



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

3 December 2019

To interested Parties

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity to Provide Comments on the Proposed Foster Meadow Restoration Project, El Dorado County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Water Board) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Foster Meadow Restoration Project (Project). A mitigated negative declaration (MND), describing potential adverse environmental impacts and associated mitigation measures, has been prepared by the Water Board in connection with this project. This notice is intended to provide interested individuals, organizations, and agencies the opportunity to comment on the environmental effects of the Project as described in the MND.

Project Location: The Project area is near the southern boundary of El Dorado County, approximately 40 miles east of Jackson, California, one mile north of State Highway 88, in the vicinity of the Peddler Hill maintenance station. The Project area is located within the headwaters of the Middle Fork Cosumnes River watershed.

Project Description: The purpose of the Foster Meadow Restoration Project is to restore the incised stream channel of the headwaters of the Middle Fork Cosumnes River in Foster Meadow, which will raise the base elevation of surface water flow in the meadow, re-establish channel-floodplain connectivity, and reverse the xeric trend on approximately 27 acres of montane meadow floodplain. Additionally, the project will improve aquatic organism passage in the Middle Fork Cosumnes River at Foster Meadow Road (FS9N14) crossing.

Filling the incised channels will require excavation and placement, using heavy equipment, of 22,533 cu yds of soil fill in 7 plugs to eliminate the existing gullies and raise/restore the base elevation of surface water flow in the meadow by redirecting flow into existing remnant channels. Fill sources include 4 borrow pits along the meadow margins and 4 areas of in-meadow cut/grading. The project will also require placement of 900 cu yds of 2.0-ft minus rock/soil, sourced from the USFS Tragedy Pit; 400 cu yds will be placed in-stream in 9 rock riffles at the project bottom to create a transition between the new meadow gradient and

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downstream channel gradient. The remaining 500 cu yds of rock will be used to construct an aquatic organism passage below the FS9N14 crossing; road crossing work also includes placement of multiple floodplain culverts to eliminate the backwater effect of flow in a single culvert and improve passage opportunities through the crossing.

The Project will be carried out by Plumas Corporation in coordination with the Eldorado National Forest. Short-term construction impacts would occur to approximately 8.15 acres, which would be restored with native vegetation. Construction is proposed during the low/now flow period of 2020 (anticipated September 1-30).

Regulatory Process: Project implementation will require the Water Board to take regulatory action on the issuance of a Water Quality Certification pursuant to Clean Water Act section 401. This notice serves as a notice of intent to adopt an MND for this project pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines section 15072.

Comment Deadline and How to Submit Comments: Please submit your comments on the MND via email to: Greg.Hendricks@Waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "Foster Meadow Restoration Project, attention Greg Hendricks" no later than close of business on **3 January 2020**.

A copy of the MND can be downloaded at either of the following:

<https://www.plumascorporation.org/current-news.html>

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/

To request a compact disc or hard copy of the MND, please call Plumas Corporation at 530-283-3739 or the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board at 916-464-4709. If you cannot access the MND online, copies of the draft MND and appendices will be available for review at the following locations no later than December 3, 2019:

Eldorado National Forest
Amador Ranger District
26820 Silver Drive
Pioneer, CA 95666

Plumas Corporation
47 Trilogy Lane
Quincy, CA 95971

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Sacramento Office
11020 Sun Center Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Cc: Interested Parties Mailing List

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE