
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 January 2024

Project Title:

Butte Creek House Meadow Restoration Project (Project)

Project Location - Specific:

Section 21 & 28, Township 26 North, Range 05 East,
MDB&M.

Nearest City: Butte Meadows

Latitude: 40.08526° and Longitude: -121.40959°

Project Location - County:

Butte County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project proposes to restore meadow floodplain function in the Butte Creek House meadow. Restoration activities will include application of process- and form-based techniques to reconnect the stream to the floodplain, aggrade incised channels, activate secondary flow paths, and arrest headcut features. The Project will implement post-assisted log structures, beaver dam analogs, strategically placed felled logs, headcut treatment, channel fill, riffle augmentation, selective removal of lodgepole pine, and planting of riparian shrubs. Habitat restoration will benefit common and sensitive species that inhabit aquatic, riparian, and wet meadow habitats, including native amphibians, cold water fish, aquatic macroinvertebrates, and other riparian and meadow plant species.

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. 5A04CR00360.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Thad Walker
Butte County Resource Conservation District
150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A
Oroville, CA 95965

Exempt Status:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is statutorily exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Public Resources Code, section 21080.56 subdivision e (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects).

Reasons why Project is Exempt:

This project is Statutorily Exempt under California Public Resources Code, section 21080.56, because the Project is exclusively a project to restore and enhance habitat for California native fish and wildlife. Concurrence was issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on 20 June 2023.

Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:

Lillian Jepson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
(916) 557-7759

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: Thad Walker, Butte County Resource Conservation District, Oroville
Todd Sloat, Forest Creek Restoration, McArthur
Lillian Jepson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding
John Watkins, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 2, Rancho Cordova