

Water Code section 1055.3 Factors

Costs for Staff Actions

The following costs are based on the staff time to conduct the field inspection, write the report, and develop the enforcement case and documents. If the action goes to hearing, additional staff costs may be incurred. Organizational overhead costs and costs for staff benefits have been included in the hourly rate.

WRCE Staff	@ \$90.91/hr	x	36 hrs	= \$3,272.76
Sr. WRCE	@ \$112.55/hr	x	12 hrs	= \$1,350.60
Sup. WRCE	@ \$123.56/hr	x	4 hrs	= \$494.24
Staff Counsel	@ \$98.27/hr	x	4 hrs	= \$393.08

Total = \$5,510.68 say \$5,511

Costs for Avoidance of Water Right Fees

The following costs are based on the water rights application filing fee and the annual fee for application processing of an application for an existing project.

Water Right Application fee for 31 ac-ft of water = \$1,000 + (\$15 x 21 ac-ft) = \$1,315
 Annual Water Right Application fee = \$100 + (\$0.03 x 21 ac-ft) = \$100.63 say \$100
 Since prior application was canceled in 2010, only one year of annual fees applies.

Total = \$1,415

Cost of Failure to File a Statement

The \$1,000 fine for failure to file a Statement of Water Diversion and Use for an existing diversion applies to this project as well. Applicants were verbally told during the inspection of the need to file a Statement because of the 2009 law that amended water code section 5100, but a formal notice has not been given to them therefore the additional penalty of \$500 a day for everyday after 30 days notice has been given does not apply to this case.

Total = \$1,000

Economic Gain/Benefit for Avoided Cost of Water

The annual use of water is estimated to be 13.5 ac-ft. This includes evaporation and seepage losses and the amount of water needed to irrigate 8 acres of grapes. The Meadow Estates Mutual Water Company is a local water company providing potable water to local residents. The charge per ac-ft of water is \$650. The UC Cooperative Extension has produced cost studies for various crops and commodities for different regions of California. Studies produced for the North Coast region for production of wine grapes and olive oil from 2009 through 2011 all indicate the typical cost of pumping groundwater from a 120 foot deep well with a 10 horsepower motor is approximately \$198 per acre-foot.

Considering the last three years of diversion and use of water, an estimated total of 40.5 ac-ft would have been collected to storage and used by the applicants.

$$\$650 \times 40.5 = \$26,325$$

$$\$198 \times 40.5 = \$8,019$$

$$\text{Average Avoided Cost of Water} = \$17,172$$

Estimated Days of Diversion to Replace Water Used

Since this project is located in the Navarro River watershed, the USGS Navarro River stream gage was used to estimate the number of days needed to replace 13.5 ac-ft of water in each of the last three years. The following show the estimated number of days water may have been collected to storage in the 2008, 2009, and 2010 water years:

2007/2008	15 days
2008/2009	29 days
2009/2010	12 days

$$\text{Total} = 56 \text{ estimated days of diversion}$$

At \$500 per day times 56 days, a fine could be considered for days of diversion in the last three years of \$28,000.