March 27, 2020

Public Notice
For
Consideration of Approval
Pre-Qualified Practice

Channel Restoration: Legacy Sediment Removal, Low-Flow Channel Creation, Bank Grading, and Riparian Planting

The Regional Water Board adopted the Water Quality Trading Framework for the Laguna de Santa Rosa (2018 WQTF) on July 11, 2018 by Resolution No. R1-2018-0025. As part of the 2018 WQTF, practices used to generate credits must be pre-qualified before they can be implemented in credit generating projects.

Section 2.5.1 of the 2018 WQTF describes the required supporting documentation for a pre-qualified practice (PQP). To increase process efficiency for pre-qualifying a practice, Regional Board Staff (Staff) developed a template for display of supporting documentation. Staff applied the template to the proposed PQP, titled "Channel Restoration: Legacy Sediment Removal, Low-Flow Channel Creation, Bank Grading, and Riparian Planting" (Attachment 1).

The Channel Restoration: Legacy Sediment Removal, Low-Flow Channel Creation, Bank Grading, and Riparian Planting PQP may be applied to flood control channels, natural channels confined by levees, modified channels, and degraded natural channels. This PQP requires sediment removal, low-flow channel creation, bank grading, and riparian vegetation planting.

Phosphorus reduction is achieved through direct removal of phosphorus-laden sediment to create the low-flow channel. In addition, by grading the bank to guide water into that channel, the practice reduces the surface area of streambed exposed to the water column, thereby decreasing internal loading. Removal of the invasive weed *Ludwigia* during sediment removal and grading will also decrease future sediment entrainment and improve anoxic conditions that otherwise accelerate internal phosphorus loading.

This practice applies two mechanisms for credit quantification: 1) direct measurement of phosphorus removed, and 2) literature values for phosphorus reduction from decreased internal loading. Because this practice is designed to enhance environmental values, direct removal and measurement receives a trading ratio of 1.5 and reduced internal loading quantified by literature values receives a trading ratio of 2.0.

The practice will be monitored through three mechanisms at least annually: 1) riparian vegetation monitoring through vegetation surveys, 2) sediment removal through time series channel cross sections and/or digital elevation models, and 3) reduced internal loading through measurement of the areal coverage of *Ludwigia* and/or calculations of the inundation depth of the project area.

March 27, 2020

Following a 30-day public review period of this proposed practice, Staff will consider all comments received and may revise conditions of approval based on those comments. Staff will then provide a final recommendation to the Executive Officer (EO). If the proposal is approved, the EO's notice of approval will be made available on the Regional Water Board's website and the practice will be placed on the pre-qualified practice list, along with the approved supporting documentation. If the proposal is denied, the notice of denial (including reasons for denial) will be made available on the website.

Accordingly, the proposed PQP (Attachment 1) will be available for public review for 30 days beginning on March 27, 2020 and ending on April 26, 2020. Public comments will be accepted during the entire 30-day comment period. Please submit all written comments to NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

Questions regarding the proposed Pre-Qualified Practice may be directed to Kelsey Cody by phone at (707) 576-2347 or by email at Kelsey.Cody@waterboards.ca.gov.