

SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PUBLIC NOTICE

The Central Coast Water Board is currently reviewing a Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification application for the project described below. We encourage public comments on the proposed project and will take comments into consideration when taking action on the application. You may submit written comments on this project to:

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Attention: 401 Coordinator

OR

centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov

Attention: 401 Coordinator

Project Applicant: FishReef Project - Chris Goldblatt

Applicant's Agent: Coastal Environments – Hany Elwany

Project Name: Santa Barbara Kelp Restoration Reef - Goleta Study Site

Receiving Water: Pacific Ocean

City/County: Goleta / Santa Barbara

Public Notice: November 16, 2023 – December 7, 2023

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to build a small pilot project artificial reef (0.1 acre) off the coast of Goleta, up coast of the pier in 11.2 m (37 ft) water depth. This reef is intended to provide a habitat for fish and invertebrates and substrate for sessile invertebrate and algae including the giant kelp *Macrocystis*.

The proposed project activities include:

- Implementing 16 Sea Caves (marine-safe concrete, 103 square feet each) in a 4x4 grid along a sandy bottom portion of the ocean floor;
- Deploying each Sea Cave with a medium sized vessel using a standard anchoring system, and;
- Removing all 16 Sea Caves after a five-year study period using the same techniques as the deployment system.

No mitigation is proposed.