



Subject: Annual Notification for Sonoma County Water Agency's 2012 Stream Maintenance Projects

Dear Participating Agency,

Enclosed is the Sonoma County Water Agency's (Water Agency) Stream Maintenance Program's (SMP) Annual Notification Report (ANR) for the 2012 stream maintenance activities. The following information is provided in this notification packet:

- Project List and Locations
- Project Designs
- Summary of Maintenance Project Sizes, Extents, and Potential Effects
- Annual Mitigation Plan
- Annual Sediment Disposal Plan.

We have also included additional information to supplement the 2012 ANR that are specific to the terms and conditions of the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) Master Agreement, but are also useful for the rest of the participating agencies to evaluate the proposed projects. These additional items include:

- Maps identifying location of planned maintenance work in relation to known sensitive species/habitat as represented on the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) as well as maps showing the 2012 project sites in relation to known California Tiger Salamander occurrences (follows Section 3 of the ANR)
- Schedule and listing of pre-construction surveys to be completed for 2012 projects; and
- CNDDDB forms for new observations of special status species.

Additionally, to consolidate the reporting effort to regulating agencies specific materials requested for CDFG notification are included in Appendix E and include:

- DFG Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration Form (FG 2023);

- Annual Notification Checklist For DFG MLSAA;
- Check for Annual Master Agreement Fee; and
- CD containing and e-copy of the SCWA 2012 ANR

The enclosed documents should fulfill the reporting requirements outlined the following permits obtained for the SMP:

- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Notification Number 1600-2006-0254-3
- Consistency Determination Number 2080-2010-029-03, 8/6/10
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (NCRWQCB) Order No. R1-2009-0049
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Region (SFRWQCB) Order No. R2-2011-020
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Russian River Biological Opinion, Zone 1A BO, Tracking No. F/SWR/2006/07316
- NMFS, Petaluma River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds Biological Opinion, Zones 2A, 3A. Tracking No. 2009/03082, Corps File No. 2009-00136N,
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Permit No. 2009-00079N, Zone 1A
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Permit No. 2009-00136N, Zones 2A, 3A
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Programmatic Biological Opinion for SMP, USFWS PBO Reference No. 81420-2009-F-0788-1

Overview of 2012 Maintenance Projects

Planned stream maintenance work for the 2012 season includes two localized projects, eight reach scale projects, sixteen sediment basin/instream clearing projects (of which eight will be newly established this season), five reservoir inlet clearing projects, and one bank stabilization and repair project. These maintenance projects are necessary to restore conveyance capacity and maintain proper function of Water Agency facilities. All of the projects will be conducted in accordance with the impact avoidance and minimization approaches described in the SMP Manual (Chapter 5) and with the application of program BMPs as described in Chapter 7 of the SMP Manual. The 2012 routine maintenance projects include the following:

Localized Scale Sediment Removal Projects

- Laguna de Santa Rosa 5: Downstream of East Cotati Ave
- Russell Creek 1: Remove Plug West of Range Ave.

Reach Scale Sediment Removal Projects

- Coleman Creek 1: Upstream of Snyder Lane
- E. Washington Creek 1 & 2 : Clear Plugs below McGregor
- Gossage Creek 1, 2 and 3: Lowell to Highway 116
- Laguna de Santa Rosa 1: Sta 70+00 to Sta 88+00
- Lichau Creek 2 and 3: Between 101 and Old Redwood Highway
- Lower East Fork Fryer Creek 1: At Confluence with Fryer Creek
- Santa Rosa Creek 1: Downstream of Willowside Road
- Santa Rosa Creek 2: Upstream of 2011 work

Sediment Basin/ Instream Basin /Reservoir Inlet Clearing

- Adobe Creek Sediment Basin: clearing sediment and vegetation at the Adobe Creek basin (Adobe Creek 2)
- Colgan Creek 3 & 4: Upstream and downstream of Stony Point Road
- Cook Creek Sediment Basin: clearing sediment and debris at the basin (Cook Creek 2)
- Copeland Creek 3 & 4 at Country Club Dr.: clearing sediment and debris along the instream basin located at the crossing at Country Club Road
- Copeland Creek 4 & 5 at Snyder Ln.: sediment removal at in- stream basin located at the Snyder Lane crossing
- Five Creek at Snyder Ln: sediment removal at the Snyder Lane Crossing Reach 1
- Hinebaugh Creek 1 & 2: At Labath Road
- Hinebaugh Creek 3 & 4: Commerce Blvd.
- Hinebaugh Creek 4 & 5: State Farm Drive
- Hinebaugh Creek 5: RR Tracks by golf course
- Piner Creek 4 & 5: remove Plugs at RR tracks
- Piner Creek 6: remove Plugs at Piner Road
- Piner Creek 7: remove Plugs at Hopper Ave.
- Washington Creek 5: Upstream of McDowell in Concrete Channel
- Wilfred Creek 1: sediment removal at instream basin located downstream of

the culvert outfall at Snyder Lane

- Windsor Creek 1: downstream of Windsor Road

Reservoir Inlet Clearing

- Brush Creek Reservoir
- Matanzas Creek Reservoir
- Piner Creek Reservoir
- Santa Rosa Creek Reservoir (Spring Lake)
- Fish ladder in Santa Rosa Diversion Structure, adjacent to Montgomery Drive.

Bank Stabilization Projects

- Russell Creek 1: bank repair at Station 701+36

Sections 1 through 3 of this ANR contain project descriptions, project maps, site plans, site photographs, and additional documentation and reference materials.

For project sites with recurring sediment removal needs, sediment basins, concrete stream segments, in-stream basins and reservoir inlets, the Water Agency will mitigate for the initial establishment of the basin but not for following removals. Reservoir inlets are cleared annually and include Piner, Brush, Matanzas, and Santa Rosa Creek Reservoir (Spring Lake). Recurring already established in-stream basins that will be worked this season include Adobe Creek 2, Cook Creek 2, Copeland Creek 3 & 4, Copeland Creek 4 & 5, Five Creek 1, Wilfred Creek 1, and Windsor Creek 1.

New for 2012 in-stream basin include, Hinebaugh Creek 1 & 2, Hinebaugh Creek 3 & 4, Hinebaugh Creek 4 & 5, Hinebaugh Creek 5, Piner Creek 4 & 5, Piner Creek 6, Piner Creek 7, Colgan Creek 3 & 4, and Washington Creek 5.

On-Site and Off-Site Mitigation for Maintenance Projects

Section 4 and Appendix G of the Annual Notification Packet includes detailed information for both on-site (Tier 1) and off-site (Tiers 2 and 3) mitigation actions. Details of the on-site (Tier 1) restoration approaches and methods are provided in Chapters 5 and 8 of the SMP Manual. Existing conditions at the maintenance project sites are described in the channel characterizations (Reach Sheets) of Chapter 4 of the SMP Manual.

In terms of off-site mitigation for temporal impacts, two stream restoration projects in Zone 1A and one in Zone 2A have been identified to mitigate for the 2012 maintenance activities. These restoration projects are being conducted by the Laguna De Santa Rosa Foundation, Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, and Southern Sonoma Resource Conservation District and Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)). The off-site mitigation projects for 2012 include ecologic

enhancement and restoration activities at Gravenstein Creek, Crane Creek, and Ellis Creek. More detail describing these projects is included in Section 4 and Appendix G. These off-site watershed-based restoration projects are consistent with the expressed goals of the off-site mitigation program to restore impacted habitats, but to also address larger watershed factors related to stream maintenance such as controlling upstream and upland erosion and sediment sources.

As described in the SMP Manual, the combination of on-site and off-site restoration activities represents a holistic approach to address the impacts from maintenance activities by addressing both the impacts of stream maintenance while also addressing/reducing the ongoing need for such maintenance. The off-site mitigation projects provide mitigation for the temporal impacts occurring between the time that maintenance activities occur, and the point at which on-site (Tier 1) restoration activities have become established and provide ecological function equivalent to or greater than the pre-maintenance condition. This year's mitigation approach directly addresses project impacts on-site and also provides important habitat improvements and erosion source reductions in the broader watershed through the off-site (Tier 3) projects. Additionally, native and native "analog" trees (as defined in Appendix E -Vegetation Management) removed in the course of stream work are replaced at specific ratios depending on species (native trees replaced at a 2:1 ratio, and non-native analogs are replaced at a 1.5:1 ratio). To date these mitigation trees have been established along Colgan 4, Wilfred 1, and Roseland 3.

In addition to the Tier 1 and Tier 3 mitigation efforts, the Water Agency will also be conducting compensatory mitigation for California tiger salamander impacted by the 2012 maintenance projects. For the 2012 field season, the Water Agency will utilize existing credits purchased and approved in 2011 to offset impacts to California tiger salamander. The 2012 field season will utilize 0.001 acres of the 0.056 acres of credit remaining leaving 0.055 acres for allocation in the 2013 field season.

Depending on project priorities, to ensure coverage for 2013 and 2014 field seasons, the Water Agency may pursue purchasing an additional 0.07 acres of credit from USFWS and CDFG-approved local mitigation banks. Mitigation banking standards for the SMP follow the guidelines in the SMP Biological Opinion with the USFWS and Section 2080.1 Consistency Determination by CDFG for the SMP.

Requested Modifications to Permit Deliverables

Based on project timing, the Water Agency has suggested a few minor changes to the materials submitted with the Annual Notification (May 15th) versus the Annual Report (December 31st). To date pre-construction sensitive species survey information and CNDDDB report forms have been included in the Annual Report rather than the Annual Notification:

The completeness checklist also notes that Channel Characterization Sheets should be provided with the Annual Notification. Since all of these sheets are available in the SMP Manual, the Water Agency would prefer to include these only when the Sheet has been updated with new information. The Water Agency is evaluating methods to integrate pre-

construction data collection with information contained in the Reach Sheets to keep the information up to date automatically. Updated Sheets will be provided to all of the resource agencies as they become available (through both the Annual Notification and/or Annual Report).

In addition, as part of CDFG approval, please note that a supplement to the ANR, containing information on additional vegetation management activities to be completed in 2012, will follow in August, if needed.

Closing

On May 2, 2012, the Interagency Working Group (IAWG) and the Water Agency project team will tour the 2012 project sites, including visiting some past maintenance sites and watershed mitigation sites. This will be a valuable opportunity for the IAWG members to get a field-based perspective on the projects, ask questions, and confirm conditions right in the field.

The Water Agency invites each agency to comment on planned maintenance activities, confirm activities, and/or provide a notice to proceed with the 2012 maintenance projects. If the Water Agency receives no comment at the conclusion of 45 days it will be understood that this represents a notice to proceed with the projects included in the 2012 ANR.

The 2012 season marks some significant accomplishments for the program. Many creeks have been shepherded through the early seral process of establishing trees along the toes in suitable locations, while also managing and establishing upland trees along the top of bank. Currently a majority of creeks have significant sections where the willow canopy closes over the channel bottom. This represents a vast improvement in both habitat complexity as water interacts with the trees retained at the toe as well as providing needed shade to cool the stream corridor.

Please feel free to contact me, Keenan Foster (kfoster@scwa.ca.gov / (707) 547-1941), or our Stream Maintenance Coordinator Jon Niehaus (jon@scwa.ca.gov / 707-521-1845).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keenan Foster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keenan Foster
Sr. Environmental Specialist

Attachments- Annual Notification for 2012 Maintenance Projects