition originally selected Mootz Drain @ Langworth Rd as a monitoring location based on ARC GIS land use maps and aerial photography (N 37.70582, W -120.89303). Samplers located the site using latitude/longitude coordinates and indicated it was suitable for sampling. During winter sampling, Mootz Drain did not contain water except for in this pond. In addition, samplers noted that this location acted as a “holding pond” and investigated other possible locations to sample. Holding water is a known management practice that can be used to capture sediment and other particulates as well as allow time for chemicals to biodegrade prior

to discharging. As a result, samples collected from the Mootz Drain holding pond do not accurately characterize discharge from Mootz Drain to the Main Canal. Samplers were unable to collect samples to the east of Langworth Avenue due to a barbed wire fence. The other alternative is to move the collection point downstream of the Langworth pond.

2. There is an alternative location along Mootz Drain, just downstream of the settling pond, that is a good sampling site.

The Coalition proposes to move its current sampling location approximately 50 yards downstream of the holding pond where Mootz Drain narrows into a small canal. This location (Mootz Drain Downstream of Langworth Pond) is close to the endpoint of agricultural discharge from the Mootz Drain site subwatershed, prior to its confluence with the Main Canal.

Figure 2. Aerial photograph (from Google maps) depicting current monitoring site and the proposed alternative site just downstream of the Mootz Drain holding pond.



Figure 3. Photographs taken in the field at proposed alternate site location, facing east (A) and facing west (B).

(A)



(B)

