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## State Water Resources Control Board

### Public Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification

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

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 Water Quality Certification Program.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff are proposing to regulate this Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. **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 (June 8, 2018) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 29, 2018.** If you have any questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

**State Water Resources Control Board Contact:**

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State Water Resources Control Board  
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**Project Name: 2017 Fisheries Habitat Restoration Projects  
(RM 421042, SB 17006IN)**

**Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
**Applicant Contact: Timothy Chorey**  
**Telephone: (916) 327-8842**  
**Email: [Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov)**

**Date of Application: 4/13/2018**

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

**Public Notice of Application for  
Water Quality Certification for California Department of Fish and Wildlife's  
2017 Fisheries Habitat Restoration Projects  
Affected Counties: Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo,  
Santa Barbara, Siskiyou, and Sonoma**

**Date Posted: June 8, 2018**

On April 13, 2018, the State Water Board received an application requesting Federal Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for activities related to the 2017 Fisheries Habitat Restoration Projects (Project), 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, San Francisco Bay, and Central Coast; therefore, the State Water Board has jurisdiction over this multi-regional project. The application was deemed complete on May 23, 2018.

The purpose of the Project is to restore anadromous fisheries habitat in non-tidal reaches of streams, improve watershed conditions impacting salmonid streams, and improve the survival, growth, migration, and reproduction of anadromous fish. Project activities would be located in various coastal watersheds.

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 and central valley watersheds. Restoration activities are summarized below:

- Improve instream habitat by installing cover and log structures.
- Enhance habitat value of 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 stream crossing width to the dimension of the active channel and replacing barriers at stream crossings with bridges, bottomless arch culverts, embedded culverts, or fords.
- Restore riparian habitat thereby increasing 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 fish bearing streams by decommissioning, upgrading, and storm proofing roads.
- Reduce stream bank erosion and sediment delivery from watershed by performing various bank stabilization projects.

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

<b>Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity<sup>1</sup></b>									
<b>Aquatic Resource Type</b>	<b>Temporary Impact<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>Permanent Impact</b>					
				Physical Loss of Area			Degradation of Ecological Condition Only		
	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF
Riparian Zone	0.095		742	0.961		7,765			
Stream Channel	3.231		3,000	4.053		7,805			

Projected length and area of aquatic resources that will be restored are summarized in Table 2, below.

<b>Table 2: Total Ecological Restoration and Enhancement Quantity</b>							
<b>Aquatic Resource Type</b>	<b>Res.<sup>3</sup> Type</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Method<sup>4</sup></b>				
			<b>Est.</b>	<b>Re-est.</b>	<b>Reh.</b>	<b>Enh.</b>	<b>Pres.</b>
Stream Channel	PR	Acres	3.48	0.4	11.465	9.751	
Stream Channel	PR	LF	2,640	1,000	21,147	21,767	
Riparian Zone	PR	Acres		8.26	9.937	0.298	
Riparian Zone	PR	LF		56,692	12,822	541	

<sup>1</sup> Cubic Yards (CY); Linear Feet (LF)

<sup>2</sup> Includes only temporary direct impacts to waters of the state and does not include upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state.

<sup>3</sup> Restoration (Res.)

<sup>4</sup> Methods: establishment (Est.), reestablishment (Re-est.), rehabilitation (Reh.), enhancement (Enh.), preservation (Pres.).

## **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. 2017112068).

The Project will be authorized under South Pacific Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), San Francisco District Regional General Permit 12 (File Number 2003-279220) and Los Angeles District Regional General Permit 78 (File Number SPL-2003-01123-BAH).

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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.

### ***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](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.