
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Public Notice For Consideration of Approval Water Quality Trading Framework

Colgan Creek Reaches 1 and 2, Water Quality Credit Trading Proposal

Sonoma County

On May 3, 2023, The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a draft proposal of the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) Colgan Creek Reaches 1 and 2, Water Quality Credit Trading Proposal (Project Proposal), requesting consideration of a project to generate phosphorus credits by excavating legacy sediment and organic matter from Colgan Creek between Todd Road and Llano Road, approximately two miles northwest of the City of Rohnert Park, California. Sonoma Water refined the Project Proposal in response to informal comments from Regional Water Board staff and submitted their final Project Proposal for consideration on July 20, 2023.

The Project Proposal is intended for consideration by the Regional Water Board as a phosphorus credit generating project allowed under the Water Quality Trading Framework, adopted by the Regional Water Board and as included in the City of Santa Rosa's and Town of Windsor's Waste Discharge Requirements, NPDES Permits, Order No. R1-2020-0012, as modified by Amendment Order R1-2021-0041, and Order No. R1-2020-0010, as modified by Amendment Order R1-2021-0042, respectively.

The Proposed Project would remove phosphorus laden sediment from Colgan Creek Reaches 1 and 2, provide habitat restoration, modify hydraulic conditions that lead to the establishment of *Ludwigia hexapetala* (*Ludwigia* or water primrose) but favor the establishment of native vegetation by increasing channel capacity, deepening the low flow thalweg, and establishing an inset flood plain, reduce mosquito proliferation, and remove a large phosphorus load from the system. Additionally, the project will install and encourage native riparian vegetation, which when established will reduce the solar radiation reaching the water surface.

The proposed project will be conducted in concert with Sonoma Water's Stream Maintenance Program (SMP). An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared for the SMP in 2009. Impacts required mitigation and management practices associated specifically with the Proposed Project are currently detailed in the existing 2009 EIR and Sonoma Water holds the needed regulatory permits. In the event project parameters change enough to be ineligible under existing permits and CEQA, Sonoma Water would

develop the adequate CEQA analysis and obtain permits necessary to implement the Proposed Project.

The proposed project is currently under review by Regional Water Board staff to determine consistency with the Water Quality Trading Framework and eligibility as a phosphorus credit project. If approved, direct removal of phosphorus laden sediment from Colgan Creek may begin as early as September 2023. As shown in the table below, a project life of 10 years has been proposed to reflect a conservative duration of the project's environmental benefits, a reduced uncertainty ratio of 1.5 to reflect the use of direct measurements of phosphorus removed, and a reduced retirement ratio of 0.0 to reflect that the project is intended to enhance environmental values.

Quantification Method	Phosphorus Reduction (lbs)	Proposed Project Life	Uncertainty Ratio	Retirement Ratio	Total Phosphorus Credits Generated
Direct Removal	12,150	10 years	1.5	0.0	8,100

A copy of the Project Proposal can be found on the City of Santa Rosa's [Nutrient Offset Program website](https://www.srcity.org/1124/Nutrient-Offset-Program) (<https://www.srcity.org/1124/Nutrient-Offset-Program>), or provided by Regional Water Board staff by contacting Matthew Herman by email at matthew.herman@waterboards.ca.gov.

The Project Proposal will be available for public review for 30 days beginning on August 1, 2023 and ending on August 31, 2023. Public comments will be accepted during the entire 30-day comment period. Please submit written comments to NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov.

Questions regarding the proposed project may be directed to Matthew Herman by phone at (707) 576-2683 or by email at matthew.herman@waterboards.ca.gov.

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