



ECOS
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 COUNCIL
 OF SACRAMENTO



**SIERRA
 CLUB**

June 20, 2022

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114
 And by email to info5@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board,

Concerns were brought to our attention recently regarding the Kassis property along the American River in Rancho Cordova (APN #'s: 075 0450 009 0000 and 075 0450 006 000). The past, and now the current, landowners have been discing the property multiple times a year, including the drainage easement, despite complaints from neighbors and concerned citizens. It was only recently that the City of Rancho Cordova stopped the latest discing effort after it was already underway. This regular discing poses significant water quality concerns as the lower property is immediately adjacent to the American River and the loosened soil can easily be swept into the river by rain or wind.

Rob Burness and Sean Wirth visited the property on May 9th and saw that the nature of the discing was very concerning for the water quality of the American River. We also obtained photo documentation of numerous past incidences of discing, which we can provide upon request.

We are contacting your board to alert you to what appears to be ongoing Clean Water Act violations and asking that you monitor the property and ensure that future violations do not occur. The new owners of the property hope to get discretionary approval to urbanize these two properties, which would include dramatically raising the level of the lower property, which is within the active floodway, and building high end houses. It is important that you are aware of the past problems with the management of this property when evaluating any future application for water quality certification.

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The Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) is a 501c3 nonprofit, with the mission to achieve regional and community sustainability and a healthy environment for existing and future residents. Member organizations of ECOS include: 350 Sacramento, Breathe California Sacramento Region, Environmental Democrats of Sacramento, *Friends of Stone Lakes NWR*, *International Dark-Sky Association*, Physicians for Social Responsibility Sacramento Chapter, *Sacramento Audubon Society*, Sacramento Citizens' Climate Lobby, Sacramento Electric Vehicle

Association, Sacramento Housing Alliance, Sacramento Natural Foods Coop, *Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society*, Sacramento Vegetarian Society, *Save Our Sandhill Cranes*, *Save the American River Association* and *Sierra Club Sacramento Group*.

Habitat 2020 is a coalition that works to protect the lands, waters, wildlife and native plants in the Sacramento region. Member organizations of Habitat 2020 include: the ECOS member groups italicized above, as well as the Friends of Swainson's Hawk, Sacramento Area Creeks Council and Sacramento Heron and Egret Rescue. Habitat 2020 also serves as ECOS' Habitat and Conservation committee.

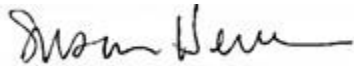
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S - W - i - r - t - h".

Sean Wirth
Sierra Club Conservation Chair, Mother Lode Chapter

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C Burness".

Rob Burness
Habitat 2020, Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Herre".

Susan Herre
President of the ECOS Board of Directors