



State Water Resources Control Board

June 18, 2015

**SUBJECT: SITE INSPECTION OF WEST SIDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT (WSID) PUMPING STATION
LOCATED IN TRACY, CA.**

On May 18, 2015, Watermaster Staff conducted a site inspection of the West Side Irrigation District (WSID) pumping station located in Tracy, California. WSID received a notice on April 23, 2015 informing them that there is insufficient water in the system to meet demands of their post-1914 water right A000301, L001381.

Water Right A000301, L001381 allows for the diversion from Lower Old River at a maximum diversion rate of 82.5 cubic feet per second with a water right face value of 27,000 acre feet per annum (afa). The uses of water include domestic, industrial, irrigation, and municipal uses. The place of use for Water Right A000301, L001381 consists of 11,993.76 acres.

I met with Rick Martinez who was the individual responsible for operating the WSID pump station on the day of my visit. Mr. Martinez stated that the large pumps (grey) were turned off and not diverting water (Photo 1). Mr. Martinez also stated that the two smaller pumps (black) were running. I witnessed the smaller pumps operating. Mr. Martinez further stated that the smaller (black) pumps were capturing tail water runoff from Bethany Drain at an estimated rate of 8 cubic feet per second (Photo 2 & 3). According to Mr. Martinez, the black pumps were re-capturing tail water and re-diverting the tailwater to farmers within the boundaries of WSID that have trees as their main crop.

I did not evaluate the rate of diversion during the inspection. The inspection was to determine if WSID had ceased pumping in response to the April 23 notice. According to Mr. Martinez, WSID continues to pump under the direction from their legal counsel that WSID is within its legal right to recapture and redivert tailwater for irrigation purposes for farmers within the district. In question is whether WSID has the right to re-distribute tailwater to other customers under the notice of April 23, 2015.

John Collins



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Photo 1: WSID Pump House. Gray pumps were turned off and the black pumps were running and capturing tailwater from Old River Cut.



Photo 2: Photo looking east along the drain that borders Bethany Road within the WSID boundary. The drain collects tailwater which then flows back into Old River Cut.



Photo 3: Looking south along Old River Cut in which the WSID Pumping House can be seen in the photo. Tailwater in Old River Cut was being recaptured and rediverted to farmers within WSID area for irrigation of trees.