
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: 20 December 2022

Project Title:

Upper Sacramento River Anadromous Salmonid
Restoration Program: Phase 1 Rockwads Project (Project)

Project Location - Specific:

Section 18, Township 31 North, Range 4 West, MDB&M.
Nearest City: Redding
Latitude: 40.539368° and Longitude: -122.357754°

Project Location - County:

Shasta County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of the project is to provide deep-water rearing habitat for juvenile, Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Central Valley fall- / late fall-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) through the installation of 20 rockwad structures in the river. The structures will consist of woody material (root wads and tree canopies of orchard trees and native trees as available) firmly anchored (bolted) to angular boulders weighing approximately six tons each to ballast the structures. The fine woody material is intended to provide cover for juvenile salmonids to shelter from velocity and larger predators. The boulder is sized to anchor the structure and not move during flows up to the 1 percent annual exceedance flow of 79,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The project also includes post-installation monitoring of the physical longevity of the structures as well as of juvenile salmonids and their associated predators adjacent to the installed structures.

Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:

Federal Agencies: The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Regional General Permit 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. 5A45CR00625.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

John Hannon
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 Categorically 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 Regnart
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:

Hillary Regnart, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding
John Hannon, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento
Jeff Souza, Tehama Environmental Solutions, Inc., Red Bluff