
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: 10 March 2023

Project Title:

Bella Vista Siphon Removal and Fish Passage Project
(Project)

Project Location - Specific:

Latitude: 40.59121° and Longitude: -122.22663°

Project Location - County:

Shasta County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project will remove an unused water delivery pipe capped with aggregate concrete that crosses North Cow Creek. The pipe structure impedes fish migration and is a barrier to aquatic species at lower flow levels [less than 100 cubic feet per second (cfs)] and creates a velocity barrier at intermediate flow levels (approximately 100-500 cfs). Following demolition of the concrete siphon structure, the demolished concrete and rebar will be hauled off-site to a proper waste disposal site. The streambed will be excavated and recontoured at the demolition location to allow for immediate fish passage. Excess excavated material will be spread downstream of the siphon location to avoid removing sediment from the sediment-starved stream and to avoid the cost of hauling off and disposing of the material.

In order to create a dry work zone, temporary cofferdams will be installed upstream and downstream of the action area to section off the work area. A diversion pipe will carry the redirected flows around and downstream of the work area. Silt curtains, wattles, or other Best Management Practice (BMP) materials may be placed as needed at the direction of the engineer or contractor; all BMP materials will be removed post-construction.

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 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. 5A45CR00630.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Ross Perry
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
6270 Parallel Road
Anderson, CA 96007

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 habitat restoration and is less than 5 acres in size.

Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:

Hillary Regnart
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding
(520) 451-1136

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 Regnart, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding
Chris Katopathis, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, Anderson