CEQA Scoping Meeting

Sediment TMDL and Habitat Enhancement Plan for Pescadero and Butano Creeks

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CALIFORNIA Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

Todays Meeting

- Requirement for environmental evaluation of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Basin Plan amendment
- Scope of the environmental analysis
- Comment period schedule

Environmental Review Process

- Under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Basin Plan programs are an approved certified program and are exempt from preparing an EIR, Negative Declaration, or Initial Study

- Instead of an EIR, Water Board prepares a substitute environmental document (Environmental Checklist, and includes this review with the Basin Plan amendment approval packet (staff report))

CEQA Requirements

- Identify potential adverse environmental impacts that could result from actions taken in response to the Pescadero-Butano Creeks sediment TMDL
- Discuss alternatives to the proposed TMDL Basin Plan amendment
- Identify mitigation measures to reduce the severity of potential impacts
- Provide full disclosure of documents and decision making process

Why Scope?

- Scoping is required for projects of statewide, regional, or area-wide significance
- Provides information on the project
- Solicit public feedback on scope of our environmental analysis and potential impacts to be analyzed
- Provide opportunity to suggest potential project alternatives

Effects to be Considered

Will Consider:

- Direct physical changes to the environment, such as
  - Impacts from excavation & grading
  - Noise and Air Quality impacts from minor construction
- Short-term and long-term impacts

Will Not Consider:

- Speculative changes
- Changes that would occur regardless of the Project (TMDL)


What is the Project?

Project: Basin Plan amendment to the San Francisco Bay Basin Plan to incorporate a sediment TMDL and habitat enhancement plan for the Pescadero – Butano Creek watershed

Sediment delivery (reduce)

Streambed substrate conditions

Channel complexity & floodplain connectivity

TMDL Implementation Actions

Sources	Implementation Actions	Environmental Effects
Roads • **Timberlands** • **Parks/open space** • **Agricultural lands** • **Rangelands** • **Private/public**	• Re-shaping/alignment • Storm-proofing • Reducing hydrologic-connectivity • Decommissioning • Dispersing runoff	• Minor grading and excavation on existing roadways • Minor grading /construction in and near riparian areas to construct bridges and realign road • Vegetation management
Agricultural and Rangelands	• Restricting animals from creeks • Mulching • Cover crops/RDM management • Increase infiltration	• Fence installation /construction • Minor grading to install vegetated buffers • Construction to install sediment basins

TMDL Implementation Actions

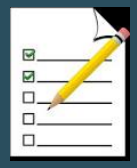
Sources	Implementation Actions	Environmental Effects
Channel incision	• Reshape channel • Plant stream banks • Place large woody debris	• Minor grading and excavation to reshape channel • Vegetation management – preparing soil and planting • Grading/earthmoving to install woody debris in channels
Gullies and landslides	• Re-vegetating • Biotechnical engineering • Dispersing runoff • Hard engineering	• Grading and excavation • Vegetation management • Fencing Installation

Environmental Considerations

- The purpose of the Pescadero – Butano Creek sediment TMDL is to improve water quality
- Sometimes actions designed to improve one aspect of the environment may have adverse affects on other aspects of the environment
- The environmental evaluation will consider potential adverse impacts of actions take to comply with the TMDL

Environmental Checklist Topics

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural resources
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Geology/soils
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Hazards & hazardous materials
- Water quality/hydrology
- Land use/planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population/housing
- Public services
- Recreation
- Transportation/traffic
- Utilities/service delivery systems



Examples of Possible Impacts

Install fences to restrict animal access to an actively eroding area or stream channel may have adverse impacts on wildlife migration corridors

- Include a mitigation measure so fences are designed to restrict livestock but allow wildlife access

Construct a basin to slow and sink stormwater runoff and trap sediment could result in construction-related noise

- Construction would be limited in time and intensity to meet local noise ordinance requirements

TMDL Implementation Actions

Can you think of other potential environmental impacts?

- TMDL implementation
- Other watershed actions and projects?

Next Steps

- Send written comments to Setenay by July 31, 2015

- We will not be responding to comments received in writing

but

- We will consider your comments as we develop our environmental analysis for the Project

- Ample opportunity to comment on the TMDL
  - Future public comment period
  - Future adoption hearing

Scoping Comments

Send written comments to:

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