

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of Permit 14186)
(Application 19934))
U. S. WATER AND POWER RESOURCES)
SERVICE)
Petitioner)

Order: WR 80-12
Source: Putah Creek
County: Napa

ORDER DENYING PETITION TO ADD
IRRIGATION AS A PURPOSE OF USE UNDER PERMIT 14186

BY THE BOARD:

The U. S. Water and Power Resources Service (Service) holds Permit 14186 (Application 19934) which allows storage of 7,500 acre-feet per annum for municipal, domestic, and stockwatering purposes. The appropriation is a portion of 33,000 acre-feet per annum reserved by Board Decision D869 for use within the watershed of Putah Creek above Monticello Dam. The Service petitioned to add irrigation of 4,000 acres in Napa County as a purpose of use under the permit. Napa County is the intended beneficiary of the project and is the appropriate lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Napa County has failed to complete and file an environmental document for the petitioned project. The County does not have a definite plan for the project. The Board having considered all the foregoing, finds as follows:

Substance of Application

1. The U. S. Water and Power Resources Service filed Application 19934 on January 27, 1961, and received Permit 14186 on September 20, 1963. The permit allows collection to storage of 7,500 acre-feet per annum in Lake Berryessa from November 1 through May 31. Water is to be used for domestic, municipal, and stockwatering in an area of 10,000 acres within a gross service area of 209,000 acres, all in Napa County and all tributary to Lake Berryessa.

Maximum annual use has been 530 acre-feet for domestic use adjacent to Lake Berryessa.

2. The Service filed a petition to add irrigation as a purpose of use to Permit 14186 on August 9, 1976. The petition proposes irrigation of 4,000 net acres in Napa County within the gross service area of 209,000 acres.

3. Notice of the petition was issued February 28, 1977. A protest was received from Norman Pease, an appropriator of water in the watershed above Lake Berryessa, alleging that approval of the petition would accelerate depletion of the 33,000 afa reservation by changing use of water under Permit 14186 from essentially non-consumptive use to consumptive use.

4. The parties stipulated to proceedings in lieu of hearing and a field investigation was conducted on January 25, 1978. The protest is still unresolved.

5. County of Napa (County), as the sponsoring public agency, should be the lead agency under CEQA. The Board cannot be lead agency because it does not have sufficient detail of the proposed irrigation project to prepare an environmental document. The Board staff has informed the Service and the County that the County should complete the required environmental document so that the petition can be acted on.

6. Board staff contacted the County on several occasions to determine the progress in preparing the environmental document. No environmental document has been prepared because the County has no definite plan for the project. No pumping plants, pipelines, or areas to be irrigated have been determined.

7. The State Board cannot act on the petition because neither the permittee or the County has furnished details of the proposed irrigation use of water.

8. A new petition can be filed if and when a definite project has been formulated.

ORDER

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that the petition to add irrigation use to Permit 14186 is denied.

Dated: July 17, 1980

/S/ CARLA M. BARD
Carla M. Bard, Chairwoman

/S/ WILLIAM J. MILLER
William J. Miller, Vice-Chairman

/S/ L. L. MITCHELL
L. L. Mitchell, Member

ABSENT
Jill B. Dunlap, Member

ABSENT
F. K. Aljibury, Member

12/12/12

