## APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

	CTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION  REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): May 21, 2009
В.	DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Sacramento District, Avenue Two at Canal Creek, SPK-2008-00995 1
C.	PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:  State: California County/parish/borough: Merced City: N/A  Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 37.34923°, Long120.56224°  Universal Transverse Mercator: 10 715923.42 4136402.92  Name of nearest waterbody: Canal Creek  Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: San Joaquin River  Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): Middle San Joaquin-Lower Chowchilla. California., 18040001  □ Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.  □ Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form. Isolated waters within the review area are recorded on SPK-2008-0095 2
D.	REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):  Office (Desk) Determination. Date: May 6, 2009  Field Determination. Date(s):
	CTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.
	re <b>Are no</b> "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the ew area. [Required]  Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.  Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce Explain:
В.	CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.
The	re <b>Are</b> "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]
	1. Waters of the U.S.  a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply):  TNWs, including territorial seas  Wetlands adjacent to TNWs Relatively permanent waters <sup>2</sup> (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Impoundments of jurisdictional waters Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands
	b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area:  Non-wetland waters: 0.117 acre  Wetlands: 0.943 acre  C. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 1987 Delineation Manual Established by OHWM
	c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 1987 Delineation Manual, Established by OHWM Elevation of established OHWM (if known): Unknown
	2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):  Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional Explain:  .
SEC	CTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

#### 1. TNW

Identify TNW: N/A.

Summarize rationale supporting determination: N/A

#### 2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent": N/A

# B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent waters" (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody<sup>4</sup> is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

### 1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

#### (i) General Area Conditions:

Watershed size: 2640 square miles

Drainage area: **Pick List** Average annual rainfall: Average annual snowfall:

#### (ii) Physical Characteristics:

(a) Relationship with TNW:

☐ Tributary flows directly into TNW.

Tributary flows through 4 tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are 20-25 river miles from TNW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) river miles from RPW.

Project waters are 10-15 aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) aerial (straight) miles from RPW.

Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: No

Identify flow route to  $TNW^5$ : Canal Creek flows 3.58 miles to Black Rascal Creek which flows 5.65 miles to Bear Creek which flows 12.05 miles before merging with Bravel Creek then flowing 4.42 miles to the San Joaquin River a TNW. A small irrigation ditch (0.005 acre) extends from the Livingston Canal to the north and connects into WL 5. Tributary stream order, if known: Unknown, this is the lower portion of Canal Creek, A natural RPW.

(b) General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply):

<sup>4</sup> Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

		Tributary is:		xplain: This c	creek has been channelized throughout the review area to the confluence with Black Rascal
		<b>Tributary</b> propertic Average width Average depth Average side s	:	nate):	
		☐ Silts ☐ Cobbles ☐ Bedrock	ubstrate composition (check all tha Sands Gravel Vegetation. Type/% lain: Earth lined		☐ Concrete ☐ Muck
		<b>be stable</b> Presence of run/riff Tributary geometry	/stability [e.g., highly eroding, slow le/pool complexes. Explain: None : Relatively straight approximate average slope): App	è	Explain: Tributary channel and banks appear to
	(c)	Describe flow	for: <b>Seasonal flow</b> Imber of flow events in review are regime: <b>The creek flows the maj</b> on duration and volume:		
		Surface flow is: Dis		cs: The cham	nel is confined by berms or levees along this
			es. Explain findings: Consultant ner) test performed:	stated definite	e potential for subsurface flow from the wetlands.
		☐ clear, i ☐ change ☐ shelvir ☐ vegeta ☐ leaf lit ☐ sedime	nks check all indicators that apply): natural line impressed on the bank es in the character of soil ng tion matted down, bent, or absent ter disturbed or washed away ent deposition staining	destruction the prese sediment scour multiple	ence of litter and debris on of terrestrial vegetation ence of wrack line t sorting observed or predicted flow events nange in plant community
		Discontinu	ous OHWM. <sup>7</sup> Explain:	•	
		☐ High Tide☐ oil or s☐ fine sh	E Line indicated by:  Cum line along shore objects ell or debris deposits (foreshore) al markings/characteristics auges	Mean High W ☐ survey to a ☐ physical m	nt of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):  Yater Mark indicated by: available datum; narkings; I lines/changes in vegetation types.
(iii)	Cha	Explain: Water co	.g., water color is clear, discolored	, oily film; wat	er quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

			logical Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):  Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): Some woody riparian vegetation is present along the upper portions of the canal where it enters the review area  Wetland fringe. Characteristics:  Habitat for:  Federally Listed species. Explain findings:  Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings:  Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:  Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:
2.	Cha		teristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW
	(i)		ysical Characteristics:  General Wetland Characteristics:
		(a)	Properties: Wetland size: 0.943 acre Wetland type. Explain: Emergent seasonal wetlands Wetland quality. Explain:
			Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: No
		(b)	General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW: Flow is: Ephemeral flow. Explain: Wetlands are separated from creek by a manmade berm, the wetland consultant has stated that these wetlands potentially flow into the creek via a shallow subsurface flow.
			Surface flow is: Not present Characteristics:
			Subsurface flow: <b>Yes</b> . Explain findings: <b>Consultant stated definite potential for subsurface flow to the creek</b> .   Dye (or other) test performed:
		(c)	Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:  ☐ Directly abutting ☐ Not directly abutting ☐ Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: ☐ Ecological connection. Explain: ☐ Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: Wetlands are separated from creek by a manmade berm, the wetland consultant has stated that these wetlands potentially flow into the creek via a shallow subsurface flow.
		(d)	Proximity (Relationship) to TNW Project wetlands are 20-25 river miles from TNW. Project waters are 10-15 aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Flow is from: Wetland to navigable waters. Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the 50 - 100-year floodplain.
	(ii)	Cha	emical Characteristics: aracterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: Water drains from surrounding farmland and backs up against berm along creek. The water has been identified as being clear. ntify specific pollutants, if known: Unknown
	(iii	) Bio	Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width):  Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: Wetlands contain emergent wetland vegetation.  Habitat for:  Federally Listed species. Explain findings:  Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings:  Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:  Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:

3. Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)
All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: 5
Approximately **0.943 acre** in total is being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Wetland Name	Directly abuts?	Size (acres)	Wetland Name	Directly abuts?	Size (acres)
WL 1	N	0.41	WL 2	N	0.133
WL 3	N	0.184	WL 4	N	0.174
WL 5	N	0.042			

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed: Identified as flowing into Canal Creek through shallow sub surface flows. These wetlands filter irrigation runoff entering the creek.

#### C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

- 1. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D: N/A
- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D: A small irrigation ditch (0.005 acre) extends from the Livingston Canal to the north and connects into WL 5. This feature conveys water between two jurisdiction waters, the Livingston Canal and WL 5. The May, 30, 2007 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdictional Determination Form Instructional Guidebook states that ditches between two (or more) waters of the U.S. are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act.
- 3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D: All wetlands are located in a field adjacent to Canal Creek and were identified by the consultant as flowing into the creek through shallow subsurface flows. These wetlands capture irrigation runoff that may potentially carry pollutants such as fertilizers and herbicides. The wetlands function to filter the water prior to entering Canal Creek.

# D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

1.	TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:  ☐ TNWs: N/A  ☐ Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: N/A
2.	RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.  ☐ Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial:  ☐ Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally: Tributary was identified by consultant as being seasonal. All aerials and site photos show the creek full of water.

	Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):  Tributary waters: Canal Creek, 0.112 acre  Other non-wetland waters: N/A  Identify type(s) of waters:	
3.	Non-RPWs <sup>8</sup> that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.  Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. The irrigation ditch conveys water between two jurisdictional waters of the United States	
	Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply):  Tributary waters: 0.005 acre  Other non-wetland waters: N/A  Identify type(s) of waters: N/A	
4.	<ul> <li>Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.</li> <li>□ Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands.</li> <li>□ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: N/A</li> <li>□ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: N/A</li> </ul>	' is
	Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: N/A	
5.	Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.  Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjace and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.	
	Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: 0.943 acre	
6.	Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.  Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent a with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.	nd
	Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: <b>N/A</b>	
7.	mpoundments of jurisdictional waters.  As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional.  Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or  Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or  Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).	
SUC 	ATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, RADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY H WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): 10 hich are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. om which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce. hich are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. terstate isolated waters. Explain: N/A ther factors. Explain: N/A	
Ide	ify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: N/A	
Pro	de estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):	

E.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>See Footnote # 3.

<sup>9</sup> To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

<sup>10</sup> Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

		Tributary waters: N/A
	Ш	Other non-wetland waters: N/A
		Identify type(s) of waters: N/A Wetlands: N/A
	ш	wettalius. 14/24
F.		N-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements. Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.
		Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based <u>solely</u> on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR).
		Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: Other: (explain, if not covered above):
	fact	vide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR ors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional gment (check all that apply):
		Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet width (ft).  Lakes/ponds: acres.
	$\overline{\mathbb{R}}$	Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: Wetlands:
	_	
		vide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such adding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):
		Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, width (ft).
		Lakes/ponds: acres.
	$\Box$	Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource:
	Ш	Wetlands:
SE	CTIO	ON IV: DATA SOURCES.
A.		PORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked
		requested, appropriately reference sources below):  Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: Figure 3, Wetland and Non-Wetland Waters in
		the Study Area, URS, May 2008
	$\boxtimes$	Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: <b>Jurisdictional Delineation of Avenue Two at Canal</b>
		Creek, URS, June 6, 2008
		☐ Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report. ☐ Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
	П	Data sheets prepared by the Corps:
		Corps navigable waters' study:
		U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:
		USGS NHD data.
		USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
	$\boxtimes$	U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: 1:24K; CA-ATWATER USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:
	H	National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name:
	Ħ	State/Local wetland inventory map(s):
		FEMA/FIRM maps:
		100-year Floodplain Elevation is:
	$\boxtimes$	Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date):
		or Mother (Name & Date): Jurisdictional Delineation of Avenue Two at Canal Creek; Appendix C, Photographs
		of Study Area and Sampling Points, URS, June 6, 2008 Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:
	Ħ	Applicable/supporting case law:
		Applicable/supporting scientific literature:
	$\overline{\Box}$	Other information (please specify):

#### **B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:**

A small irrigation ditch (0.005 acre) extends from the Livingston Canal to the north and connects into WL 5. This feature conveys water between two jurisdiction waters, the Livingston Canal and WL 5. The May, 30, 2007 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdictional Determination Form Instructional Guidebook states that ditches between two (or more) waters of the U.S. are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act.

All wetlands are located in a field adjacent to Canal Creek and were identified by the consultant as flowing into the creek through shallow subsurface flows. These wetlands capture irrigation runoff that may potentially carry pollutants such as fertilizers and herbicides. The wetlands function to filter the water prior to entering Canal Creek.





