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**Public Notice of Water Quality Certification Application  
for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's  
2023 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program**

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
Water Quality Certification Program  
**Date Posted: March 15, 2024**

**Affected Counties: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Santa Barbara, and Siskiyou**

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Water Quality Certification Program.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff are proposing to regulate this Program pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. **Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first full date of issuance of this notice (March 18, 2024) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period (April 9, 2024).** To submit comments, or if you have questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

**State Water Resources Control Board Contact:**

Stephen Barlow, Environmental Scientist  
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State Water Resources Control Board  
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**Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.**

## Project Name: 2023 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program

(Reg. Meas. ID: 455835 and SWRCB ID: SB24019IN)

**Background:** On February 14, 2024, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) submitted a Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification application for the 2023 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (Program) by requesting authorization under the Statewide Restoration General Order (Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ). The date (2023) refers to the grant cycle year that individual projects were chosen by CDFW, not the year that the Program application was received. That is, individual projects selected for Program funding during the 2023 grant cycle are being considered for water quality certification in 2024.

**Project Description:** The purpose of proposed activities is to restore degraded salmonid habitat with the goal of increasing populations of wild anadromous fish in coastal streams and watersheds. The Program would include individual project activities at several sites located in various streams and watersheds.

The Program application reports impacts to waters of the state, including waters of the United States, as shown in Table 1. Temporarily impacted areas would be restored to pre-project condition once Program activities are complete. The application further reports total quantities of restored waters of the state, as provided in Table 2.

Table 1: Total Program Fill/Excavation Impacts to Waters of the State

Aquatic Resource type	Riparian Zone	Stream Channel	Wetland
Acres of temporary impact	5.343	4.046	0.000
Linear feet of temporary impact	10,341.800	8,265.600	0.000
Acres of permanent physical loss of area	1.011	2.532	0.000
Linear feet of permanent physical loss of area	11,802.000	16,858.000	0.000

Table 2: Total Program Restoration<sup>1</sup> of Waters of the State

Aquatic Resource type	Riparian Zone	Stream Channel	Wetland
Acres of restoration	22.276	31.670	0.074
Linear feet of restoration	3,5474.400	55,446.200	200.000

The CDFW, acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), State Clearinghouse Number 2023090699, for the Program received September 29, 2023. This MND is available at the following website: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/Project/2023090699>.

<sup>1</sup> Restoration as used in this table is a general term that includes Re-Establishment, Enhancement, and Rehabilitation.

**A Certification or Denial will be prepared by the State Water Board for the 2023 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program in response to this application.**

**Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Applicant Contact: Timothy Chorey**

**Telephone: (916) 838-0760**

**Email: [Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov)**

**Date of Application Submittal: February 14, 2024**

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek water quality certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Such certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

***KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES***

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed water quality certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the Submit button after entering a valid email address under the [Subscribe to the 401 water quality Certification and Wetland Program Email List](#) banner on the [401 Program Webpage](#) at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml)

By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current 401 applications, including the Project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email notification service, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means. You can enroll or un-enroll at any time.