
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

Order No. R1-2025-0024

Rescission of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2000-0017

for

State of California Department of Fish and Game
and
PacifiCorp Iron Gate Hatchery

NPDES Permit No. CA0006688
WDID No. 1A80052SIS

Siskiyou County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. PacifiCorp was the owner of Iron Gate Fish Hatchery (Facility), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) operated the Facility. Together they were Co-Permittees (Permittees) for the NPDES permit. The Facility was located at 8638 Lakeview Road in Hornbrook, identified as Siskiyou County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 041-070-080 and 041-070-050.
2. The Facility has historically discharged treated flow-through wastewater under Order No. R1-2000-0017, Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0006688 (Permit), adopted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) on February 24, 2000. In accordance with conditions in this Permit, treated flow-through wastewater was discharged to the Klamath River.
3. On September 29, 2017, an investigative order was issued pursuant to California Water Code section 13267 for Iron Gate Hatchery to update monitoring requirements, develop site specific best management practices to control discharge of chemicals and drugs, and evaluate hatchery production options that did not rely on a water supply from Iron Gate Dam.

HECTOR BEDOLLA, CHAIR | VALERIE QUINTO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

4. As part of the Lower Klamath Dam Removal Project, the Iron Gate Dam was removed in October 2024. The removal of the Iron Gate Dam eliminated the water supply for the Iron Gate Hatchery, which previously relied on flows from the Klamath River and Iron Gate Reservoir. Without this water source, the hatchery cannot continue operations. Accordingly, CDFW ceased all wastewater discharges from the Iron Gate Hatchery to the Klamath River as of December 29, 2023. As the Facility no longer discharges to waters of the United States, coverage under the NPDES permit is no longer needed.
5. Fall Creek Hatchery, Order No. R1-2023-0014, NPDES No. CA1000004 and WDID No. 1A22157NSIS, took over as the conservation hatchery on the Klamath River on July 1, 2024. They currently discharge to Fall Creek, a tributary of the Klamath River.
6. The Regional Water Board has notified the Permittee and all known interested parties of its intent to rescind the NPDES Permit.
7. Regional Water Board action to rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2000-0017 is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15301.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2000-0017 is rescinded.

I, Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on August XX, 2025.

Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer

Iron Gate Hatchery_Rescission