

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of)
DETERMINATION OF THE RIGHTS)
of the Various Claimants)
to the Water of)
LITTLE CHICO CREEK STREAM SYSTEM)

Order: WR 81-2

County: Butte

ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF WATER RIGHTS
ON LITTLE CHICO CREEK

WHEREAS:

1. Gary A. Incaudo and 32 others have filed a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to Water Code Section 2525 requesting determination of the rights of the various claimants to the waters of the Little Chico stream system tributary to Angel Slough in Butte County, California.

2. The Board has made an investigation to determine the public interest and necessity for a statutory adjudication on Little Chico Creek in Butte County. The findings of this investigation are summarized in the document entitled "Preliminary Investigation Pursuant to Petition for Adjudication, Little Chico Creek in Butte County."

3. The Board has reviewed the subject report and finds the following:

a. Little Chico Creek drains a watershed of about 25 square miles in the Sacramento Valley. It flows into Angel Slough, thence Butte Creek, thence Butte Slough, thence the Sacramento River.

- b. Water diverted directly from Little Chico Creek and its tributaries or stored in reservoirs is used for domestic and stockwatering purposes and to irrigate vineyards, pastures and orchards.
- c. Existing subdivisions in the upper watershed (Forest Ranch area) are supplied entirely from wells.
- d. Subdivision of land in the Little Chico Creek watershed is not justification to adjudicate the water rights.
- e. Recent irrigation of additional acreages is from wells and/or storage reservoirs that collect winter runoff.
- f. In the Little Chico Creek watershed upstream impoundments and direct diversions may best be controlled through the Board's statutory authorities concerning appropriate rights and prevention of waste and unreasonable use.
- g. The underflow of Little Chico Creek is limited to water flowing immediately adjacent to Little Chico Creek and within the shallow recent alluvium.
- h. Wells located in the lower canyon of Little Chico Creek are drawing their water from percolating groundwater in the underlying Tuscan formation.
- i. Residents in the canyon indicate that current sewage disposal practices preclude use of the underflow of Little Chico Creek for domestic human consumption.
- j. Historical streamflow measurements indicate that flows in late summer are normally very low.
- k. Facts and conditions in the Little Chico Creek watershed are such that the public interest and necessity will not be served by a determination of the water rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that said petition be denied.

Dated: March 19, 1981


Carla M. Bard, Chairwoman


L. L. Mitchell, Vice-Chairman


Jill B. Dunlap, Member

Absent
F. K. Aljibury, Member

