CALIFORNIA Water Boards

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MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

TO: Ken Petruzzelli

FROM: Shay Richardson
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DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

DATE: August 23, 2016

SUBJECT: STREAM CLASSIFICATION SITE VISIT— DONOVAN AND PETERS ACL/CDO

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The project is located within the geographic area covered by the Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams (Policy) and includes two existing onstream dams. Pursuant to Section 2.4 of the Policy, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights (Division) will not accept a water right application for an onstream dam on a Class I or Class II stream after the Policy adoption date of July 19, 2006. Accordingly, the Division must classify the streams at the points of diversion (PODs) prior to accepting a new water right application.

On August 9, 2016, Shay Richardson of the Division visited the Donovan/Peters property to survey the stream reaches affected by the onstream reservoirs. The following individuals were also present throughout the site visit:

- Kyle Wooldridge (Division)
- Chuck Arnold (Division)
- Stephen Peters (Property Owner)

2.0 METHODS

Prior to the site visit, Division staff conducted a preliminary desktop review of relevant environmental databases to determine the environmental setting of the project. The following databases were queried to obtain records of known occurrences of special-status species, current and potential habitat for anadromous fish species, fish barriers, wetlands, and streams previously classified within the vicinity of the project area.

- California Natural Diversity Database
- National Marine Fisheries Service Intrinsic Potential Data

- National Wetland Inventory
- CalFish
- eWRIMS

Division staff surveyed the stream reaches by conducting a reconnaissance survey of the stream reaches upstream and downstream of the PODs and dividing the reaches based on the hydrogeomorphic and vegetative characteristics of the channel. The defined reaches were then evaluated in more detail using habitat indicators. Indicators of habitat include, but are not limited to, coarse sediment, channel width, depth, slope, instream cover, canopy, surface water, aquatic plants, or hydric soils. Photo documentation of the habitat indicators observed and representative stream types were also collected.

3.0 RESULTS

4.1 PRE-FIELD ENVIRONMENTAL DATABASE REVIEW

The preliminary desktop review did not identify any known occurrences of special-status species, current or potential habitat for anadromous fish species, fish barriers, wetlands, or streams classified previously within the vicinity of the project area.

4.2 RESULTS OF DIVISION FIELD SURVEY

Reach 1 extends approximately 75 meters upstream from the eastern reservoir. The bankfull channel was approximately 3 feet (ft) wide 2 ft deep. The substrate in the channel was comprised of fines. The reach was shaded with tree overstory dominated by manzanita (*Arctostaphylos sp.*). A small amount of Rush (*Juncus sp.*) (FACW) was observed within the channel. The channel was dry at the time of survey.

Reach 2 extends approximately 200 meters downstream from the eastern reservoir and flows westward into the western reservoir. The bankfull channel was approximately 4 ft wide and 4 ft deep. The substrate in the channel was comprised of fines, gravel, and cobble. Instream habitat types likely include riffles and pools. The reach was shaded with tree overstory dominated by bay (*Laurus sp.*). The stream gradient was greater than 12% and likely too steep for fish passage. The channel was dry at the time of the survey.

Reach 3 extends approximately 100 meters downstream from the western reservoir. The bankfull channel was approximately 5 ft wide and 4 ft deep. The substrate in the channel was comprised of cobble. The stream gradient was greater than 12% and likely too steep for fish passage. No water is being released from the onstream reservoir and the channel was dry at the time of the survey.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Stream classifications are based largely on direct observations of physical and biological habitat indicators. Division staff typically conducts stream classification site visits during the wettest part of the year when the maximum amount and quality of indicators are observable. Due to the timing of the stream classification site visit and the observed dry conditions, no definitive determination of stream class can currently be made. It is recommended that an additional stream classification site visit be conducted during the appropriate season.

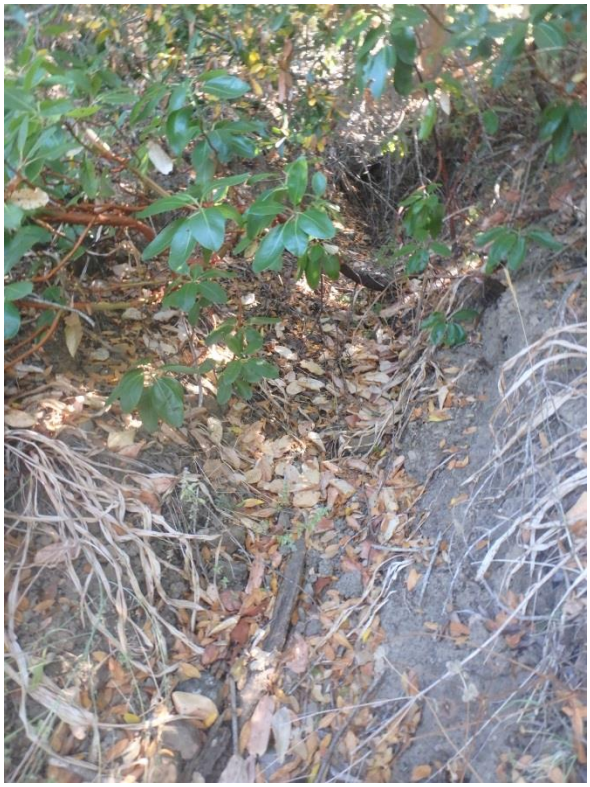

PHOTO 1 – Reach 1 looking upstream.

PHOTO 2 – Reach 2 looking upstream.

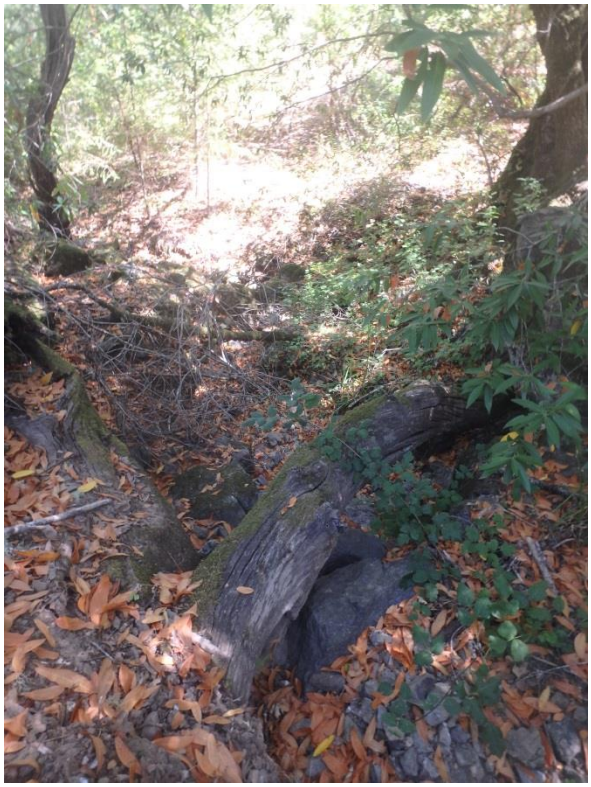

PHOTO 3 – Reach 2 looking downstream.

PHOTO 4 – Reach 3 looking upstream.