

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

**Public Notice
Of Application for Kern Plateau Stream Restoration**

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. 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 Boards) 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: Inyo National Forest

Applicant Contact: Erin Lutrick
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Project Name: Kern Plateau Stream and Riparian Restoration

Date of Application: 5/24/2012

Affected Regions: Central Valley RWQCB (Region 5F); Lahontan RWQCB (Region 6V)

Project Description: The project is a restoration project for four sites in Inyo National Forest: Dutch/Diaz Meadow, Ash Meadow, Groundhog Meadow, and Casa Vieja Meadow. Streams in these sites are incised, and some have active headcuts. The project would provide stream erosion control, stream bank stabilization, and meadow/wetland protection. The project would also attempt to prevent meadow dewatering. Proposed work includes repairing and maintaining grade control structures, and installing new grade control structures.

Without this project, stream incision would continue, and headcuts would advance to create a longer reach of incised streams. Stream incision can lead to meadow dewatering and conversion from meadow vegetation to upland, scrub type vegetation. This vegetation conversion has already occurred throughout the Kern Plateau and this project attempts to prevent that from occurring at four different sites.

The four sites have already had restoration work performed on them under Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Kern Plateau Stream and Riparian Restoration, September 18, 2008. This certification would be for additional stream reaches on those sites.

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 Jeanie Mascia at (916) 323-2871, or at jmascia@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:

Jeanie Mascia, Environmental Scientist
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Unit,
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board

Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.