



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: 16 September 2022

Project Title:

Kapusta 1B Side Channel Project (Project)

Project Location - Specific:

Latitude: 40.494153° and Longitude: -122.338117°

Project Location - County:

Shasta County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The primary objectives of the proposed Project are to create juvenile salmonid rearing habitat during low flow conditions of the Sacramento River; reduce fish stranding pools; and increase the availability of adult spawning habitat in the river. The Project consists of constructing a river side channel along the west bank of the Sacramento River with an inlet and outlet connected to the river. Suitable gravel obtained from channel excavation will be sorted onsite and placed in the Sacramento River to provide spawning habitat for adult salmonids. Activities include excavating a linear side channel designed to remain inundated during low flow conditions, repurposing removed woody debris from excavation for in-stream habitat features for fish within the side channel, and seeding disturbed areas with native plant species to mitigate for temporary and permanent impacts. Natural resource impacts include the removal of understory trees, unearthed material in channel excavation and bank stabilization, and the remnants of spoil piles.

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. 16.

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. 5A45CR00620.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Ian Smith
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
801 I Street, Suite 140
Sacramento, CA 95814

Exempt Status:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, 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 provided that (a) there would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 15065; (b) there are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed; and (c) the project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

Reasons why Project is Exempt:

This project is Categorical Exempt under CEQA section 15333 because the project's sole purpose is salmonid habitat restoration and is less than 5 acres in size.

Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:

Hillary Kraft
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding
(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
(530) 224-2437

Signature: _____

Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

cc via
email:

Hillary Kraft, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding
Ian Smith, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento
Aurelia Gonzalez, Sacramento River Forum, Red Bluff
Rob Irwin, Sacramento River Forum, Red Bluff