
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 **From:** California Regional Water Quality Control Board
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121 Central Valley Region, Redding Office
Sacramento, CA 95814 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205
Redding, CA 96002

Date: 6 May 2020

Project Title: Clear Creek Gravel Augmentation Phase 2A Site Project

Project Location - Specific: Gold Dredge Trailhead, Clear Creek Road, Redding, CA
Latitude: 40.49962° and Longitude: -122.4212°

Project Location - County: Shasta County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project will inject up to 3,400 cubic yards of gravel in Lower Clear Creek, below the Whiskeytown Reservoir, for the purpose of improving habitat conditions for the benefit of endangered salmon and steelhead. Lower Clear Creek below the reservoir is depleted in gravel bedload, which has caused degraded channel habitat, channel incision, and loss of floodplain connectivity and function. Augmentation of gravel supply helps restore and maintain the balance of sediment, floodplain connectivity, channel migration, habitat formation, and riparian community development. The project will have temporary impacts of 3.7 acres to unvegetated streambed.

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. The U.S. Army Corps permit reference number is SPK-2008-01829.

State Agency approval for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification:
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Redding Office.
Waste Discharge Identification Number (WDID No.): 5A45CR00591

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Derek Rupert
United States Bureau of Reclamation
16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.
Shasta Lake, CA 96019

Exempt Status:

The project meets CEQA Categorical Exemption section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, which 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 it is a restoration project less than 5 acres in size for the benefit of fish and wildlife. The project will enhance spawning habitat for the benefit of endangered salmon and steelhead. No compensatory mitigation is required for this project.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Mr. Matthew Roberts
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State Lead Agency Contact Person:

Ms. Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Redding Branch Office

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(530) 224-2437

Signature: Lynn Coster

Date: 5/6/2020

Title: Senior Environmental Scientist