

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR PETITIONS

This form is required for all petitions.

Before the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) can approve a petition, the State Water Board must consider the information contained in an environmental document prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This form is not a CEQA document. If a CEQA document has not yet been prepared, a determination must be made of who is responsible for its preparation. As the petitioner, you are responsible for all costs associated with the environmental evaluation and preparation of the required CEQA documents. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability and submit any studies that have been conducted regarding the environmental evaluation of your project. If you need more space to completely answer the questions, please number and attach additional sheets.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES OR WORK REMAINING TO BE COMPLETED

For a petition for change, provide a description of the proposed changes to your project including, but not limited to, type of construction activity, structures existing or to be built, area to be graded or excavated, increase in water diversion and use (up to the amount authorized by the permit), changes in land use, and project operational changes, including changes in how the water will be used. For a petition for extension of time, provide a description of what work has been completed and what remains to be done. Include in your description any of the above elements that will occur during the requested extension period.

This Petition is related to the concurrently-filed Application for the Blue House Farm Storage and Forbearance Project, one of a series of interrelated voluntary projects to enhance streamflows in coastal streams in San Mateo County for the purpose of enhancing streamflows for the benefit of coho salmon and steelhead, carried out through a partnership between Trout Unlimited (TU) and the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (SMCRCD), with grant funding from the State Coastal Conservancy and the Integrated Regional Water Management Program.

The Applicant currently diverts water from San Gregorio Creek between April 1 and November 1 annually for irrigation under adjudicated pre-1914 and riparian rights. Via the related Application, Petitioner seeks to appropriate 30.5 acre feet of water to be diverted to storage annually between December 15 and March 31. Water will be stored in a new 30.5 AF offstream storage reservoir to be constructed within the footprint of an existing 14 AF pond on the property. The stored water will be used to allow forbearance of existing diversions during the dry season months of August, September, and October. This project involves no expansion of the current irrigated acreage, and significantly reduces current water use via upgrades to the efficiency of the existing irrigation system.

This Petition is filed pursuant to Water Code §1707 to add fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement within the San Gregorio stream channel as a purpose/ place of use, enabling Petitioner to permissively dedicate conserved water left instream to fish and wildlife purposes in San Gregorio Creek.

For further detail, see the project description provided as Attachment 1.

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

1

Coordination with Regional Water Quality Control Board

For change petitions only, you must request consultation with the Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding the potential effects of your proposed change on water quality and other instream beneficial uses. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 794.) In order to determine the appropriate office for consultation, see: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml. Provide the date you submitted your request for consultation here, then provide the following information.

Date of Request

3/20/2018

Will your project, during construction or operation, (1) generate waste or wastewater containing such things as sewage, industrial chemicals, metals, or agricultural chemicals, or (2) cause erosion, turbidity or sedimentation?

Yes No

Will a waste discharge permit be required for the project?

Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

[Empty text box for additional information]

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Local Permits

For temporary transfers only, you must contact the board of supervisors for the county(ies) both for where you currently store or use water and where you propose to transfer the water. (Wat. Code § 1726.) Provide the date you submitted your request for consultation here.

Date of Contact

[Empty text box for date of contact]

For change petitions only, you should contact your local planning or public works department and provide the information below.

Person Contacted:

Date of Contact:

Department:

Phone Number:

County Zoning Designation:

Are any county permits required for your project? If yes, indicate type below. Yes No

- Grading Permit
- Use Permit
- Watercourse
- Obstruction Permit
- Change of Zoning
- General Plan Change
- Other (explain below)

If applicable, have you obtained any of the permits listed above? If yes, provide copies. Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Construction, grading, and diversion activities for this project are addressed in the water right application and supporting documents submitted concurrently with this Petition. For a discussion of these aspects of the project, see that application and related permitting documents.

[Empty text box for additional information]

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Federal and State Permits

Check any additional agencies that may require permits or other approvals for your project:

- Regional Water Quality Control Board Department of Fish and Game
- Dept of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams California Coastal Commission
- State Reclamation Board U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Have you obtained any of the permits listed above? If yes, provide copies. Yes No

For each agency from which a permit is required, provide the following information:

Agency	Permit Type	Person(s) Contacted	Contact Date	Phone Number
CDFW	LSAA	David Hines	12/2017	707-944-5528

If necessary, provide additional information below:

An LSAA notification package was submitted to CDFW Region 3 on 7/31/18 and is now pending.

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Construction or Grading Activity

Does the project involve any construction or grading-related activity that has significantly altered or would significantly alter the bed, bank or riparian habitat of any stream or lake? Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Construction, grading, and diversion activities for this project are addressed in the water right application and supporting documents submitted concurrently with this Petition. For a discussion of these aspects of the project, see that application and related permitting documents.

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Archeology

- Has an archeological report been prepared for this project? If yes, provide a copy. Yes No
- Will another public agency be preparing an archeological report? Yes No
- Do you know of any archeological or historic sites in the area? If yes, explain below. Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Photographs

For all petitions other than time extensions, attach complete sets of color photographs, clearly dated and labeled, showing the vegetation that exists at the following three locations:

- Along the stream channel immediately downstream from each point of diversion
- Along the stream channel immediately upstream from each point of diversion
- At the place where water subject to this water right will be used


Maps

For all petitions other than time extensions, attach maps labeled in accordance with the regulations showing all applicable features, both present and proposed, including but not limited to: point of diversion, point of rediversion, distribution of storage reservoirs, point of discharge of treated wastewater, place of use, and location of instream flow dedication reach. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 715 et seq., 794.)

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 794, petitions for change submitted without maps may not be accepted.

All Water Right Holders Must Sign This Form:

I (we) hereby certify that the statements I (we) have furnished above and in the attachments are complete to the best of my (our) ability and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge. Dated Aug 26, 2007 at Plumas Co. State 7127



Water Right Holder or Authorized Agent Signature

Water Right Holder or Authorized Agent Signature

NOTE:

- Petitions for Change may not be accepted unless you include proof that a copy of the petition was served on the Department of Fish and Game. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 794.)
- Petitions for Temporary Transfer may not be accepted unless you include proof that a copy of the petition was served on the Department of Fish and Game and the board of supervisors for the county(ies) where you currently store or use water and the county(ies) where you propose to transfer the water. (Wat. Code § 1726.)

Blue House Farms 1707 Petition

Attachment 1 – Project Description

Overview of Project

This Application is submitted in connection with the Blue House Farm Storage and Forbearance Project, one of a series of interrelated voluntary projects to enhance streamflows in coastal streams in San Mateo County for the purpose of enhancing streamflows for the benefit of coho salmon and steelhead, carried out through a partnership between Trout Unlimited (TU) and the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (SMCRCD), with grant funding from the State Coastal Conservancy and the Integrated Regional Water Management Program.

The Applicant currently diverts water from San Gregorio Creek between April 1 and November 1 annually for irrigation under adjudicated pre-1914 and riparian rights. With this application, the Applicant seeks to appropriate 30.5 acre feet of water to be diverted to storage annually between December 15 and March 31. Water will be stored in a new 30.5 AF offstream storage reservoir to be constructed within the footprint of an existing 14 AF pond on the property. The stored water will be used to allow forbearance of existing diversions during the dry season months of August, September, and October. This project involves no expansion of the current irrigated acreage, and significantly reduces current water use via upgrades to the efficiency of the existing irrigation system.

Elements of the Project include the following:

- Constructing a new 30.5-acre-foot off-channel storage pond within the enlarged footprint of the existing 14 acre-foot pond
- Filing an application for a new appropriative water right authorizing filling of the pond between Dec. 15 and March 31 annually
- Entering a 20-year forbearance agreement with SMCRCD and TU, agreeing to forbear irrigation diversion between August 1 and October 31 annually
- Irrigation efficiency upgrades to reduce water use, and
- This change petition pursuant to CWC §1707 permissively dedicating conserved water left instream to fish and wildlife purposes in San Gregorio Creek

The proposed modifications to existing water diversion and management will eliminate direct diversion from San Gregorio Creek during the period of the irrigation season when stream flows are typically at their lowest (August, September, and October), providing significant benefit to summer rearing habitat for salmonids.

This Petition seeks to amend the beneficial uses of Petitioner's existing riparian and pre-1914 rights to add instream use by fish and wildlife, and to amend the authorized place of use of those rights to include the channel of San Gregorio Creek, as described more fully below.

Existing Water Rights

Riparian and pre-1914 rights

The property has adjudicated pre-1914 and riparian rights under Decree No. 355792 issued by the Superior Court of San Mateo County (Jan. 29, 1993). That decree provides an allotment of 240,600 gallons per day from POD #225 for irrigation use between April 1 and November 1 annually.

These rights were reported in Initial Statement of Diversion and Use S01220, filed in 1967, which lists the year of initial use as 1914. Supplemental Statements are on file through 2016.*

Proposed Changes

This petition requests two changes to Petitioner's rights under S01220:

- Add fish and wildlife as a purpose of use, and
- Add the channel of San Gregorio Creek from the existing point of diversion (POD) downstream to just above the POD for S010071 as a place of use

Both changes are requested pursuant to Water Code §1707. The downstream end of the instream flow reach is deliberately chosen to avoid conflicting with any other existing diverters, and avoid protests to this petition. This reflects the primary goals of the petition, which are to document the instream use in the water rights system and protect the Petitioner from any potential claim of forfeiture resulting from the forbearance of diversion. Given the quantities of water involved and the challenges of measuring the quantities of flow involved in real time, Petitioner and the project partners have chosen not to rely on instream enforcement against other right holders as a means of securing the benefits of the Project. Rather, the benefits will come from the forbearance of diversion, and similar forbearance terms being pursued via projects with neighboring right holders.

Petitioner does not propose to dedicate fixed quantities of water to instream use via this Petition, but rather to make water available for dedication at times, and in amounts, to be determined in the course of future operations. The proposed maximum quantities available for dedication in each month of the irrigation season (April through – October) are set forth on page 2 of the Petition. These amounts were calculated based on estimated evapotranspiration for the existing 52.5 acres of crops currently under irrigation, as described below.

64.5

* Also associated with the Property are three appropriative rights that are not the subject of this dedication. These are: A026126, with a face value of 14 AF of diversion to storage; AXXXXX, a new application for an additional 19.5 AF of storage being filed concurrently with this petition; and A026125, which was revoked in 2005, for 49AF of storage that was never constructed.

Required Findings

1. The change will not initiate a new right or increase the amount of water Petitioner is legally entitled to use.

The existing right has been properly established

Petitioner's pre-1914 and riparian rights were adjudicated by the San Mateo County Superior Court in Decree No. 355792, which conclusively establishes the right to divert and use 240,600 gallons per day for the purpose of irrigation.

Quantities Available for Instream Dedication and Consumptive Use Analysis

The proposed maximum monthly quantities of water that will be available for instream dedication are set forth on page 2 of the Petition. These numbers are based on the assumption that the maximum amount of water that can be dedicated to instream flow is equal to the estimated rate of evapotranspiration (ET) by the crops currently grown on the 64.5 currently-irrigated acres on the property. This conservatively assumes that 100% of the water not consumed by ET returns to the stream, and none is lost via other routes such as deep percolation.

Crops in the 64.5-acre place of use currently consist of mixed vegetables. Monthly estimates of ET for these crops were calculated based on an irrigation report prepared for the project by Power Services of Modesto, California. Based on CIMIS data for the Half Moon Bay area published by the Department of Water Resources, and crop ET estimates from the US Bureau of Reclamation, following are the Power Services estimates of monthly crop demand for the Blue House Farm property in inches, and the corresponding number of gallons per day of demand based on 64.5 irrigated acres:

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October
Crop demand (in.)	1.37	1.62	1.79	1.74	1.63	1.37	0.98
Water demand for 64.5 acres (GPD)	79,000	95,000	104,000	101,000	95,000	79,000	57,000

The above quantities are the maximum amounts of instream dedication requested on page 2 of this Petition.

Water availability. Rights in San Gregorio Creek are administered by a court-appointed watermaster (currently Stetson Engineering). The watermaster monitors streamflow during the irrigation season, and curtails diversion via the declaration of "no-pumping days" for alternating groups of diverters during times of critically low streamflow, to maintain the availability of water for diverters. Therefore, availability of natural streamflow is not expected to be a limiting factor on the ability to dedicate water under this Petition.

2. The change will not have an unreasonable effect on any legal user of water

The proposed change will not unreasonably affect any legal user of water. According to the records maintained in the Board's eWRIMS database, there are no legal water users that divert or use water within the proposed place of instream use.

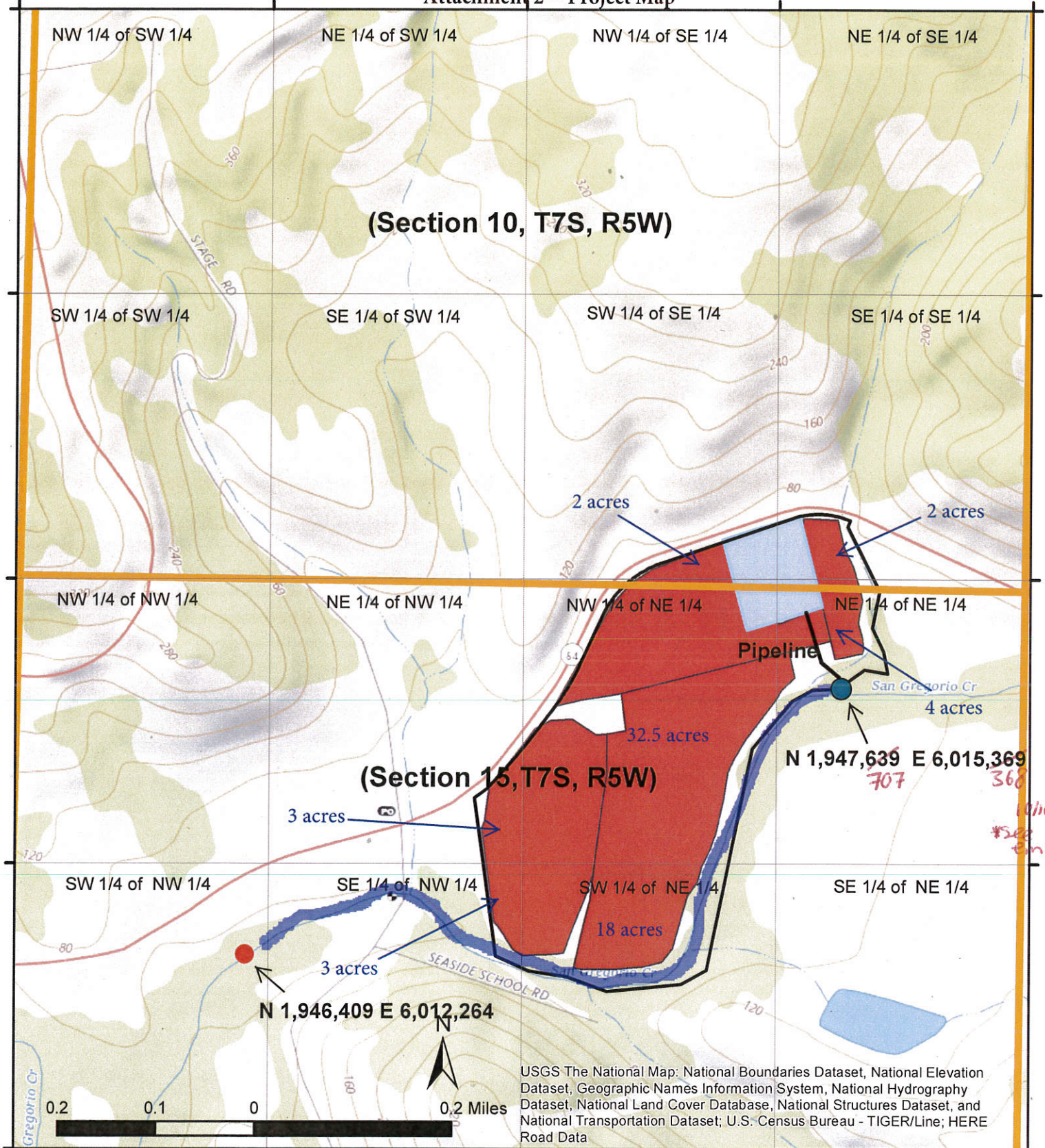
3. Effect on public trust uses

This is an instream flow improvement project funded by public agencies for the purpose of enhancing fish and wildlife habitat and human water security. As discussed above, the effect of this project will be to increase streamflow by proportionately significant amounts during the summer and fall months when flows are lowest, and to decrease streamflow by de minimis amounts during the winter months when flows are highest. Therefore the net effect of the project on public trust resources will be positive.

4. Approval of the petition in in the public interest

This Petition is submitted in connection with a publicly-funded project whose purpose is to improve dry season streamflow and water supply availability to provide increased drought resilience for humans and the environment. The project is undertaken by non-profit organizations (SMRCD and Trout Unlimited) and supported by state grant programs whose mission included supporting those goals. As discussed above, available information and analysis demonstrate that the project will increase dry season streamflow and have a negligible effect on streamflow at other times of the year, and will have a positive net effect on public trust resources. Accordingly, approval of this Petition is in the public interest.

Attachment 2 -- Project Map



● Point of diversion

▭ Sections (Mt. Diablo B&M)

▭ Blue House Farms Parcel

▭ Pond footprint

▭ Existing place of use

▬ Proposed instream place of use

● POD for S010071

Blue House Farms Project Site

Created by:
 Jarrad Fisher
 Conservation Project Manager
 San Mateo RCD
 Date: 08/17/2018

Attachment 3 - Photos



Photo #1 place of use

Blue House Farms Change Petition



Photo # 2 – proposed pond site (enlarging footprint of existing pond)



Photo # 3 point of diversion

Blue House Farms Change Petition



Photo # 4 San Gregorio stream channel at POD looking upstream



Photo #5 San Gregorio stream channel at POD looking upstream

Attachment 4 -- Archaeological Report

CALIFORNIA
HISTORICAL
RESOURCES
INFORMATION
SYSTEM



ALAMEDA
COLUSA
CONTRA COSTA
DEL NORTE

HUMBOLDT
LAKE
MARIN
MENDOCINO
MONTEREY
NAPA
SAN BENITO

SAN FRANCISCO
SAN MATEO
SANTA CLATA
SANTA CRUZ
SOLANO
SONOMA
YOLO

Northwest Information Center
Sonoma State University
150 Professional Center Drive, Suite E
Rohnert Park, California 94928-3609
Tel: 707.588.8455
nwic@sonoma.edu
<http://www.sonoma.edu/nwic>

April 3, 2018

NWIC File No.: 17-2262

Naftali Moed
Conservation Project Coordinator
San Mateo Resource Conservation District

Re: Record search results for the proposed Blue House Farm Irrigation Efficiency and Pond Project located at 950 La Honda Rd., San Gregorio, San Mateo County, CA.

Project Description: construction of a new 30.5-acre foot pond structure on the property, retiring existing pond and updating irrigation infrastructure.

Dear Naftali Moed:

Per your request received by our office on March 15, 2018, a records search was conducted for the above referenced project by reviewing pertinent Northwest Information Center (NWIC) base maps that reference cultural resources records and reports, historic-period maps, and literature for San Mateo County. Please note that use of the term cultural resources includes both archaeological resources and historical buildings and/or structures.

Review of this information indicates that there have been no cultural resource studies that cover the Blue House Farm Irrigation Efficiency and Pond Project area. This project area contains no recorded archaeological resources. The State Office of Historic Preservation Historic Property Directory (OHP HPD) (which includes listings of the California Register of Historical Resources, California State Historical Landmarks, California State Points of Historical Interest, and the National Register of Historic Places) lists no recorded buildings or structures within or adjacent to the proposed project area. In addition to these inventories, the NWIC base maps show no recorded buildings or structures within the proposed project area.

At the time of Euroamerican contact the Native Americans that lived in the area were speakers of the Ramaytush language, part of the Costanoan language family (Levy 1978 1978:485). There is one Native American resource in or adjacent to the proposed project

area referenced in the ethnographic literature [the area of the Olxon, or Oljon (Levy 1978:485, Milliken 1995)].

Based on an evaluation of the environmental setting and features associated with known sites, Native American resources in this part of San Mateo County have been found in areas marginal to the coast, and inland near intermittent and perennial watercourses. The Blue House Farm Irrigation Efficiency and Pond Project area is located within the San Gregorio Valley approximately one mile from the coast. The project area is located at the hill to valley interface adjacent to a secondary creek just north of its confluence with San Gregorio Creek. Given the similarity of one or more of these environmental factors, there is a moderate to high potential for unrecorded Native American resources in the proposed Blue House Farm Irrigation Efficiency and Pond Project area.

Review of historical literature and maps indicated the possibility of historic-period activity within the Blue House Farm Irrigation Efficiency and Pond Project area. San Mateo County historic literature indicated that the San Gregorio Valley was known as a fertile farming region (San Mateo County 1984: 3). The 1902 Santa Cruz USGS 30-minute topographic quadrangle indicates only the adjacent road, and the 1940 Half Moon Bay USGS 15-minute topographic quadrangle depicts a pond within the project area. With this in mind, there is a moderate potential for unrecorded historic-period archaeological resources in the proposed project area.

The 1961 Half Moon Bay USGS 15-minute topographic quadrangle depicts a structured pond within the Blue House Farm Irrigation Efficiency and Pond project area. This unrecorded structure meets the Office of Historic Preservation's minimum age standard that buildings, structures, and objects 45 years or older may be of historical value.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1) There is a moderate to high potential of identifying Native American archaeological resources and a moderate potential of identifying historic-period archaeological resources in the project area. We recommend a qualified archaeologist conduct further archival and field study to identify cultural resources. Field study may include, but is not limited to, pedestrian survey, hand auger sampling, shovel test units, or geoarchaeological analyses as well as other common methods used to identify the presence of archaeological resources. Please refer to the list of consultants who meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards at <http://www.chrisinfo.org>.

2) We recommend the lead agency contact the local Native American tribe(s) regarding traditional, cultural, and religious heritage values. For a complete listing of tribes in the vicinity of the project, please contact the Native American Heritage Commission at 916/373-3710.

3) The 1961 Half Moon Bay USGS 15-minute topographic quadrangle depicts a structured pond within the Blue House Farm Irrigation Efficiency and Pond project area. This unrecorded structure meets the Office of Historic Preservation's minimum age standard that buildings, structures, and objects 45 years or older may be of historical value. Therefore, it is recommended that this resource be assessed by a professional familiar with the architecture and history of San Mateo County. Please refer to the list of consultants who meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards at <http://www.chrisinfo.org>.

4) Review for possible historic-period buildings or structures has included only those sources listed in the attached bibliography and should not be considered comprehensive.

5) If archaeological resources are encountered during construction, work should be temporarily halted in the vicinity of the discovered materials and workers should avoid altering the materials and their context until a qualified professional archaeologist has evaluated the situation and provided appropriate recommendations. Project personnel should not collect cultural resources. Native American resources include chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, and pestles; and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Historic-period resources include stone or adobe foundations or walls; structures and remains with square nails; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies.

6) It is recommended that any identified cultural resources be recorded on DPR 523 historic resource recordation forms, available online from the Office of Historic Preservation's website: http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=1069

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are

available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) contracts with the California Historical Resources Information System's (CHRIS) regional Information Centers (ICs) to maintain information in the CHRIS inventory and make it available to local, state, and federal agencies, cultural resource professionals, Native American tribes, researchers, and the public. Recommendations made by IC coordinators or their staff regarding the interpretation and application of this information are advisory only. Such recommendations do not necessarily represent the evaluation or opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer in carrying out the OHP's regulatory authority under federal and state law.

Thank you for using our services. Please contact this office if you have any questions, (707) 588-8455.

Sincerely,



Jillian Guldenbrein
Researcher

LITERATURE REVIEWED

In addition to archaeological maps and site records on file at the Northwest Information Center of the Historical Resources Information System, the following literature was reviewed:

- Barrows, Henry D., and Luther A. Ingersoll
2005 *Memorial and Biographical History of the Coast Counties of Central California*.
Three Rocks Research, Santa Cruz (Digital Reproduction of The Lewis Publishing
Company, Chicago: 1893.)
- Bowman, J.N.
1951 *Adobe Houses in the San Francisco Bay Region*. In *Geologic Guidebook of the San
Francisco Bay Counties*, Bulletin 154. California Division of Mines, Ferry Building,
San Francisco, CA.
- Brabb, Earl E., Fred A. Taylor, and George P. Miller
1982 *Geologic, Scenic, and Historic Points of Interest in San Mateo County, California*.
Miscellaneous Investigations Series, Map I-1257-B, 1:62,500. Department of the
Interior, United States Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.
- Department of Environmental Management
1980 *Coastside Cultural Resources*. Planning Division, San Mateo County, Redwood
City, CA.
- Gudde, Erwin G.
1969 *California Place Names: The Origin and Etymology of Current Geographical
Names*. Third Edition. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles.
- Hart, James D.
1987 *A Companion to California*. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los
Angeles.
- Helley, E.J., K.R. Lajoie, W.E. Spangle, and M.L. Blair
1979 *Flatland Deposits of the San Francisco Bay Region - Their Geology and
Engineering Properties, and Their Importance to Comprehensive Planning*.
Geological Survey Professional Paper 943. United States Geological Survey and
Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Hoover, Mildred Brooke, Hero Eugene Rensch, and Ethel Rensch, revised by William N. Abeloe
1966 *Historic Spots in California*. Third Edition. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA.
- Hoover, Mildred Brooke, Hero Eugene Rensch, and Ethel Rensch, William N. Abeloe, revised by
Douglas E. Kyle
1990 *Historic Spots in California*. Fourth Edition. Stanford University Press, Stanford,
CA.
- Kroeber, A.L.
1925 *Handbook of the Indians of California*. Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 78,
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (Reprint by Dover Publications, Inc., New
York, 1976)

Levy, Richard

1978 Costanoan. In *California*, edited by Robert F. Heizer, pp. 485-495. Handbook of North American Indians, vol. 8, William C. Sturtevant, general editor. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Milliken, Randall

1995 *A Time of Little Choice: The Disintegration of Tribal Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area 1769-1810*. Ballena Press Anthropological Papers No. 43, Menlo Park, CA.

Postel, Mitchell P.

1994 *San Mateo, A Centennial History*. Scottwall Associates, San Francisco, CA.

Roberts, George, and Jan Roberts

1988 *Discover Historic California*. Gem Guides Book Co., Pico Rivera, CA.

San Mateo County Historic Resources Advisory Board

1984 *San Mateo County: Its History and Heritage*. Second Edition. Division of Planning and Development Department of Environmental Management.

San Mateo County Planning and Development Department

n.d. "Historical and Archaeological Resources, Section 5" from the *San Mateo County General Plan*.

State of California Department of Parks and Recreation

1976 *California Inventory of Historic Resources*. State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento.

State of California Department of Parks and Recreation and Office of Historic Preservation

1988 *Five Views: An Ethnic Sites Survey for California*. State of California Department of Parks and Recreation and Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.

State of California Office of Historic Preservation **

2012 *Historic Properties Directory*. Listing by City (through April 2012). State of California Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.

Williams, James C.

1997 *Energy and the Making of Modern California*. The University of Akron Press, Akron, OH.

Works Progress Administration

1984 *The WPA Guide to California*. Reprint by Pantheon Books, New York. (Originally published as *California: A Guide to the Golden State in 1939* by Books, Inc., distributed by Hastings House Publishers, New York.)

**Note that the Office of Historic Preservation's *Historic Properties Directory* includes National Register, State Registered Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and the California Register of Historical Resources as well as Certified Local Government surveys that have undergone Section 106 review.

Attachment 5 -- Notice of CEQA Exemption

Notice of Exemption

2018038164

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: San Mateo
556 County Circle
Redwood City, CA 94608

From: (Public Agency):
San Mateo Resource Conservation District
625 Miramontes St. Ste. 103 Half Moon Bay CA 94019
(Address)

Project Title: San Gregorio Creek Streamflow Enhancement Project, Blue House Farm

Project Applicant: San Mateo Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:
950 La Honda Rd., adjacent to San Gregorio Creek and Highway 84

Project Location - City: San Gregorio Project Location - County: San Mateo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Please see attached document.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Mateo Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Classes 4 & 33 [Sections 15304 & 15333]
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Please see attached document.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joe Issel Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (650)712-7765x106

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 03/08/2018 Title: Natural Resource Specialist

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21106, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: [Signature]

MAR 08 2018

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

REMARKS:

This project aims at improving water security and water use efficiency, while improving instream flow conditions for salmonids and other species that may spawn, nest, forage or transit the project vicinity. Collectively, the areas directly impacted during construction of the project would encompass less than 5 acres. Designated areas within the regularly farmed agricultural footprint will be used temporarily to store and dry excavated soils. A 100 ft² temporary reservoir will also be built, using material from the existing 11 AF pond, to ensure that the farmer has ample water storage for use during construction of the 30AF pond. As described below, the project meets the CEQA criteria for exemption from environmental review under Class 4 (15304) and Class 33 (15333).

Project Description

The proposed project would replace an existing irrigation pond with a new pond, approximately 4.3 acres in size. This new pond would be used as a regulating reservoir from April-July, which would reduce the instantaneous rate of diversion from San Gregorio Creek. Under the proposed project, late summer and early fall all diversions from the creek would cease, with the reservoir and wells supplying the remaining irrigation needs for the growing season.

The new pond would be situated in the same location as the existing pond, which consists of an actively farmed field that is regularly disturbed with farm equipment and personnel (Figure 1). The existing pond would be drawn down and dried prior to construction activities. The reservoir would then be decommissioned, and the new pond would be constructed over the existing reservoir footprint using grading equipment and personnel from a qualified construction firm. Construction activities would occur between April 15, 2018 and October 31, 2018 and would last approximately 32 weeks. Access to and from the project site would be along existing farm roads. Temporary storage of construction material, vehicles and equipment would be located in previously disturbed areas used for on-going agricultural activities.

The proposed pond project and previously installed irrigation upgrades (installed summer 2017 by NRCS) would reduce total annual water demand to 74.65 AF for a net savings of approximately 38 AF per year. The elimination of irrigation withdrawals during the forbearance period (August, September, and October) would increase streamflow by up to 220 gallons per minute (gpm) (0.5 cubic feet per second [cfs]) over current conditions. The reduction of diversion during the low-flow season will enhance streamflow by 25% over the observed minimum instream flow rate of 2 cfs. The proposed season of direct diversion represents a substantial improvement over existing conditions by providing for complete forbearance of diversion during the months when streamflow is typically lowest. In addition, diversions would continue to be limited based on real-time streamflow information and water diversion activities, which are also subject to the court decree governing the San Gregorio Creek adjudication and "no pumping day" restrictions implemented by the watermaster during low water years (Still Water Sciences 2014). This, combined with the maximum 70 gpm rate of diversion, would ensure that the effects of diversion during the period April 1 – July 31 are less than significant, and a substantial improvement over existing conditions.

Class 4 (CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15304)

Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

(a) Grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent, except that grading shall not be exempt in a waterway, in any welland, in an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard such as an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or within an official Seismic Hazard Zone, as delineated by the State Geologist.

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(c) *Filling of earth into previously excavated land with material compatible with the natural features of the site.*

The proposed project would consist of a minor alteration to an agricultural field with a slope of less than 10%. The existing pond would be drawn down and dry prior to excavation. The existing pond would then be excavated to create the new pond. The project site is not located in a scenic area, and area of severe geologic hazard, or in an official Seismic Hazard Zone, as mapped by the State Geologist.

Class 33 (CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15333)

This section of the CEQA guidelines describes Small Habitat Restoration Projects that do not exceed 5 acres in size and are constructed for the purpose of maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants or wildlife. The purpose of the project is to enhance and/or improve natural creek function for the recovery of coho salmon and native steelhead trout. In addition, implementation of the proposed project would also improve aquatic conditions in San Gregorio Creek for the federally threatened California red legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*).

(a) *There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 15065.*

Project activities would not result in a significant impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat. The project footprint is located in an existing water storage pond and surrounded by an actively managed agricultural field. Implementation of the proposed project would improve aquatic and riparian habitat conditions for species that may spawn, forage, or transit the project vicinity, particularly fish species that may use San Gregorio Creek (steelhead) and aquatic species associated with adjacent riparian habitats (California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake). To the extent possible, temporary and localized impacts to sensitive habitats would be minimized by using hand labor, observing in-water work windows, and implementing construction-related best management practices. Construction would occur between April 15 and October 15. Construction during the dry season would also minimize the potential for erosion and any construction-related effects on aquatic species. Pre-construction surveys for sensitive species that may occur in the vicinity, including California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake, western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*). The RCD would implement all conservation measures required in project permits.

The project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment and would not substantially reduce the habitat or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of any endangered, rare or threatened species; or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

(b) *There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed.*

No hazardous materials are known to the project site or project vicinity.

(c) *The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.*

The proposed project would not result in adverse impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with effects of past, current and probable future projects because all such projects would comply with requirements of regulatory permits issued for the purpose of protecting natural resources. There are no overlapping projects in the vicinity that would have environmental impacts to which the proposed project would contribute to a cumulative adverse impact. Short-term construction related impacts would last approximately 32 weeks during the spring and summer months. As noted above, best management practices would be implemented to avoid construction-related impacts on sensitive resources. The project would not adversely affect farmland,

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public services, geologic stability, soils, or increase health risks. Overall, the project would result in cumulatively beneficial impact on hydrologic function in San Gregorio Creek.

(d) An example of a small restoration project that qualifies for Class 33 Exemption (as provided in the 2018 CEQA guidelines): (3) stream or river bank revegetation, the primary purpose of which is to improve habitat for amphibians or native fish

The project would be exempt under *Class 33* as it restores streamflows in San Gregorio Creek during summer and fall, when low flows are a principal limiting factor to the recovery of coho salmon and native steelhead trout. In addition, implementation of the proposed project would improve stream conditions for California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake, western pond turtle and riparian bird species.

CEQA State Guidelines Section 15300.2 states that a categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. As described above, there are no unusual circumstances surrounding the proposed project that would suggest a reasonable possibility of a significant environmental effect.

REFERENCES:

Bell, E., & Alford, C. (2014). Ecological Assessment of Flows in San Gregorio Creek.