



## DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

135 Ridgeway Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
(707) 576-2959  
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: July 15, 2021  
Ref: 1-21-00041-SCR

Mary McNamera  
Darcy Van Valkenburgh  
Peter Van Valkenburgh  
Mary Toman  
1253 Hazel Del Road  
Watsonville, CA 95076

Dear Homeowners

You submitted an email to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) on April 17, 2021 regarding Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) 1-21-00041-SCR, located on the property of Roger and Michelle Burch. Below is your public comment, your main concerns, and Department's response to your concerns.

### Public Comment # 21PC-000000326:

Dear Forest Practice program manager:

In response to THP shown below on our neighboring property, please note that our water supply is solely from Ramsey creek. Our intake is a simple pipe & filter directly in the creek. Our water system has been in place for over 100 years.

Plan number County Cost	Landowner and plan Submitter (SUB)	RP#	Cal Water Name	Acres	Legal Description	Description	Date Filed	Earliest Close of Comment
1-21-00041-SCR Santa Cruz \$7 cents/page	RMB Revocable Family Trust, Roger A Burch & Michelle Burch Trustees SUB: REDWOOD EMPIRE SAWMILL	JOSEPH CRAIG CULVER	Browns Creek (3305.100101)	147.00	NDEM: T10S R2E S20, NDEM: T10S R2E S29	Selection	3/29/2021	04/29/2021

We've reviewed the proposed logging (pic attached below) & if we're correct, the proposed logging is upstream & on both sides of Ramsey creek from our water intake. We believe there's no way to not affect our water quality if logging is approved on both sides of the creek.

**Project Summary** (County, legal description, acres proposed to be harvested and treatments to be used should match those listed in the plan or amendment.)

4. Location of the proposed timber operation (county, legal description, approximate direction & approximate distance of the timber operation from the nearest community or well-known landmark): Santa Cruz County, portions of sections 20, 29, T10S, R2E, MDB&M, and a portion of the Salsipuedes Rancho. The project is located approximately 3 1/2 miles northeast of the community of Corralitos.
5. The name of, and distance from, the nearest perennial stream and major watercourse flowing through or downstream from the timber operation: Ramsey Creek flows through the timber operation. Browns Creek is located approximately 150 south (downstream) of the timber operation.
6. Acres proposed to be harvested: Approximately 147 acres

If memory serves, Browns creek also feeds a major water supply for the city/county. Removing trees close to the creek also greatly jeopardizes the soil & again debris/sediment will enter the water supply.

We hope you will consider our request to modify the THP to keep a safe distance from Ramsey creek and protection of our water supply.

Please note our mailing address. We have also signed up for email notifications, per your website on this THP.  
Darcy Van Valkenburgh  
3726 Kamp Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Sincerely,

Mary McNamera  
Darcy Van Valkenburgh  
Peter Van Valkenburgh  
Mary Toman  
(Homeowners)

[Mary McNamera and others; April 14, 2021]

A list of abbreviations is provided for your benefit in understanding the Department's responses.

## Forest Practice Terms

BAA	Biological Assessment Area	LTO	Licensed Timber Operator
CAL FIRE	Calif. Department of Forestry & Fire Protection	PHI	Pre-Harvest Inspection
CCR	California Code of Regulations	PRC	Public Resources Code
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	RPF	Registered Professional Forester
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act	RMZ	Riparian Management Zone
CESA	California Endangered Species Act	THP	Timber Harvesting Plan
CGS	California Geological Survey	WLPZ	Watercourse & Lake Protection Zone

[sic] Word used verbatim as originally printed in another document. May indicate a misspelling or incorrect word usage

**Concern 1: This operation will affect our water quality and will cause soil and sediment to enter our water supply.**

On May 10, 2021, the RPF submitted a revised page 50 in his PHI responses, describing the water intake in question with the following:

The uptake consists of 2 ½ inch plastic pipe with a fine mesh wrapped around the pipe end. The intake is floating on the surface of a medium sized stream pool. The uptake is approximately 1,000 feet downstream of the cable yarding unit.


Additionally, the RPF provided a revised map (page 64) showing the uptake on the left side of the page near a map feature labelled "M7". As described by the RPF, the water uptake is 1,000 feet downstream of the timber harvest boundary. At this point, the watercourse is afforded a 100 foot buffer on both sides of the watercourse. The buffer has an inner 0-30 foot "no cut" and from 30-100 feet, 80% overstory canopy retention. These protection measures are outlined on pages 39 and 40 of the THP. When combined with the rest of the watercourse protection measures found in the Forest Practice rules, and incorporated into this plan; these buffers, as well as the 1,000 foot distance from the intake, can reasonably be assumed to more than adequately protect the water intake and to mitigate any negative impacts from the proposed operations.

**Concern 2: Please note the mailing address for Darcy Van Valkenburgh as 3726 Kamp Drive, Pleasanton, Ca 94588.**

This change has been noted at the Santa Rosa Review Team.

Please consider this letter as the Department's "Official Response" to Significant Environmental Points Raised during Public Review of THP 1-21-00041-SCR. The concerns brought up by your public comment letter have been addressed. The Plan was found in conformance with the Forest Practice Act on July 15, 2021.

Sincerely,

  
James Strong  
Forester II, Forest Practice  
RPF #2689



cc: RPF, Unit, File; Timber Owner, Timberland Owner, and/or Submitter  
CP, CDFW, DPR, & RWB through <https://caltreesplans.resources.ca.gov/caltrees/caltrees.aspx>