

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Andree Greenberg)
MEETING DATE: October 13, 2010

ITEM: **5A**

SUBJECT: **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project,**
Adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification,
Napa County and Solano County

CHRONOLOGY: The Board has not considered this item before.

DISCUSSION: The item would adopt waste discharge requirements and water quality certification for the Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project (Project). The Cullinan Ranch site is an existing freshwater marsh site of approximately 1,575 acres along northern San Pablo Bay that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will restore to tidal wetlands to benefit endangered and other biological species, provide wildlife-sensitive public access, minimize long-term management needs, control invasive species, and maintain existing levels of flood control. The Project is expected to take about 60 years or more, and may use clean dredged materials to raise elevations to those conducive to salt marsh harvest mouse habitat and other endangered tidal marsh species.

The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would address the Project's components, which include: blocking drainage ditches; improving adjacent levees; protecting Highway 37 from flooding; providing public access; pre-flooding the site prior to breaching; lowering levees to create habitat; breaching levees; and providing long-term monitoring and management. The Project builds upon experience from other salt pond and marsh restoration projects ongoing in the Region, and should provide excellent habitat over the long-term for tidal marsh species that have lost much of their original habitat in the Region.

We received one comment letter (Appendix B) from Ducks Unlimited representing the Service. We have resolved those comments by revising the original tentative order as described in the Response to Comments (Appendix C).

RECOMM-
DATION: Adoption of the Revised Tentative Order

Appendices: A. Revised Tentative Order
B. Comments
C. Response to Comments