

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program

**Public Notice
Of Application for Water Quality Certification**

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Board) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple RWQCB jurisdictions. The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Certification Program.

Applicant: Department of Fish and Game

Applicant Contact: Kevin Shaffer
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Project Name: Department of Fish and Game-2009 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Southern Project

Date of Application: 7/20/2009

Affected Regions: Region 3 (Central Coast) and Region 4 (Los Angeles)

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

California Department of Fish and Game – Year 2009 – Fisheries
Restoration Grant Program Southern Project

The State Water Board proposes to certify, with technical conditions, the discharge of dredge and fill materials from 6 projects funded by the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) Southern Project in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties. The FRGP uses funds mandated to restore degraded anadromous fish habitat in coastal streams for a variety of Salmonid habitat restoration projects. The Restoration Program involves funding, in whole or in part, 117 habitat restoration action items (49 major, 1 minor, and 67 non-physical exempt items) in fourteen counties. Of the 49 major action items, a total of 6 projects funded through the FRGP and allied programs will be located in the Los Angeles District

of the Army Corps of Engineers and will be covered under the proposed 401 Certification. DFG has applied for separate 401 Certification for the remaining projects that will occur in the San Francisco District of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Activities performed in the Restoration Program typically occur in watersheds that have been subjected to significant levels of logging, road building, mining, grazing, and other activities that have reduced the quality and quantity of stream habitat available for native anadromous fish.

The purpose of the project is to restore anadromous fisheries habitat in non-tidal reaches of rivers and streams, improve watershed conditions impacting Salmonid streams, and improve the survival, growth, migration, and reproduction of anadromous fish. The main restoration activities include fish passage construction, bank stabilization, upslope road decommissioning or repair, and culverts replacement or modification. Proposed structures would provide predator escape and resting cover, increase spawning habitat, improve upstream and downstream migration corridors, improve pool to riffle ratios, and add habitat complexity and diversity. Some structures would be designed to reduce sedimentation, protect unstable banks, stabilize existing slides, provide shade, and create scour pools. Restoration projects must be consistent with the procedures found in CDFG's "*California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*" <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/REsources/HabitatManual.asp>. The FRGP manages an annual grant cycle initiated in the spring of each year.

Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Darren Bradford at (916) 341-5558, or at dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov, or Bill Orme at (916) 341-5464, or at borme@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

State Water Resources

Control Board Staff Contact:

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State Water Resources Control Board
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Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.