

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 Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board 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: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Applicant Contact: Patty Forbes
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Email: patty.forbes@wildlife.ca.gov

Project Name: 2016 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program; Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Program and the Forest Land Anadromous Restoration Projects (RM 405983, SB 16003IN)
Date of Application: 05/02/2016

**Public Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification for California Department of Fish and Wildlife's
2016 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program; Steelhead Report and Restoration Card
Program and the Forest Land Anadromous Restoration Projects
Affected Counties: Marin, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Santa
Barbara, Sonoma, San Mateo, & Del Norte**

On May 5, 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) received an application requesting Federal Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for activities related to the 2016 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, the Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Program, and the Forest Land Anadromous Restoration Projects (Projects), from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (Applicant). The application indicates proposed activities and impacts within the jurisdiction of more than one Regional Water Quality Control Board, the North Coast, Central Coast and San Francisco Bay Regions; therefore, the State Water Board has jurisdiction over multi-regional projects. The application was deemed complete on May 24, 2016.

The purpose of the Projects are 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. Projects would be located in various coastal and central valley areas.

The Applicant proposes to perform activities designed to restore salmon and steelhead habitat with the goal of increasing populations of wild anadromous fish in coastal streams and watersheds. Restoration activities are summarized below:

- Improve instream habitat improvement by installing cover and log structures.
- Enhance pool formation and stream reaches by placing large woody debris in streams.
- Prevent entrainment of juvenile salmonids in water diverted for agriculture, power generation, or domestic use by installing and maintaining fish screens.
- Improve fish passage at stream crossings by increasing width to the dimension of the active channel and replace barriers at stream crossings with bridges, bottomless arch culverts, embedded culverts, or fords.
- Restore riparian habitat which would increase the biological integrity of native plant communities along rivers and streams. These activities include the natural re-vegetation of riparian vegetation, livestock exclusionary fencing, bioengineering, and active restoration.
- Reduce sediment delivery to anadromous streams by reducing sediment delivery by decommissioning, upgrading and storm proofing roads.
- Reduce sediment from watershed and stream bank erosion by performing various bank stabilization projects.

Projected permanent and temporary impacts to Waters of the U.S. and waters of the state are summarized in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Summary of Impacts to Waters of the State and U.S.				
Feature	Permanent Impacts (acre)	Permanent Impacts (linear feet)	Temporary Impacts (acre)	Temporary Impacts (linear feet)
Wetland				
Streambed		74,078.4		157,713.6
Lake/Reservoir				
Ocean/Estuary/Bay				
Riparian	0.29	13,200	84.36	
Isolated Waters				
Total Impacts				

Status of CEQA and other Natural Resource Documents and Permits

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), acting as lead agency under CEQA, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for consideration under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (State Clearinghouse No. 2015122055).

The Applicant has filed for authorization under South Pacific Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), San Francisco District Regional General Permit 12 concurrently with this water quality certification application. The applicant has received authorization from the Los Angeles District of the Corps through Regional General Permit N. 78 (SPL-2003-01123-BAH).

The Applicant has also applied for a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

State Water Board staff are proposing to regulate the Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. 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 Ana Maria Saenz at (916) 341-5480 or Anamaria.Saenz@waterboards.ca.gov

Date Posted: May 24, 2016

State Water Resources Control Board 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 the public notice.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Water Quality Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the SUBSCRIBE button under the "Quick Links" section of the 401 Program Webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml

Select "CWA401 Certification and Wetlands Program." By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current 401 project applications, including the project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the Lyris list, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means.

You can enroll or un-enroll at any time. The State Water Board will not disclose your name or e-mail information to any outside parties, and will not use this information for any other purpose.