



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21008 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region, Redding Office
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205
Redding, CA 96002

Date: 28 January 2026

State Clearinghouse Number:
2019100230

Project Title:
Lower Battle Creek Side Channel and Backwater Restoration Project (Project)

Project Location - Specific:
Latitude: 40.390293 Longitude: -122.186438

Project Location - County:
Shasta and Tehama Counties

Name of Applicant:
Russ Wittmeier
California State University, Chico
25 Main Street, Suite 103
Chico, CA 95928

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Project objectives are to increase the availability and quality of instream and floodplain habitat along lower Battle Creek. The Project elements include creation of a side channel along Battle Creek to increase juvenile salmonid rearing habitat; grading of a backwater area to reduce fish stranding and increase salmonid habitat; removal of two levees to increase the extent and quality of floodplain habitat along Battle Creek; and stabilization of a headcut to prevent high flows on Battle Creek from depositing salmonids in Grover's Ditch. Construction will include the establishment of four spoils areas, temporary construction roads, and two staging areas and transplanting of several elderberry shrubs.

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

This is to advise that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, as a Responsible Agency, has approved the above-described project on 28 January 2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board considered the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Statewide Restoration General Order as prepared by State Water Resources Control Board.
2. The Project will not result in any new or more severe environmental effects that are peculiar to the Project which were not previously analyzed as significant effects in the PEIR.
3. No additional environmental review is required for the Project.
4. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the PEIR.
5. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted under the PEIR.
6. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted under the PEIR.
7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The final PEIR with comments and responses is available to the general public at:

[SCH 2019100230 SRGO Final PEIR](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders/2022/sr-go-final-peir-combined.pdf)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders/2022/sr-go-final-peir-combined.pdf).

The record of project approval is available to the general public at:

[Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Adopted Orders Web page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/401_wq-certs/)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/401_wq-certs/).

State Responsible Agency Contact Person:

Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist
Chief Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Redding Branch Office
(530) 224-2437

Lynn Coster
Digitally signed by Lynn Coster
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Water Boards

Lynn Coster
Senior Environmental Scientist
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Redding

cc: Hillary Regnart, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Robert Irwin, Chico State Enterprise, Chico