

Diversions

Two watermasters, described below, measure diversions in the BVGB. Those surface water rights holders who divert more than 10 AFY whose rights are not measured by a watermaster must measure and report their diversions to the State Water Board.

Diversions from the Pit River are detailed in water rights Decree #6395. In 2006, the BVWUA petitioned the Modoc Superior Court who granted permission to separate from the costly state watermaster service. A private watermaster service is now contracted by the BVWUA to administer/distribute allocated 2nd priority rights in conjunction with state watermaster guidelines during the irrigation season (April 1 through September 30) each year as a neutral 3rd party. The watermaster service measures diversions every two weeks and reports the data to each water rights holder. At the end of the irrigation season, the watermaster sends each member a yearly use report. The water rights holder is responsible to submit their reports to the State Water Board. Currently there are five Pit River water rights holders that do not participate in the BVWUA watermaster service. (Hutchinson 2021)

Ash Creek and Willow Creek are within the Ash Creek Watermaster Service Area (WMSA). The WMSA also includes Butte and Rush Creeks and is under the jurisdiction of the Modoc County Watermaster. The Watermaster files the annual reports to DWR and Modoc County Superior Court. (Martinez 2021)