



Subject: Annual Notification for Sonoma County Water Agency's 2014 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 2014 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;
- 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 2014 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 2014 projects;
- CDFW Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration Form (FG 2023);
- Annual Notification Checklist For CDFW MLSAA;
- Check for Annual Master Agreement Fee; and
- CD containing and e-copy of the SCWA 2014 ANR.

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

- CDFW Notification Number 1600-2006-0254-3
- CDFW 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 2014 Maintenance Projects

Planned stream maintenance work for the 2014 season includes one localized project, eight reach-scale projects, nine sediment basin/in-stream basin clearing projects (of which three will be newly established sediment basins this season), and six reservoir inlet clearing projects (included with these are the cement underlain Santa Rosa Creek Diversion Structure and fish ladder). These maintenance projects are necessary to restore conveyance capacity and maintain proper function of Water Agency flood control 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, as well as permit terms and conditions. The 2014 routine maintenance projects include the following:

Flood Zone 1A

- **One Localized Sediment Removal Project at:**
 - Colgan Creek Reach 5C: Downstream from Hearn Avenue
- **Six Reach Scale Sediment Removal Projects at:**
 - Forestview Creek Reaches 2 and 3: Between Fulton Road and Guerneville Road
 - Hinebaugh Creek Reaches 3B, 4, 5A and 5C: Highway 101 to County Club Drive
 - South Fork Copeland Creek Reach 1: Southwest Blvd. to Coral Court, along railroad tracks
 - Starr Creek Reach 2: Railroad tracks to Oak Park Street
 - Steele Creek Reach 1B: Between Marlow Road and Gamay Street
 - Steele Creek Reach 2: Between Marlow Road and Ridley Avenue
- **Six Sediment Basin/Instream Basin Clearings at:**
 - Cook Creek Reach 2: East of Petaluma Hill Road
 - Copeland Creek 2: East of Commerce Boulevard
 - Copeland Creek Reaches 3 and 4: Above and below Country Club Drive
 - Copeland Creek Reaches 4 and 5: Above and below Snyder Lane
 - Five Creek Reach 1: Downstream from Snyder Lane
 - Wilfred Creek Reach 1C: Downstream from Snyder Lane
- **Six Reservoir Inlet Clearings at:**
 - Brush Creek Reservoir
 - Matanzas Creek Reservoir
 - Piner Creek Reservoir
 - Santa Rosa Creek Reservoir (Spring Lake)
 - Santa Rosa Creek Diversion Structure: upstream of Santa Rosa Creek Reservoir (to be classified as an in-stream basin)
 - Fish Ladder in Santa Rosa Diversion Structure: upstream of Santa Rosa Creek Reservoir

Flood Zone 2A

- **Two Reach Scale Sediment Removal Projects at:**
 - McDowell Creek Reach 2B: Caulfield Lane to confluence with East Fork McDowell Creek
 - Washington Creek Reach 2: Madison Street to Holly Lane
- **Three In-stream Basin Clearings at:**
 - Adobe Creek Reaches 1 and 2: above and below S. McDowell Boulevard
 - Washington Creek Reach 1: Downstream of Holly Lane
 - Washington Creek Reach 3: Upstream of Madison Street
- **One Bank Repair at the following location:**
 - East Washington Creek Reach 3: Downstream of Ely Boulevard

Flood Zone 3A

- **One Reach Scale Sediment Removal Project at:**
 - Nathanson Creek Bypass Reach 1: Fine Avenue to Dewell Drive

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 mitigates (area affected is added to Tier 3 and California Tiger Salamander mitigation needs) for the initial establishment of the basin but not for following removals. Reservoir inlets that are cleared annually include Piner, Brush, Matanzas, and Santa Rosa (Spring Lake) Creek Reservoirs as well as the Santa Rosa Creek Diversion Channel fish ladder. Recurring, already established, in-stream basins that will be maintained this season are Adobe Creek 1 and 2, Cook Creek 2, Copeland Creek 3, 4 and 5, Five Creek 1 and Wilfred Creek 1. Newly designated in-stream basins for 2014 are the Santa Rosa Creek Diversion Structure (as this is cement lined and designed to accumulate sediment), Copeland 2, Washington 1 and 2, and Washington 2 and 3.

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 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 and illustrated in Appendix A.

In terms of off-site mitigation for temporal impacts, two stream restoration projects in Zone 1A and one project in Zone 2A have been identified to mitigate for the 2014 maintenance activities. These restoration projects are being conducted by the Center for Environmental Stewardship and Point Blue [Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)]. The off-site mitigation projects for 2014 include ecologic enhancement and restoration activities at Pool Creek, Washoe Creek and Corona Creek at Poppy Hill Farm. More detail describing these projects is included in Section 4 and Appendix G in this Notification. 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.

In addition to the Tier 1 and Tier 3 mitigation efforts, the Water Agency will also be conducting compensatory mitigation for California tiger salamander habitat impacted by the 2014 maintenance projects. For 2014 and subsequent seasons, the Water Agency has started an agreement to purchase an additional 0.28 acres of credit from USFWS- and CDFW-approved local mitigation banks to offset impacts to California tiger salamander. Mitigation banking standards for the SMP follow the guidelines in the SMP Biological Opinion with the USFWS and Section 2080.1 Consistency Determination by CDFW for the SMP. The 2014 field season is anticipated to require 0.039 acres of mitigation credit.

Addendums for Previous Submittals

Generally, most SMP submittals include all the required elements needed for the IAWG to review and approve, monitor, and modify ongoing flood control activities. Occasionally, individual elements are not completed in time to include in a current submittal. In these cases, the missing elements are noted and addendums are provided with the next submittal. Please find as Appendix H an SMP Addendum which includes information on follow up plantings conducted on Austin/Brush creeks, as well as an update on native tree mitigation. Additionally included are updated flood zone maps for each of our three flood control zones including Zone 1A (Santa Rosa and Rohnert Park), Zone 2A (Petaluma), and Zone 3A (Sonoma). These updated maps provide new information related to reach names and designations, as well as, identifying the locations of named modified reaches where vegetation management work occurs.

Closing

On May 1, 2014, the IAWG and the Water Agency project team will tour the 2014 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 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 2014 maintenance projects (per permit time frames) before work activities are planned to begin on June 16, 2014.

The 2014 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,



Keenan Foster
Principal Environmental Specialist

Attachments- Annual Notification for 2014 Maintenance Projects