
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region, Redding Office
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205
Redding, CA 96002

Date: 18 November 2021

Project Title: Rock Creek Meadow Shasta Crayfish Habitat Augmentation

Project Location - Specific: Township 35N, Range 4E, Section 5
Cassel, CA
Latitude: 40.924167° and Longitude: -121.540278°

Project Location - County: Shasta County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project purpose is to create additional habitat for the federally and state-listed endangered Shasta crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*). The project goal is to ensure there is adequate high-quality and contiguous habitat to provide for a viable, self-sustaining Shasta crayfish population in the refuge habitat. Placing gravel and cobbles in the streambed in the restored meadow stream section will augment the current breeding, rearing, and sheltering habitat for Shasta crayfish.

Up to 40 cubic yards of pre-washed gravel will be hand placed into select portions of the restored Rock Creek channel to increase gravel depth to approximately 3 inches at those locations. Placement will be done by filling 5-gallon buckets with gravel, carrying them to the stream bank by hand or with a cart or wheelbarrow, placing them on a small work barge, which will be guided to the desired placement locations using ropes and pulleys temporarily set up along the banks.

Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:

Federal Agencies: The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Nationwide Permit No. 27.

State Agency approval for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification:
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Redding Office.
WDID No. 5A45CR00611.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Maria J. Ellis, Ph.D.
Spring Rivers Ecological Sciences, LLC
21451 Cassel Road
Cassel, CA 96016

Exempt Status:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Article 19, section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects. Class 33 consists of projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

Reasons why Project is Exempt:

This project is Categorically Exempt under CEQA section 15333 because the project involves wildlife habitat restoration activities and will not exceed five acres in size.

Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:

Hillary Kraft,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

(530) 223-9536

State Lead Agency Contact Person:

Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist
Chief Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Redding Branch Office

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

(530) 224-2437

Signature: Lynn Coster

Date: 11/18/2021

Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

cc email: Hillary Kraft, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding
Jeff Cook, Spring Rivers Ecological Sciences, LLC, Cassel