



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

28 January 2020

Drew Braugh
California Trout
701 S. Mt. Shasta Blvd.
Mount Shasta, CA 96067

NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY: STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AMENDED ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 GENERAL WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR SMALL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS FILE NO. SB12006GN FOR CALIFORNIA TROUT, VT MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT, LASSEN COUNTY, WDID NO. 5A18CR00030

On 31 December 2019, California Trout (Applicant) filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) requesting coverage under the 27 March 2013 State Water Resources Control Board Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File No. SB12006GN (General Certification Order) for the VT Meadow Restoration Project (Project). After review of the NOI and the supplemental material submitted by the applicant, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has determined that the Project qualifies for enrollment under the General Certification Order.

This Notice of Applicability is being issued under the General Certification Order pursuant to Section 3838 of the California Code of Regulations.

A copy of the General Certification Order is enclosed. The General Certification Order may also be accessed on the [State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water Act Section 401 – Certification and Wetlands Program Web Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders_wb.shtml) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders_wb.shtml)

The Project must proceed in accordance with the requirements contained in this Notice of Applicability and General Certification Order. Coverage under the General Certification Order is no longer valid if the Project, as described, is modified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project involves reconnecting Willow Creek with the floodplain by filling entrenched channels, stabilizing streambanks, and redirecting flow to historic remnant channels. At the most upstream portion of the project, an entrenched section of Willow Creek will be “plugged” with earthen fill and flow will be directed into a historic remnant channel. The

“channel fill and pond and plug” techniques will be used to fill entrenched channel flow paths for a distance of approximately 930 feet.

The project includes dirt moving activities for the upstream reach which will include the use of scrapers, loaders, and excavators. Excavators will be used to salvage sod within the entrenched channels and stockpile it along the areas to be filled. Scrapers will also remove topsoil where ponds will be created or where borrow sites are located. This material will be stockpiled adjacent to the areas to be filled. Scrapers will then be used to collect fill material from ponds/borrow areas and transport it short distances (e.g. less than 200 yards) to the fill areas (referred to as channel fill areas). The channel fill areas will be filled to elevations that match the adjacent floodplain. Excavators will then place the stockpiled sod back on top of the channel fill areas and “track in” the material. Finally, four small areas along the streambank will require some stabilization. One- to two-foot diameter rock (20 cubic yards for each area) will be imported to the areas and placed. Sod will be mixed with the rock to provide resistance for flows dropping from the floodplain into the existing entrenched channel to the north.

Salvaged sod will be used in replanting the upper one-foot fill volume for channel fill areas. In addition, some channel fill areas (i.e. those that are at similar elevations as the floodplain) will have biodegradable jute fabric staked over the sod to increase the area’s resistance to flow and future erosion until the fill areas become revegetated.

Description of Direct Impacts to Waters of the State

An excavator will place approximately 650 cubic yards of sod onto the top of channel fill areas and track the material into them. An excavator will place approximately 80 cubic yards of 1-2’ rock within streambank stabilization areas. The rock will be mixed with existing sod.

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Tables 1. Permanent impacts are categorized as those resulting in a physical loss in area and also those degrading ecological condition.

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Permanent Physical Loss of Area Impacts

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres	Cubic Yards	Linear Feet
Riparian Zone	0.57	9,144	930

Approximate Timeframe of Project Implantation

August 15th through October 15th of any of the next five years (2020-2024).

Project Location

Address: 548-155 Highway 139, Bieber, CA, 8 miles south of Adin, CA on Highway 139. Site is on west side of highway with a locked gate.

County: Lassen County

Section 1, Township 37N, Range 9E

Latitude: 41.0658° and Longitude: -120.8879°

FINDINGS OF APPLICABILITY

This letter serves as formal notice that Order No. SB12006GN is applicable to this channel restoration and stabilization project. Your waste discharge identification (WDID) number is 5A18CR00030.

REPORTING

A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall be submitted by the applicant no later than 30 days after the work has been completed. The NOC shall demonstrate that the work has been carried out in accordance with the description provided in the applicant's Notice of Intent.

Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of Order No. SB12006GN **may expose** California Trout **to enforcement action pursuant to the Clean Water Act and California Water Code.**

If you require further assistance, please contact me by phone at (530) 224-4848 or by email at Daniel.Warner@waterboards.ca.gov. You may also contact Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist of the Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit, by phone at (530) 224-2437 or by email at Lynn.Coster@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed by Bryan Smith
(for) Patrick Pulupa,
Executive Officer

DLW: db

Enclosure: Amended Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects File No. SB12006GN (Applicant Only)

cc email: United States Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding
Water Quality Certification Program, SWRCB, Sacramento